

# BEHAR HERALD

SECULARISM  
AND  
DEMOCRACY  
OUR MOTTO

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## Poverty of Eastern Region

Hitherto it was for ordinary mortals to be bewildered at the dichotomy between spoken words and performed deeds of politicians. When a politician gets bewildered, as Mrs. Indira Gandhi was reported to be at the commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference at Jamaica, the intensity of the provocation may be assumed to be supersonic. Presumably, Mrs. Gandhi blamed the affluent nations for not fostering universal commonweal by extending proper economic aid to the poorer nations on the ground that humanity, after all, is one and indivisible. Quite a lofty ideal, beyond doubt, and judging the rich countries by that standard they certainly deserve reproof. The rich nations, however, are too callous to live upto that ideal and will come out with their aids when it suits them. Alas! the ideal is not shared.

An irrepressible mortal here at home may quip, is that ideal shared any more by rich relations than by the richer and more developed regions? Altering the stance, the question may not be inappropriate, does the Union Government in Delhi treat all the four regions alike? All regions must be equal in the eyes of the various ministries of the Central Government but, as Orwell wrote, some are more equal than others. It may be foolish of an ordinary mortal to ask 'are there double standards, like double talk, for affairs abroad and affairs at home?' But, ordinary mortals, of course, are foolish otherwise they would have tried to be politicians.

Other regions being more equal than the eastern the latter's existence is frequently forgotten by those who give, bless them, except during certain periods of lucid intervals. There must be generous reasons for discriminating railway tariff in cotton and equality in steel and coal. Similarly, very powerful consideration must be behind the jump in the price of raw cotton allowed at intervals while for jute growers status quo is seldom allowed to be disturbed.

If humanity is one and indivisible, which no doubt it is, should India be many and divisible? The ordinary mortals are really not sure with politicians who, at home, are so apt in baffling ordinary mortals. A change in the role of India's top politician from the baffler to the baffled may be a good diversion but the eastern region could do with something other than this amusement.

Citizens of the entire eastern region, also the politicians of the area, would do well to remember that eternal submission is the price of poverty.

## Liberation of South Vietnam

It is almost after thirty years of continuous war in Vietnam that peace has dawned on that unfortunate country with the withdrawal of US army and complete and unconditional surrender of the Saigon regime headed by General Minh. The liberation of South Vietnam by the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese forces has in effect marked the end of US stragglehold in South East Asia. It is a colossal defeat for US army and its foreign policy. The Americans had spent billions of dollars to save South Vietnam and its puppet regime. It was President Johnson who was directly responsible for starting the war of attrition in South Vietnam. Gradually US combatant force swelled to over five lakhs to fight the liberation forces both inside the country and outside from North Vietnam. People's rejoicings were tremendous as the advancing liberation forces marched towards the heart of the capital town of Saigon which is now to be named after the late national leader, Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam.

Although it looks that the Communists both inside and outside the country were responsible for the liberation of South Vietnam, it is apparant that people were inspired more by the feelings of nationalism than any other ideology. All over the world it has been found that people become totally united whenever there is colonial power to support a puppet regime. Whenever the liberation of a country is effected through a bloody warfare, the spirit of nationalism ultimately sustains the national aspiration. Communism in such countries takes a swing towards extreme nationalism as was found in China and many other countries where liberation came with the help of Communist forces and a bloody revolution. Orthodox communism is discarded to suit the national aspiration of the people. Yugoslavia is another example of this classic change. Mao of China liberated the country with the massive help from Russia. But soon after, China deviated from orthodox communism and chalked out its own brand of communism which may be termed as national communism. Thus those who feel that the liberation of South Vietnam means the end of democracy are not correct in their assessment. In fact there was no democracy in South Vietnam and people rose to one man to end colonialism of the United States headed by the war lords of Pentagon.

The new regime in South Vietnam will be faced with the colossal task of reconstruction of the entire country. 'Everything is in shambles there. Huge amount of money and foreign aid will be needed for

the purpose. United States, still may recover its prestige in the region and for that purpose throughout the world, if it comes forward to provide generous reconstruction aid to that country forgetting its humiliation in the defeat of its army. That way alone the Senate and the American Congress can demonstrate to the world that it fought for the general wellbeing of the masses of that country and not for perpetuating a puppet regime.

