

A tropical landscape featuring a body of water in the foreground, a white fence along the shoreline, and a dense line of palm trees and other tropical vegetation in the background under a clear blue sky.

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A PUBLICATION OF **THE SANMAR GROUP**

Inside: 'Sanmar strides towards zero discharge'

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

Cabot Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Ltd

Bangalore Genei

Intec Polymers

ProCitius Research

Sanmar Shipping Ltd

Sanmar Holdings Ltd

AMP Sanmar Life Insurance Company Ltd

Sanmar Engineering Corporation Ltd

Asco (India) Ltd

BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd

Fisher Sanmar Ltd

Flowserve Sanmar Ltd

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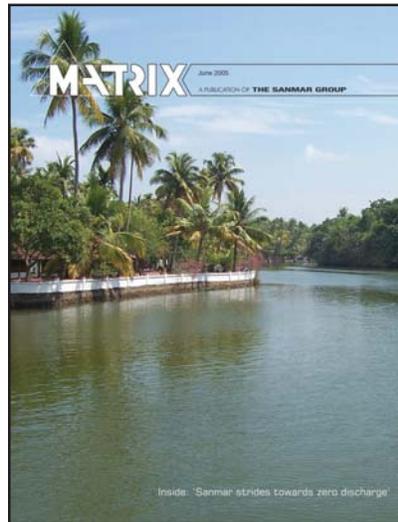
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Cover photograph: The placid backwaters of Kumarakom, the venue of the recent Growth Conference organised by Sanmar Engineering Corporation.



A view of the green belt at Chemplast Mettur.

Sanmar strides towards zero discharge



The Sanmar Group, has over the years, made impressive strides in environment protection through a variety of initiatives. All its constituents have constantly upgraded their infrastructure to conform to stringent environment protection mandates and developed a large area as a green belt around all their manufacturing facilities.

To take these measures to their logical conclusion, all future investments in the Sanmar Group are planned in such a way that none of the group's manufacturing facilities will extract ground water for its operations. Each of them will be based on the 'zero discharge' concept.

Chemplast Sanmar

The group's flagship company Chemplast has spent over Rs.50 crore in the last four years in all its facilities towards the achievement of improved environment management.

At Mettur

Now, in line with the group's objective of achieving zero discharge of treated effluents in all its manufacturing facilities, Chemplast has embarked upon a major environmental initiative at its PVC and Caustic Soda plants at Mettur. Several innovative measures have been launched at an estimated investment of Rs.20 crore.

An aerial view of effluent treatment plant, Mettur.





Another view of effluent treatment plant, Mettur.

In its PVC Plant at Mettur, Chemplast has already brought down the quantity of effluent discharge substantially from about 2485 kilo litres per day (KLD) to 1375 KLD in the last four years through various steps for the recycling of process water and reduction of effluents at source. Chemplast has now decided to reduce the treated effluent discharge from 1375 KLD to 'Zero' KLD. Towards this end, Chemplast has recently commissioned a reverse osmosis (RO) plant at an investment of Rs.1 crore, which will treat about 300 KLD of effluent. To address the balance effluent discharge, it is proposed to establish plant and equipment adopting

advanced RO technology at an investment of Rs.7 crore. The rejects at this stage will be further treated in a thermally efficient evaporator to be set up at an investment of Rs.3 crore. The rejects from the evaporator will be fed into a crystalliser/ drier to be set up at an investment of Rs. 2 crore to evaporate the water completely, leaving behind a small quantity of solid salt which will be disposed of in a secured land fill as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Thus, zero discharge will be achieved with an overall investment of Rs.13 crore. After these steps are initiated, Chemplast will also embark upon achieving zero discharge of treated effluent of around 400 KLD from its Caustic Soda Plant at Mettur at an investment of Rs.7 crore.

RO Plant maintenance

On completion of these schemes, the company will be obliged to incur a recurring revenue expenditure of Rs.3 crore every year towards RO plant maintenance and additional power charges required to sustain the zero discharge operation.

