



Scottish Church College, Calcutta

Founded on 13 July 1830

by Alexander Duff.



Scottish Church College

**Welcome Address  
By  
Shri A.M.N. Ghosh**



Mr. A.M.N. Ghosh  
First Member (Technical), ONGC

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**It is a great privilege and matter of pride to welcome this afternoon the Hon'ble Minister for Natural Resources, Shri K.D. Malaviya, who has flown all the way from New Delhi to inaugurate the training classes in connection with India's Oil Exploration programme.**

Our pleasure is heightened by the fact that he is accompanied by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, Shri R.K. Ramadhyani. The fact that both these high dignitaries of the Government of India have chosen to spare some of their valuable time to grace by this occasion shows the importance our Government attaches to this program which has just commenced for training budding geologists and geophysicists in the technique of oil prospecting.

The background against which the training courses in oil geology and exploration geophysics have been organized can be traced to the anxiety and intense desire of the Government of India to train in the shortest possible time geologists, Geophysicists and drilling engineers in the country's search for oil. A decisive step was taken by the Government of India in their Industrial Policy Resolution of April 30, 1956, taking upon themselves the responsibilities of the future development of mineral oil. Prior to that an organization was set up last year entitled "Oil & Natural Gas Directorate" under the Ministry of Natural Resources & Scientific Research.

**The Directorate has now merged into a high powered commission which will be directly concerned with the exploration, exploitation and refining of oil and Natural Gas in this country.**

India spends more than Rs. 75 crores worth of foreign exchange annually for importing mineral oil. Not only is mineral oil a strategic material but it is equally important for industrial development in peace time. To-day our requirement of mineral oil of different categories such as Kerosene, automobile and aviation spirits, diesel oil, paraffin etc. require an annual production of about 5 million tons of crude oil. of this, India produces at present only about 400,000 tons of crude oil from her only oilfield at Digboi in Upper Assam. The rest is met by importing crude oil and refining it at the two refineries which have recently been set up near Bombay. With the rapidly developing industries it is anticipated that by the end of the Second Five - Year Plan period we shall need about 7 million tons which would cost us nearly Rs. 150 crores per year in terms of foreign exchange. The decision of the Government of India to undertake oil prospecting in a big way was therefore very timely.

To what extent our Ministry played his part in persuading the Government of India to accept a Rs. 30-crore scheme for simultaneous search for oil in the Punjab, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Ganga Valley, West Bengal, Orissa and Madras coast will remain unknown to the country at large. **Those of us who have watched him from close quarters will bear testimony to his vision and faith in his countrymen which helped him to persuade the Government to undertake the extremely risky but exciting venture of oil exploration on large scale.**

If oil is discovered by Government agency, then Malaviyaji's contribution to its success will be unique. He has taken up great responsibility upon himself by consenting to become the first

**Chairman of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission.**



I had the privilege to be closely associated with him and was able to get an impression of his abiding faith in his countrymen and solicitude for their welfare. While I was last in Russia and in Other European countries as a member of the delegation led by our Minister it was at his request that foreign oil experts, Russian, German and American, were invited to advice us in our search for oil.

All the foreign oil experts agreed with the Indian geologists that the prospect of finding oil is not at all discouraging provided the right techniques and modern methods are employed for oil prospecting. All of them recommended some sort of high powered technical organization for the purpose. To satisfy the aspiration of the people and in accord with economic policy, the Government of India rightly decided that though oil exploration is a highly specialized job demanding experience and technical skill, the organization must be manned from top to bottom by Indian nationals. At early stages it may

be necessary to employ a large number of foreign experts to assist in the implementation of the Oil Exploration program and to train local talents but all the foreigners should be replaced in the shortest possible time. Only a few consultants and top ranking specialists may be retained by necessity as it takes many years to gather sufficient practical experience to become a specialist.

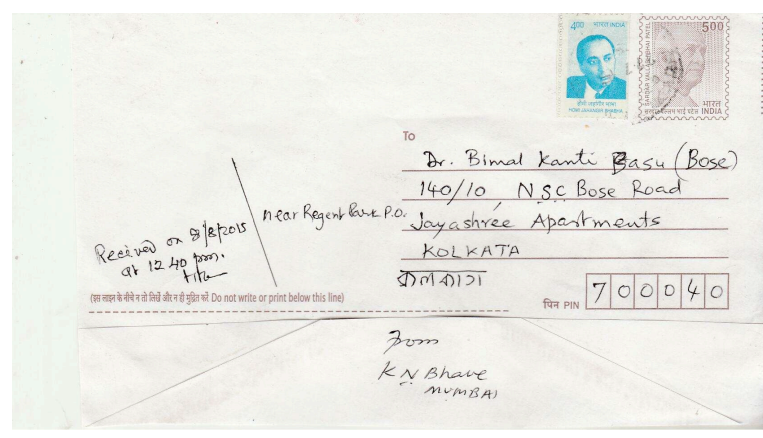
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NB; This speech was of MR. AMN Ghosh, in the Scottish Church College, (then called) Calcutta, mostly in a mid-August 1956, as treasured in the

*Memorable ONGC Album*

of one of the Deeply Respected principals of the ONGC's Path-Building Geophysicists.

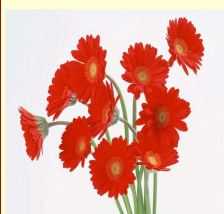
**Dr. K. N. Bhabe ,**



I am conveying to many of the Ancients, Olds, Elders and Younger all ever respected ONGCian of the Today to share our this history; with the kind approval of Dr. K.N. Bhabe,

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*“Our future is built on the wisdom of the Past  
Time lapses, Trends change, Generations pass,  
but Wisdom endures ... .”*



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