## Notes & Comments

How an issueless husband with infertile wife wants to save his progeny has come to light through a classified advertisement published in the San Francisco recently. It reads : "Childless husband with infertile wife wants test-tube baby. English or north-western European background. Indicate fee and age. All answers confidential." The husband, who says his wife is unable to bear children, says he will pay the woman 10,000 dollars to have his baby by artificial insemination. He says he is happily married, does not want to meet the mother and think of making love to her. "When I found out my wife could not have children, I felt like killing myself", he said. "The depression was enormous. I am the last of my family line. I want to have my own child", he added. The man says he is seeking a woman who would be impregnated and then turn the baby over to him and his infertile wife. No doubt, it is a novel method to maintain one's progeny. So far, no one has answered the advertisement.

Mr. Manohar Joshi, a Shiv Sena member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, has made a startling revelation in the House recently that at certain illicit

dens in Bombay water poured over the bodies of lepers is used in some distillation breweries. Mr. Joshi, who was speaking on the menace of beggars and lepers in the city, said that some persons patronising the illicit liquor carried a notion that the brew got an unusual taste if the water poured over the bare bodies of lepers was used in breweries. As a result, a number of lepers found shelters at some illicit liquor dens. He said that such type of brew was sold mainly in slum areas. It is a shocking revelation indeed. The Maharashtra Government must take stern measures against the miscreants who are responsible for this dangerous practice.

An advertisement put up recently by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission says that for the posts of Deputy Town Planners, the minimum age limit is 20 years and the essential qualifications should include three years' practical experience. It should not be difficult for any one to work out at what age a 20-year-old applicant for the post would be supposed to have completed his academic studies. The R. P. S. C. is certainly doing a splendid job!

Despite being laughed by everybody, Her Erich Seltzer decided at the age of 83 to play the violin. Seltzer, however, vindicated himself when after three years of practice he succeeded in winning an award as a violin player. It just shows that one is never too old to learn—though this is generally disproved by the records of men in the various corridors of power in the world.

In a government poultry farm of Gaya, production cost of one egg comes to about Rs. 4. There are about 250 hens in Tekuli poultry farm of Gaya town which give about 40 eggs per day. But the maintenance cost of the farm goes to about Rs. 5,000 per month.

The government has to spend Rs. 1,500 on salaries of the officials and other members of the staff. Besides, Rs. 2,500 is being spent on the diets of the hens and a sum of Rs. 1,000 is spent by way of house rent, electricity, medicines and other miscellaneous items per month. So the monthly production of eggs comes to about 1,200 as against the expenditure of Rs. 5,000 incurred on them. Indeed, the farm produces golden eggs!

After the grenade attack on Mr. Justice A.N. Ray, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, judges of the Nagpur High Court have also been provided with security. But no security arrangements have been made for one of the judges. People think that he has been discriminated against because he is a family friend of Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan and usually plays host to him whenever Mr. Narayan is in Nagpur. Normally that would make no sense because few leaders, whether in office or out of it, are offered so much security protection as is given to Mr. Narayan. Moreover, things in Nagpur are not always normal. Otherwise, why should local police take so much precautionary measures for Miss Nirmala Deshpande, a member of the Sarvodaya movement who is defying Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan, and let an hon'ble judge of the Nagpur High Court fend for himself?

These days Vice-chancellors scarcely leave their jobs even if they fail to live upto the standard expected of them. So, one would be surprised to find Mr. Yashwantbhai Shukla, Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, deciding to go back to his old college, as he feels he does not have enough opportunities for effecting any improvement in the university. A lot of mess existing in our campuses is largely due to inept and poor handling of administration by the Vice-chancellors and it would be a healthy practice if some others followed Mr. Shukla's example.

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Patna, May 1 : Dr. Jagannath Mishra, Chief Minister of Bihar, released the Centenary Number of the *Behar Herald* today at a function held here at the Hotel Princess.

In the absence of Dr. B. Mukhopadhaya, Chairman of the *Behar Herald* Managing Committee and President of the Bengalee Association, Bihar due to his indisposition, Dr. S. M. Ghosal, senior most member of the Committee presided over the function.