Chemplast's PVC facility has already received ISO 14001 certification and this is expected to be followed soon by the Chlorochemicals facility.

At Panruti

The effluents generated at the Industrial Alcohol plant at Panruti are utilised to make bio-compost. In this facility, the company has invested around Rs.9 crore in the last couple of years. Bio-compost is a high nutrient and used as organic manure. On completion of the bio-compost project, the company filled the discarded lagoons with earth and planted cashew trees there. While this environmental initiative has cost Rs.5 crore, the bio-compost operation costs an additional Rs.1000 per kilolitre of alcohol produced in the distillery.

Biocomposting operation at Chemplast, Panruti.



At Vedaranyam

The salt manufacturing facility at Vedaranyam is an ecofriendly operation. The place is home to many rare species of birds as the formation and use of saltpans attract migratory shore birds and other aquatic birds.

At Karaikal

At Chemplast's plant manufacturing Caustic Soda/Chlorine at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, there is no process effluent water discharge, thus making it already a zero discharge plant. Chemplast will shortly commission a sea water desalination plant, thereby reducing its dependence on ground water.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals (SSCL) has two manufacturing facilities at Berigai, near Hosur and Alathur, near Chennai. These facilities are also approaching the zero liquid discharge status.

At Berigai

At SSCL's Performance Chemicals and Phytochemicals-Berigai facility, treated

water of 50 KLD hitherto used for in-house gardening is now taken through a recently commissioned RO system. 30 KLD is recovered and reused in the plant. The remaining 20 KLD is evaporated, using a multiple effect evaporator, and as a result no effluent is discharged from the site.

This socially relevant initiative entails capital expenditure worth Rs.5 crore and Rs.1 crore as recurring annual expenses.

At Alathur

Similarly, at SSCL's API facility at Alathur, where 40 KLD of water is used, plans are afoot to install an RO system to recover 30 KLD of water. The remaining 10 KLD of water is planned to be evaporated by using multiple effect evaporator. Towards this end, SSCL has so far invested Rs.3 crore as capital expenditure and will be incurring Rs.60 lakh as the annual cost of maintaining the system.

The Berigai and Alathur facilities are both certified to ISO 14000, the internationally recognized safety, health and environment standard.

Birds at Vedaranyam, close to the Chemplast salt works.





Sanmar ethics are of the highest order:

Interview with Adit Jain

(Member, The Sanmar Group Corporate Board, and Managing Director, IMA India)



Adit Jain, Founder and Managing Director of IMA India also runs the India CEO Forum and organises the Annual Economist Conferences Round Table with the Government of India. Widely regarded as a witty, articulate speaker on India's politics and economics, Jain brings an incisive mind to the table at the deliberations of The Sanmar Group Corporate Board. Here he shares some of his views on Sanmar and India at large with Matrix.

Can you go back to the first time you came into contact with Sanmar?

It must have been six years ago, when we were marketing our CEO forum and I may have called upon Mr Sankar to invite him to join the forum. I subsequently invited him to come and speak at a CEO meeting in Goa. I remember the topic was “*Running joint ventures in India*”.

Was there a chemistry between the two of you fairly instantly?

Mr Sankar was in a completely different league from me. I have always held him in high esteem.

How much did you enjoy the Aware Professional training programme you conducted for the Sanmar Group?

We really enjoyed running it, and felt grateful and rewarded when Sanmar extended it for a second year. Frankly, you run out of things to say over time, but the fact Sanmar extended it seemed to suggest those who attended the programme found value in it. As it happened, that gave us the foundation for another interesting idea. I am now negotiating with business schools to offer executive programmes both open enrolment programmes and company programmes. Once that is tied up, we

may come back and ask Sanmar if they would like to have another go.

In Sanmar, we pride ourselves on our intellectual capital. What has been your experience with Sanmar's people?

