

# Travancore - Cochin Integration Pre-Project Agreement; An Analysis

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## Abstract

Travancore and Cochin the neighbouring states in southern Kerala. Both the states had cordial and diplomatic relations each other for centuries. The Travancore and Cochin states had good relation with Chalakudy project, Railway projects and Salt Agreements. For several years past both the Travancore Government and the Cochin Government had under contemplation certain schemes for the utilisation of the waters of the Chalakudy River for generation of electricity and for irrigation purpose. The Chalakudy River for a distance of about 20 miles flows in between Travancore territory and Cochin territory; Negotiations were going on for a long time between the two Governments regarding terms and other details of utilisation of the water by them.

## Key words

*Cannal ,Arr, era, port, Sirkarson, Devaswam*

## Introduction

The erstwhile native states of Travancore and Cochin situated at the southern extent of the Indian sub-continent had a glorious history and heritage of their own. Both the states played their role in maintaining a political and cultural equilibrium. The Travancore and Cochin had relation with so many aspects. The relation is not a single factor. It consists of multi-dimensional life activities involved in the States. The attacks of neighbouring States and the incursions of Europeans did not reduce the all-round relations of Travancore and Cochin. Both states relation and contact with Salt, River Project and Railway projects. The

pre Integration Period the projects were jointly done by Travancore and Cochin Governments.

## **Scope and Relevance of Study**

Travancore and Cochin the native sates of Southern India .Both the sates were blessed with natural beauty. By History and tradition many events helped to the integration of Travancore and Cochin The pre integration Projects specially the common peoples salt, water too much relevance on its management between the neighbour states

## **Analysis of Method and Sources**

The article is based on the analysis of primary sources. Most of the historical facts about Travancore and Cochin is accurately relating to the archival sources. The method in this article is used as descriptive style of briefing.

## **Chalaky Waters**

The Cochin Government's main scheme was a Hydro Electric Scheme for the generation of electricity at Peringalkuthu in the upper reaches of the river. They had also a scheme for diverting water from lower down the river for irrigating lands within their territory near Echippara. The Travancore Government similarly had in contemplation schemes for diverting water from the Chalaky River into their territory for irrigation purpose near about Athirappilly. This Government also wanted to enter into some definite understanding with the Government of Cochin in regard to certain matters outstanding for years, such as the rate of royalty liable on water allowed to be diverted by the Cochin Government from the Periyar river at Chowwera, increased off take of water them, the conversion of the Railway bridge at Alwaye into a combined rail road bridge by decking it, and the construction of a bridge over the boundary canal separating Cochin from Travancore at Puthenvelikara.

With a view to settle the aforesaid matters a conference of representative of the two Governments was held at Trivandrum on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 1949 and decisions were arrived at. Under the arrangement agreed upon in regard to the diversion of water from the Chalaky River the Cochin Government will be entitled to store water in reservoirs at Peringalkuthu for the purpose of their Hydro Electric Scheme. The water utilised

will, of course, flow back into the river. They would have no right to divert the water for any other purpose from any point on the river above Athirappilly so as to diminish the natural flow of water at Athirappilly in any manner.

From Athirappilly, the Travancore Government would have the right to divert ascertain quantity of water into Travancore territory for the purpose of irrigating about 20,000 acres of arable land. The water would be let down through a notch in a weir to be put up in the river at Athirappilly, Similarly, the Cochin Government would had the right to divert through another channel an equal quantity of water into their territory for irrigation purposes. These diversions should, however, leave a minimum quantity of water to flow the river below the two breaches for the purpose of serving the riparian interests of the two States in the lower regions. It was a joint venture.

### **Railway Bridge at Puthenvelikkara**

Another conference also decided to convert the Railway Bridge at Alwaye into a combined rail road bridge by backing it, 75 % of the cost being met by Cochin and 25% by Travancore. Regarding the bridge at Puthenvelikkara it was agreed that the cost of the bridge would be sent to equal shares by the two Governments. The Puthenvelikkara Railway Bridge project is combined to help the people of Travancore and Cochin people. The Pre Integration period the major Railway project including railway bridges, railway roads led to the cordial relations .

### **Salt trade and its management**

The salt agreement and finical policies are the important event in the pre Integration of Travancore and Cochin. Third venture of joint effort occurred in 1865. Arrangements were made with the States of Travancore and Cochin for the removal of the fiscal restrictions, which until then existed upon the trade between the States and British territory. Munambam, Manakudy and Kovalam were the Ports declared by the common decision of the native States for the import of salt With regard to salt; it had agreed that the both States should be supply with salt from Bombay on the same terms as those under which the Madras Government had supplied. These terms were that salt from Bombay should be exported pre of duty but subject to a charge of 3 pies per mounds to cover petty local charges.

The price of salt in the States should rise to the Madras government monopoly price. The Travancore and Cochin States have thus not only been depriving of the revenue which

they obtained on all salt imported from Bombay but so long as they sell the salt at RS. 2 per mounds they have to meet the extra cost on account of the new charges referred to. As a result they applied for compensation. The Madras proposals were sanctioned without remark by the Financial Department on 8th April 1865. On 24<sup>th</sup> May the Madras Government telegraphed to Financial Department that Travancore and Cochin accepted the terms and that the Bombay government should be instructed to pass salt for the *Sirkarson* the same terms as for Canara and Malabar. This was done by telegraph in the financial department on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1865. Upto 1949, the agreements and terms and conditions of the salt import continued without any disputes between the States Conclusion.

The erstwhile native States of Travancore and Cochin, though often contested each other, could not set apart. Over the land, water and *Devaswam* disputes, in the inner depth they possessed a mutual bondage that could not be denied at any cost. It is being attested to the fact that the mutual indebtedness, necessitated by contemporary situations manifested in cultural amalgamation and comparatively uniform social structure. No events of isolation with regard to the progressive modernisation of society can be traced out in the States. Above all these relations, having multi- dimensional levels put together to create present day Kerala culture along with Calicut.

## **Conclusion**

The states that are steeped in culture and tradition, passions are comparatively gentler and softer. They are governed by intelligence and culture. Several art forms were practiced in the temples of both the States irrespective of geographical boundaries. The people of these territories participated, all the major religious festivals and martial art forms. A feeling of oneness generated among the people, which later paved for the successful integration of the States. The Chalakudy project, Railway bridge Project and Salt agreements with Travancore and Cochin were in smooth and healthy way of running in the course of history.

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