### Chief Minister

Besides Dr. Ram Gobind Singh, Chairman of the Legislative Council, Dr. Ramraj Singh, Education Minister, Bihar; Mr. Ram Bilas Sharma, MLC, Mr. S. K. Ghosh MLC, Dr. K. K. Dutta, former Vice-Chancellor of the Patna University and Mr. B. N. Basu, Chairman of the Patna Improvement Trust, a large number of journalists and elite of the town were present on the occasion.

While formally releasing the Centenary Number Chief Minister said that the *Behar Herald*, the oldest English Weekly in the country, had a glorious tradition of one hundred years of continuous publication. He said that many eminent and distinguished persons were associated with this journal and contributed to the intellectual, cultural and social growth of Bihar. He congratulated all those connected with the publication of the Centenary Number.

Dr. Mishra further observed that being young in age, he came to know of the historic role played by the *Behar Herald* through reading only. Like past, the journal with a band of selfless and dedicated workers had to play a greater role for the progress of the state at this critical period through which the country was passing. Dr. Mishra hoped that the *Behar Herald* and such other papers would give a healthy guidance to the social revolution which was in progress. He appealed to the newspapermen to guide the society in the right path.

## BEHAR HERALD HAS A GLORIOUS TRADITION

### Chief Minister Releases the Centenary Number

N. Mitra

The Chief Minister pointed out the pathetic conditions of the Harijans and backward classes of people and urged the newspapers to help them to secure their rightful places in the society. He was sure the *Behar Herald* and papers like it could do much in this direction.

At the outset, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Chaudhuri, Editor of *Behar Herald*, welcoming the guests said that the release of the Centenary Number was the second phase of the year long *Behar Herald* Centenary celebration. As Dr. Mukhopadhaya, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the *Behar Herald* could not attend the function due to his indisposition, he invited Dr. S. M. Ghosal to preside over the function.

Mr. Chaudhuri said that the *Behar Herald* Centenary was being celebrated in four phases, viz. formal celebration, formal release of the centenary number, bringing out industrial supplement and health supplement in course of the year.

Mr. Chaudhuri congratulated Mr. S. N. Chakravorty, Editor of the centenary number for the beautiful and neat publication. He said that although Mr. Chakravorty was not a journalist, he was a profound scholar and was deeply associated with the *Behar Herald* in his younger days. He was in South India for a long time as an executive of a nationalised concern.

### S. N. Chakravorty

Mr. S. N. Chakravorty, the

editor of the Centenary Number said that he was nothing but a pretender in the chair of journalism. He was entrusted with the editing the centenary number and he tried his best to do the honourable job. He said that the *Behar Herald* was first published on March 2, 1875 under the editorship of the late Mr. Guru Prasad Sen. The centenary number was to be published on March 2, 1975, on the day of the centenary celebration. But the release of the centenary number had to be deferred due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Mr. Chakravorty recalled the past history of the *Behar Herald* and said that the journal challenged the authority of the mighty British Government. No journal could do so during those days of British rule. He thought that the *Behar Herald* fought against obscurantism and casteism which gave it an exceptional character. He hoped that the journal with all its will would try to retain that heritage.

Mr. Chakravorty further said that the founder-Editor, Mr. Guru Prasad Sen, edited the *Behar Herald* from 1875 till his death in 1900. Between 1900 and 1938, those who conducted the paper were dedicated persons who voluntarily edited and managed the *Behar Herald*. Messrs Anukul Das Gupta and Amiya Das Gupta were prominent among them. The late S. N. Basu, Barrister-at-law, left a great impression in the journal. P. R. Das took up the *Behar Herald* in 1938 and Mr.

Mani Samaddar became the Editor of the new series of the journal. Mr. Samaddar died in 1950. The late J.N. Ghosh with his great knowledge gave the paper a new colour. Thereafter, its management was given to a firm. Recently the Bengalee Association took charge of the paper once again.

Mr. Chakravorty said that various aspects of Bihar's community life were highlighted in the Centenary Number. He thanked the advertisers without whom the Centenary Number could not be published.