The pride is completely justified. It was firstly brave of Mr Sankar, Mr Radhakrishnan and Ms Sarada Jagan to try us out. We are not a training company. As we run forums for CEOs and CFOs, we have a fair amount of content and knowledge. But training executives requires different skill sets, and I thought it was rather farsighted of them to give the programme a trial. When we actually ran the programme, we found the entire company very challenging. Everybody asked difficult, provocative questions. I had the opportunity to present two or three times, when I was put in the hot spot.

You have been in the Chemplast board for a while and are now in the Group Corporate Board. How has the experience been so far?

Very rewarding. I do sit in a few other boards, like British Gas in India. I think this is most exciting as it is a much bigger company. The British Gas business in India is quite large, but it focuses on one product. The issues and challenges here

are quite different. The opportunity to participate in a discussion in a group with five important interests is from my perspective very useful.

What are your views on Sanmar's commitment to corporate governance?

Of the highest standards. I am very pleased to say that following the AWARE leadership programme we ran, the company commissioned an ethics and compliance manual and possibly used one of the best guys in the country to do it - Dipankar Gupta, a Professor at JNU. I think he was very impressed.

What is your area of focus in your contribution to the Group Corporate Board?

I often ask myself what value I bring to another company. I run a business information company where we do consultancy and advisory work for specific clients. But most important, we have CEO and CFO peer group forums which I chair and these two forums constitute 450 corporations operating in India. The real benefit I extract from these forums is that I get to share the experience of CEOs and CFOs across industry segments on how they handle tricky situations. These are frank, open discussions. In a sense I could bring value because I have exposure to a large number of corporations who pay us an annual retainer fee and with whom we interact constantly. But as for my domain knowledge, I am a political, economic and business analyst, dealing with issues of the economy or the political environment, to do with forecasting interest rates, exchange rates and so on. I also believe I could add value in company related issues which have to do with price management and risk management, as I have been through similar situations for other clients,

though at Sanmar such an opportunity is yet to present itself.

What is your forecast for the near future — economically and politically—for India?

The economy seems to be in fine form. I think this year we will have about 6.5 to 7% growth. This euphoria we are currently going through will change though. Currently everybody is buying everything that's being produced—motorcycles, washing machines etc. I think that is going to change. My suspicion is very soon or in the first quarter, we will see a slight slowdown. In the next three to four years, the economic growth will vary between 6.5 and 7.5% and this is a 60% probability. 20% probability will be that the growth would be higher than 7.5% and 20% probability that it could be less than 6.5%.

Politically, the current government will plod along. I don't think its performance has been outstanding, though it hasn't done too badly either. Manmohan Singh has been able to keep his wobbly coalition going. He is credible. I have a suspicion that there might be some rumblings among partners like the DMK and the Left, as they come closer to the provincial elections in Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The BJP ought to put up a show in terms of opposition, but it hasn't done much. It is in such disarray now. You need to have a strong, solid opposition to put the government on its toes.

Bangalore Genei is now an ISO company



Bangalore Genei, a division of Sanmar Speciality Chemicals (SSCL), is a leading biotechnology company that manufactures research products for the scientific community nationwide. The product range includes restriction and modifying enzymes, DNA, DNA and protein molecular weight markers, immunochemicals and other related reagents. In addition to a wide range of genomic and proteomic research reagents and services, Genei also produces educational kits and conducts workshops for graduate and under-graduate students.

For greater visibility and acceptance internationally, Genei decided to obtain ISO 9001 accreditation for design, development, production, testing and marketing of biological research products. Thanks to support and guidance from several people at Sanmar, especially Dr T Devanathan from SSCL Berigai, Genei is now an ISO 9001:2000 company certified by RWTÜV.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Limited

Warm send-off to M S Sekhar



A touching farewell was accorded to M S Sekhar (MSS), Managing Director, SSCL, on the eve of his retirement.

At a gathering in the Berigai factory held on 30 March 2005, employees recalled their association with MSS over the years relating interesting anecdotes involving his role in the Berigai business.