#### B. N. Azad

Mr. B. N. Azad, President of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, recalling his association with the *Behar Herald* said that a galaxy of stalwarts were among the active members of the paper. He said Mr. S. N. Basu was a real stalwart who enriched the paper immensely by his powerful writings.

Mr. Azad said that in the whole country, particularly in Bihar, newspapers were faced with grave crisis. Now the price of newspapers had increased abnormally because of high price of newsprint. He said newspapers were still beyond the reach of the common man and the government did not give any specific attention to the problem which it deserved. Prices of printing materials also increased exorbitantly. Mr. Azad said government's patronage was certainly necessary but he advised the newspapers not to depend upon it. He urged the Chief Minister to take up the matter earnestly and remove the difficulties of the news-paper industry.

#### Jaikant Mishra

Mr. Jaikant Mishra, Editor of the *Aryavarta*, expressed happiness for the progress of the *Behar Herald* during the past century. He said the name of the journal would be written in letters of gold in Bihar's history for its constructive approach and unique contribution to the intellectual and cultural growth of the State.

Referring to the problem of newsprint, Mr. Mishra informed that a huge sum of Rs. 80 lakhs would now be required for the *Indian Nation* and the *Aryavarta* to get newsprint and asked how many papers, particularly small newspapers, could survive by spending such a fabulous sum for newsprint alone?

Mr. Mishra said that necessity of papers like the *Behar Herald* with catholic spirit was now more than before and constructive suggestions made by them should be beneficial both for the government and the people. Mr. Mishra was glad to find that though *Behar Herald* was published in English, it also championed the cause of Hindi even during the nineteenth century. He wished god-speed to the journal for its future progress and prosperity.

#### R. L. Singh Yadav

Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, General Secretary of the Citizen's Council, said that everybody in Bihar should be proud of the history of the *Behar Herald* which was now 100 years old. He hoped under the able editorship of Mr. Nirmal Kumar Chaudhuri it would continue to serve the people of the State. He congratulated Mr. S. N. Chakravorty for editing such a magnificent centenary number of the *Behar Herald*.

Mr. Yadav referred to yellow journalism and said that this type of papers did neither serve the cause of the society nor the State. They either tried to blackmail or to praise a particular group of persons to extract money from them. Public had no faith in these papers. He wanted standard papers with constructive suggestions and criticisms and asked government to help them to solve their financial difficulties. He expressed the hope that the *Behar Herald* would maintain its past tradition on its onward march.

#### Dr. S. M. Ghosal

Dr. S. M. Ghosal said that while listening to the speeches of various speakers his mind went 100 years back. The founder-

Editor, Mr. Guru Prasad Sen, did not know then that his paper would continue for one hundred years. Dr. Ghosal was extremely happy that the journal had crossed the last sign post marking a century.

#### D. N. Sircar

Mr. D. N. Sircar, Manager of the *Behar Herald* and also General Secretary of the Bengalee Association, Bihar thanked the Chief Minister and other distinguished guests for their august company on the occasion.

He said the *Behar Herald* was a small newspaper. It existed till today because it had not lost its ideals. Mr. Sircar thought that it was a matter of great pride for Bihar to create history of English journalism.

On behalf of the management, Mr. Sircar thanked the Bihar Government as well as the former Chief Minister, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor and Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav for their all out help for the publication of the *Behar Herald* Centenary Number. He also thanked the management of the Hotel Princess for extending its hospitality to the guests. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of the family of late Mr. S. N. Basu, who donated old volumes of the *Behar Herald* to its management.

#### Man makes way for Tiger

Bhopal : Man has had to make way for animals. To conserve the tiger, 360 inhabitants of 17 villages in Matidia, and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh have been uprooted from their homes. Their area has been acquired by the government to locate the 446 square kilometre Kanha national park under "Project Tiger."

Each displaced inhabitant will be given free land elsewhere and Rs. 200.

## TASKS BEFORE THE NEW CHIEF MINISTER

Politicus

Dr. Jagannath Mishra at 38 years is the youngest Chief Minister of the country. He carries the goodwill of all sections of the people of the State. His smooth and unanimous election shows that the Bihar Congress can act with despatch and discipline. He faces many difficult task ahead. The sincere support of his party and the people of Bihar will lighten his burden. We place below what in our view are some of his urgent and priority tasks.