Later in the evening, the departmental heads hosted a dinner for MSS in Bangalore.

M S Sekhar made an entertaining speech.

Dr R Ramachandra greeting MSS as V R Venkatraman looks on.



The SSCL Berigai team with M S Sekhar.



Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Limited World Environment Day observed at Berigai



*Dr R Ramachandra,
Vice President - R&D,
leads the way in tree
planting.*

World Environment Day was observed on 6 June 2005 at Performance Chemicals and Phytochemicals-Berigai. As per custom, the Environmental Pledge was administered to the employees. Another pleasant duty performed was the planting of saplings by the employees in the factory premises on the occasion.

SSCL employees planting saplings.





Sanmar quizzers grow in number



Sanmensa, the informal quiz group at Sanmar Corporate Headquarters, recently completed a year of successful activity. The enthusiasm exhibited by the group has been commendable. Even though some of the original members of the group are no longer with us, new additions have come in every month, inspired by the example of the official Sanmar team of Ramkumar Shankar and A H Kesari Prasad. May the tribe of Sanmar quizzers increase!





Sanmar Engineering Corporation Limited

SEC means business at Kumarakom

Hard grind at idyllic spot

Flashback 1998: The domestic market for engineering products was booming on the back of refinery and petrochemical project activity. Sanmar Engineering Corporation's (SEC) constituents were all doing very well. Reason enough for everyone to relax and rest on some well-earned laurels, right? Not really. That was the time when the SEC business heads got together at Kodaikanal, a hill station in Tamil Nadu, south India, to brainstorm on ways to keep the momentum going when the project activity slowed down, as it was bound to do. At that meeting were born the export thrust and the target to grow exports to the same levels of domestic sales. Since then, SEC exports have grown by over 30% on an annual basis.

Back to the present. SEC was riding on the wave of its best year ever. Time now to ease up a bit? Not really, for with growth comes the bigger challenge of

sustenance. It was time for another round of strategising and planning for the future, a future in which the growth momentum is sustained, at the least. With this in mind, the SEC management team met at Kumarakom in Kerala to plan the strategy and set the targets for the next few years. Two gruelling all-day sessions later, the team emerged with a clear vision of the challenges ahead and the mountains to climb. And of course, there was some time for some fun. With batteries fully recharged, Team SEC is now fully into the execution of the plans identified at Kumarakom.

Brainstorming session in progress.



Tim Wade's Indian summer

(Excerpts from the diary of an old Sanmar friend)



(Tim Wade, Managing Director, AMP International, at the time of the launching of the joint venture AMP Sanmar, continues to be a friend of the group. A cricket fanatic now based in England, Wade reminisces in delightful prose here.)

India. A land of rich culture and ancient tradition. The birthplace of Buddha, the inspiration for the Mahabarata and the Kama Sutra. And, as I discovered, the mother of the three hour visa queue (in London).

In many ways, my visa experience proved to be a perfect initiation into the stoic patience which is required of batsmen and bowlers alike on the slow turning, dry and dusty Indian cricket pitches. Or it would have been perfect, had I remembered to secure my visa *before* arriving at Heathrow for my scheduled flight to Chennai to watch the Second Test between Australia and India. On my many previous business trips to India, visas had been a matter of routine for the corporate machine. And so, after I was ever so graciously turned away from the check-in counter, in true captain of industry style I looked around for someone to blame for this cock up. Not a single candidate presented himself.

After I grumpily made my way home, Ruth, my wife, had me carry on with some of the tasks associated with having recently moved house (one of the reasons for my trip to India). This included hanging a mirror in one of our daughters' bedrooms. I suspect this was her none too subtle judgment on where I might want to look for the attribution of blame over the visa incident.