### Administrative reform

The administration of Bihar has grown fat, flabby, inefficient, insensitive, exploitative and frustrated. It has lost its ethos. It is not committed to its tasks. It has little contact with the people. Very few officers are even familiar with the aims, objects, plans and programmes of the Government. To some one who is intimately familiar with the working of all levels of administration, these are not fanciful exaggerations but stark realities with some exceptions. Personal group, caste, community, sectarian and religious interests appear to dominate their thinking and action. Personal aggrandisement is another key feature characteristic of the functionaries of the State administration. Restoration of discipline, imposition of efficiency and a sense of purpose and commitment to plans and programmes among the administrative executive, therefore, is the Chief Minister's first charge in office. He must move with firmness, foresight, imagination and a sense of fairness combined with resilience and flexibility if he is to make any real dent on this somewhat entrenched and fossilized structure. In fact, the factional fights of the Congress Party pale into insignificance when compared with the ceaseless and perineal factional fights at all levels of the State employees.

### Curbing corruption

Corruption has become all pervasive. Schools, colleges, universities, administration—whether public or private—business, industry, voluntary organisations, social service

Politicus in this illuminating article deals with the awe-inspiring task before the new Chief Minister of Bihar Dr. Jagannath Mishra, who assumed the office the other day. In a scathing criticism of the official machinery which is not committed to the task of development of the State, Politicus gives certain suggestions to activate and revitalise the entire system. Chief Minister has to assert, if he wants to restore discipline, efficiency and a sense of purpose among the officials. Unwholesome pressure from political executives must be halted, and the Chief Minister must have courage to declare "Away all the pests". Politicus has deep knowledge of the ins and outs of the entire administrative system, and we have persuaded him to write regularly for *Behar Herald* in these columns.

association — none are free from this cancer. Eradication of corruption will require sustained and continuous effort of a multifaceted nature over many years. It cannot be removed by a fiat or by declaration of intentions. There is no magic solution. But curbing of corruption to restore a sense of purpose and confidence in public life can be achieved in the short haul. This will bring hope and encouragement to those who are not yet stricken by this virus.

Corruption flows from the top. If the fountain head of the power and the privilege remains incorruptible, the sparkling waters which will thus flow downwards will wash away any eddies of corruption that may raise its ugly head downstream. Here the new Chief Minister's leadership will be decisive and crucial. The political executives must be like Caesar's wife above suspicion.

### Nibbling away resources

In Bihar corruption takes many forms. Nepotism, and casteism are rampant in the administrative machinery. Financial irregularities abound. Poor execution of schemes is the rule and not the exception because of "Shares" at many

points. Corruption nibbles away the financial and physical resources of the State. The machinations of a corrupt administrative machinery gets reflected even in the proceedings of Cabinet meeting. In fact, Cabinet meetings often become battle grounds for caste and sectional interests upholding parochial pressures from the administrative executives. Differences rarely arise in the Cabinet over basic policy issues or development plans and programmes. Rifts and cracks more often emanate from issues related to postings, transfers, promotions or punishments of gazetted or non-gazetted staff who bring unwholesome pressure on the political executives to further their personal, narrow and sectarian interests. In fact the game of "Toppling" Ministries is not unrelated to such issues. The new Chief Minister must have the courage to break this well known compact between the political and administrative executive. He must pick-up courage to declare "Away all the pests".

The place of primacy given to administrative reform and curb on corruption is not because these steps will redeem his pledge to the

people to achieve development goals. These are the essential tools needed to start and propel with accelerating force and speed sustained and self-generating development. Unless the tools for implementation of development plans are proper and effective, he cannot expect the momentum of the engines of growth and development to be kept in proper keel and accelerating speed. These then, are his tools he must first repair and sharpen.

There is urgent need for having a careful and searching look on basic policy and conceptual issues on which plans have been based for almost a quarter of a century. They are in need of revision. Here an attempt will be made to project the theoretical comprehension of Bihar's under-development as a process and conceptualize conscious action to effect large scale changes in a direction utilizing in a co-ordinated way the resources available.