The visa expedition

Suitably chastened, I re-booked flights for the next night, and the next morning

I nervously made my way to India House, on Aldwych in London, to negotiate the visa process. Expecting the worst, I wasn't disappointed. Forty five minutes to queue for a queue number (outside, in the rain, naturally), 90 minutes before being summoned to make my humble petition, and another 45 minutes while the formalities were completed on my passport (it is a rather nice stamp it must be said). Whatever happened to the fraternal bonds which should exist between sister Commonwealth colonies? I harboured a sneaking suspicion that Australia's crushing win the week before in the First Test in Bangalore added at least an hour to my Passport Office pilgrimage.

Still, I was an indecently happy man when I clambered aboard my flight to Colombo and Chennai that night. This was a genuine frolic, an unambiguous indulgence. I was flying to Chennai to enjoy Test Match cricket at the invitation of a former business partner, who was also a friend sharing a similar religious devotion to cricket.

Madras vs. Chennai

Madras (let's call it Madras – it has a far more resonant ring than the unlovely 'Chennai', and locals seem remarkably unperturbed about what you call their home town) owes its early development to the British, who started trading here in 1639. It is not quite in the top tier of Indian cities, made up of Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. Nor does it seem to be part of the emerging pack of thrusting

“India. A land of rich culture and ancient tradition. The birthplace of Buddha, the inspiration for the Mahabarata and the Kama Sutra. And, as I discovered, the mother of the three hour visa queue (in London).”

metropolises like Bangalore and Hyderabad. Madras' chief claim to fame is as a major port on the Bay of Bengal with best access to Asian sea routes. Its second claim is as host of one of the only two tied Tests in cricket history. Incidentally, it shares this latter distinction with Brisbane, another city which seems to be searching for a clearer modern day identity in the shadow of more clamorous sister cities.

Madras is frenetic, noisy, dirty, friendly, industrious and endlessly watchable. And that's before you even leave the airport. The traffic is of course emblematic of the city. Never moving faster than 30 kilometres an hour, but never becoming totally jammed, the traffic somehow seems to work – floating on a non-stop sea of almost uniformly superfluous tooting. Lane markings on the road are clearly regarded as colonial era hangovers, to be totally ignored.

Shashi Tharoor famously describes India *not* as an underdeveloped country, but rather – in view of its ancient heritage – as a highly developed country in an advanced state of decay. It was great to be on the way back.

Australian collapse

Transiting in Colombo on the first day of the Test, I was pleased to see that the Australians were comfortably placed at 180-2 just before tea time. All the acrimony of missing my earlier flight evaporated instantly. Arriving in Madras, I raced through Customs (after London visas, the space time continuum had made quantum relative shifts, you must understand) only to find that Australia had collapsed to be all out for 235. Anil Kumble snared 7 wickets. I settled disconsolately into my hotel room to be drenched by the saturation media coverage. My rather more chipper host asked mischievously if I had checked for earlier flights home.

At one am, the next morning in Madras, British Summer Time was urging my body to get out of bed and get on with my life. I filled in the hours by catching up with local news. 'The Hindu' is the paper of record in Madras, and I was reminded of what an intelligent readership it must attract and foster. Just one example that morning involved an editorial lauding the arcane Nobel Prize winning work of two American economists attempting to reconcile business cycles with efficient market theory. I'm not making this up. As the economic theory in question relied in part on an individual's predisposition to maximise leisure time, I was feeling even better about my jaunt to India.

Chepauk Stadium is like nothing I have seen. It holds 40,000 endlessly noisy supporters (who had engaged in their first Mexican wave within 20 minutes of the start of play). The ground is huge and beautifully maintained, but the noise and activity tend to magnify the oppressiveness of the heat which envelopes players and supporters alike. It has major stands which circle the boundary line and add to the not unfriendly feeling of claustrophobia.

Day 4 of the Test

It is difficult to imagine the heat which suffocates Chepauk on Day 4. While the air temperature is a mere 33 degrees Celsius, it reaches 43 degrees on the heavily sheltered field, and must be close to 50 degrees under the batsmen's helmets. Drinks breaks come every 40 minutes, and herald the arrival at the wicket of two chairs and an umbrella for the batsman to relax on and under (what would Fred Trueman have said?). You half expected a sitar player to emerge for the players entertainment.

(More of the diary will follow in a later issue of Matrix).

“Australia had collapsed to be all out for 235. Anil Kumble snared 7 wickets. I settled disconsolately into my hotel room to be drenched by the saturation media coverage. My rather more chipper host asked mischievously if I had checked for earlier flights home.”



K Shankar



M S Sekhar

Farewell to Sanmar veterans

On 1 April 2005, the top management team of Sanmar gave a warm send-off to two of their distinguished colleagues. M S Sekhar, Managing Director, Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, was retiring after 27 years of dedicated service in the group, and K Shankar, Chief Executive, Sanmar Shipping, was calling it a day after a decade of outstanding work for Sanmar. At a pleasant dinner, the two stalwarts recalled their happy association with the group and N Sankar, Chairman, paid glowing tributes to their contributions, while relating a couple of humorous anecdotes.

Loyal, committed, professional

N Sankar on M S Sekhar

Sekhar has been a friend and senior management colleague for 27 years. He was the first real professional in the group.

Sekhar took us through a lot of new areas like tax planning. He helped modernize our accounting and financial thinking. He is a real good corporate citizen, and a true friend. He mixes professionalism with old style values like loyalty and commitment. We'll definitely miss him.

Asset to any shipping company

N Sankar on K Shankar

K Shankar has been with us for ten years now. How time has flown! He has been a key member of the close knit shipping team Chakrapani brought to Sanmar. When he came to us, I had been warned about Shankar being very tough. Working with him, I found him very easy and straightforward, a person who spoke his mind. He is committed, knowledgeable and outspoken. He will be an asset to any shipping company, and I am sorry we are not large enough to continue to keep him with us, as we need to accommodate the excellent people we have below him.

The Chairman, N Sankar (left), and M S Sekhar (right) listen to K Shankar's farewell speech.



Sanmar Shipping Limited

'Majesty' joins Sanmar fleet

Sanmar Shipping bought a 1996 Japanese built, double hull, fully stainless steel chemical tanker of 10,314 deadweight on 27 May 2005 at Chiba, Japan. With this purchase, Sanmar Shipping has now diversified into the chemicals shipping business, sensing opportunities in a segment which is beginning to see the crest of a wave after years of dormant trading. The timing of the purchase of a modern vessel at a competitive price is seen by the industry

as a significant move when most players are focussing attention on traditional segments like bulk carriers and crude or products tankers. The vessel earlier called Cristal and now renamed Sanmar Majesty, is capable of carrying both organic and inorganic chemicals and vegetable oils. The vessel has taken her first parcels out of Yokohama, Japan, soon after delivery and is bound for India, with three grades, Acrylonitrile, Cumene and Iso Propyl Alcohol (IPA).

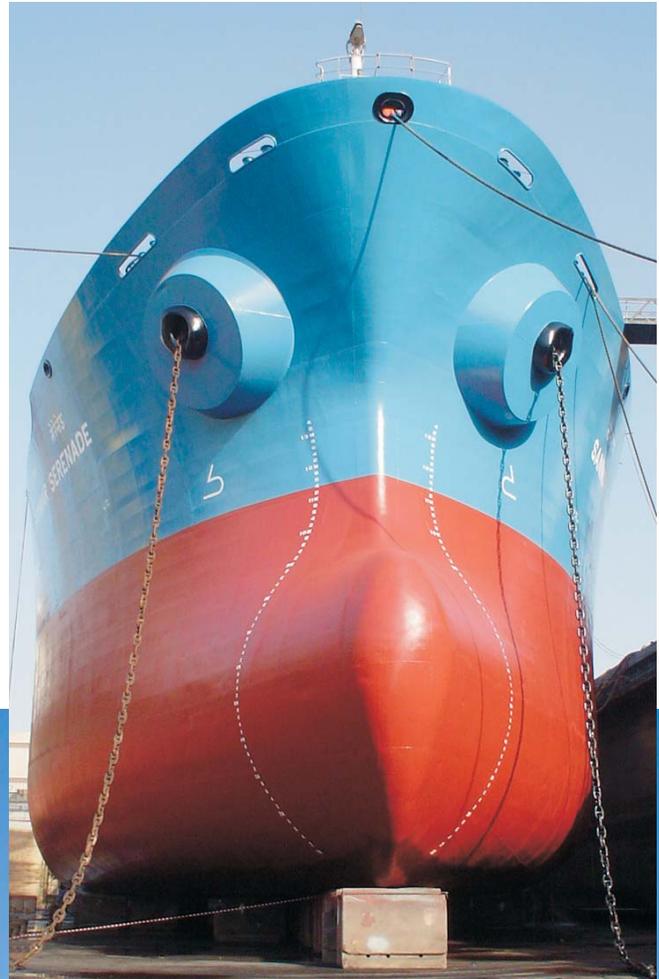
The chemical tanker Sanmar Majesty acquired on 27 May 2005 at Chiba, Japan.



Sanmar Serenade completes dry docking

Sanmar Serenade, a 45,696 deadweight Japanese built Clean Petroleum Products carrier of 1992 vintage, is a double hull vessel acquired by Sanmar Shipping in January 2003. Having just completed her scheduled drydocking under Sanmar ownership and repairs in Dubai in May 2005, she is back to trading in the TORM pool.

Sanmar Serenade drydocking at Dubai: On the blocks fully painted (right) and out at anchorage after all repairs are carried out.



Legends from the South

S Satyamurti

S Satyamurti (1887-1943) was one of the towering intellectuals from the south who enhanced the image of the Indian freedom movement with their fiery oratory, total dedication to the cause, and ability to meet the Englishman on equal terms.

A loyal soldier of Gandhiji's army of non-violent freedom fighters, Satyamurti was nevertheless unafraid to express dissent even if it meant criticizing the Mahatma. (He once said that Gandhi was "unexcelled as a saint, leader and prophet, but when it came to dealing with day-to-day human questions, he had not been rewarded with results which perhaps lesser men might have achieved." According to him, India's history might have been different had Patel, Rajagopalachari, Rajendra Prasad and Maulana Azad had accompanied the Mahatma to the Round Table Conference at London).

Born to middle class parents on 19 August 1887 at Tirumayam in the former princely state of Pudukkottai, Satyamurti was a bright student throughout his school years. After passing the Intermediate examination at the Maharaja's College at Pudukkottai, he came to Madras where he completed B A History at the Christian College. He then joined the Madras Law College and duly obtained his BL degree. As a lawyer, he worked as a junior of V V Srinivasa Iyengar and S Srinivasa Iyengar, a former president of the Indian National Congress.

No doubt inspired by his senior, Satyamurti joined the freedom movement and responding to Gandhiji's call to the youth of India to sacrifice their careers for the country. Soon his 'eloquence, dignity and integrity' came to be noticed by such luminaries as Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the

Rt. Hon. V S Srinivasa Sastri. When following the Jallianwalabagh massacre in April 1919, the Congress sent a delegation to the Joint parliamentary Committee of the UK on the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 32-year-old Satyamurti was chosen its secretary. Satyamurti went to England again in 1925 as a member of the Swarajya Party (a party within the Congress led by Chittaranjan Das and Motilal Nehru) at the invitation of the Independent Labour Party.

Rigorous imprisonment

Defying the prohibitory orders of the British government during the non-cooperation movement of 1930 and 1932, Satyamurti was sentenced on both occasions to rigorous imprisonment.

Elected to the Central Assembly in 1934, was one of the most celebrated parliamentarians of his time. He was feared in the Assembly by the official bloc for his awkward supplementaries, and he was even nicknamed "Supplemurti" by Sir James Grigg, Finance Member. According to *The Hindu*, Satyamurti made a fine art of the supplementary question. In his own words, "I should like to say as a notorious culprit in that respect that the attempt of the Opposition in putting questions is not only to elicit information but to put the Government in the wrong and to raise a laugh at their expense in the House if possible and in the country certainly." Sir F E James, a bitter opponent inside the assembly and bosom friend outside it, described Satyamurti thus: "Like the Niagara, he was torrential, deafening and unceasing; but unlike the Niagara, he had never been known to freeze in silence."

An active member of the Madras University Senate and Syndicate, Satyamurti championed numerous reforms in the field of education. His service to the cause of education led him to play a major role in the creation of Annamalai University. A lover of music and arts, he devoted his spare time to the promotion of Carnatic music and the revival of *bharata natyam*. He became the Vice President of Madras Music Vilas Sabha, a prominent amateur theatrical group.

Satyamurti Sagar

Elected Mayor of Madras in 1939, he worked tirelessly to make Madras “the city beautiful” as he called it. He initiated the Poondi Reservoir scheme, and the reservoir is now called the Satyamurti Sagar. Participating in the individual Satyagraha campaign in 1940 in defiance of government order, Satyamurti delivered an anti-war speech and was imprisoned for eight months. He was arrested again two years later while returning to Madras after attending the Congress Working Committee meeting in Bombay, where the historic Quit India resolution was adopted. He passed away virtually a prisoner on March 28, 1943. It was a disappointing end to a glittering career as Satyamurti did not live to see India free. He had fought fiercely both inside and outside parliament.

In a tribute, *The Hindu* wrote: “He achieved with effortless ease distinction on many fronts and he will be remembered in the history of the national movement as a great tribune of the people. He loved the good things of life, but few of the rewards that the world prizes came his way. He would have been more than human if he had not felt these mischances as slights to his worth. But he did not allow them to sour him; his outlook was fundamentally too cheerful and healthy. Above all he was a born fighter to whom the fight was the thing.”

Satyamurti was truly a man of culture. He was a lover of art. In the midst of his exacting public work, he found time to interest himself in the fine arts. He was one of the original founders of the Music Academy, Madras, with which, for the promotion of music and dance, he was actively connected till the end. He was a great lover of music and he encouraged and patronised musicians.

In one of his letters to his daughter Lakshmi, he says, “A love of fine arts is a sure sign of culture”. In another letter to his daughter Lakshmi, he extols the virtues and beauty of the arts of painting and sculptures which, he says, give form to our conceptions of the Divine. In his public speeches, Satyamurti used to say, “We shall win our way to Swaraj singing.” He had an equally great love for fine arts—dance, painting and sculpture. “What has always evoked the greatest admiration in me is the expression on the faces of these so-called lifeless figures,” he says, referring to sculptures.

Satyamurti was endowed with linguistic proficiency in three languages, viz., English, Tamil and Sanskrit. A keen student of Sanskrit, Satyamurti was one of the pillars of the Sanskrit Academy in which he used to take active interest. He could speak in Sanskrit and his early training under his father had laid strong foundations for the love for Sanskrit in him. Usually, no speech or lecture of his would be complete, either in the legislature or on the public platform, without an apt quotation in Sanskrit.

Next to Sanskrit, Satyamurti loved Tamil. In the twenties and early thirties when the hallmark of a politician or a public man was his ability to speak in fluent English with affected English accent, Satyamurti used to speak in Tamil to large audiences. His Tamil was impeccable, eloquent, flowing and in simple straight language, devoid of pedantry; and this appealed to the masses.

His English was equally flawless and eloquent. In the Madras Legislative Council and the Central Legislative Assembly, his speeches were patterns of perfection so far as the language was concerned. He had no patience with faulty English and often he twitted the Government benches for bad English and bad drafts.

(Excerpted from a tribute by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.)



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