## NEGLECT OF ANCIENT SITE OF VAISALI

P. C. Chaudhury

Muzaffarpur : A visit to Vaisali these days where first democracy in India was established is disheartening. No one would now believe that Vaisali was the capital of the Republic of Vaisali many many centuries ago where the Lichchavis ruled. Vaisali, the birth place of Lord Mahavira, is also associated with the name of Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha visited Vaishali twice. Here the Court dancer Amrapali received Lord Buddha.

Nearly three decades ago Mr. J. C. Mathur, ICS., the then Sub-divisional Officer of Hajipur organised Vaisali Festival. Vaisali Festival is held every year on the occasion of the Baisakhi Purnima day. The main idea of Mr. Mathur was to focus the importance of Vaisali which is still a place of pilgrimage for all, specially for Buddhists and Jains. Pilgrims still pour in from different countries, particularly, from Ceylon, Burma, Japan, Thailand and other South-east Asian countries. But unfortunately,

pilgrims after visiting Vaisali return home disappointed. There is nothing worth seeing at Vaisali now-a-days excepting the Ashokan Pillar. The museum remains closed. A big building for the museum was constructed out of the Central Fund and completed three years ago; but it remains closed as it has not been formally handed over to the PWD. The statues and relics which were on the show in the old museum have been loaned out to Patna and Calcutta museums. They have not been returned to Vaisali.

A few years ago there was an old temple where a statue of Lord Buddha was installed. It is not known where the statue has gone. There was a proposal to construct a park near the Ashokan Pillar but it has not yet materialised. The Avisheikh Puskarini where the Lichchavi kings used to take baths before coronation remains neglected. Mr. K. P. Jaiswal discovered a relic of Lord Buddha after a little excavation near the Puskarini about two decades ago but all the

protective works and the thatched shed over the excavation have since collapsed. Nobody has cared to preserve the monuments.

Excavations were carried out first in 1904 at the Garh site. Remains of masonry buildings were found in every place explored. The second excavation was taken up in 1912 and the third, although for a short period, in 1950. Important finds have been kept in the Patna Museum. For the last twentyfive years, the Archaeological Department kept silent.

It appears that the Tourist Department of the Government of Bihar accorded step-motherly treatment to Vaisali. Plans are there to improve tourists traffic and their amenities at places of historical importance but it is not known what improvement has been made for development of Vaisali which came into prominence in 6th Century B. C. Even today a visit to Vaisali is troublesome. There is no suitable bus service from Muzaffarpur to Bashar or Kaluha where the ancient garh was located and the Ashokan pillar still stands. One has to trek about ten square kilometres to go near the birthplace of Lord Mahavira and other places of historical importance. The Department of Tourism provided a tourist van at Muzaffarpur for the facility of the visitors but the van is said to have gone out of order and the visitors are going without any conveyance facility for the last two years.

I met Mr. R. D. Bhandare, Governor of Bihar, on March 21 at Patna and spoke about Vaisali which has been receiving stepmotherly treatment by both the Department of Tourism and the Archaeological Department, Bihar Circle. The Governor appeared to be unhappy over the present state of affairs prevailing at Vaisali. The Governor took keen interest when I narrated the story of Vaisali and assured me that he would ask for a detailed report from the Commissioner of the Tirhut Division, I am sure the Governor would take all possible steps to revive the ancient glory of Vaisali.

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Ghatsila, April 15 :—It was quite exciting and a thrilling sensation when we boarded the solid iron cage of somewhat ancient look. The doors were instantly closed with a thud by a solid iron bar. Someone gave a signal from within the cage itself and the cage, with a slight rattling sound, started moving vertically downward. The picturesque landscape so very prominent before our eyes, suddenly disappeared and the cage plunged into darkness. The moment it picked up speed, first an uneasy empty feeling with the heart gripped us and gradually some additional pressure in both the eardrums was felt much to our dislike. Instantly came the advice (as if by studying our minds) almost in a chorus voice "Go on swallowing your saliva". The advisers were none other than Mr. S. N. Banerjee, the Asstt. Mines Superintendent and Mr. R. P. Prashar, the Mines Manager who were accompanying us inside the Mosaboni mine during the course of a conducted tour of a few pressmen inside the second deepest mine in our country (the deepest one being the Kolar Gold Mines) arranged by the Public Relations Department of the Indian Copper Complex of the Hindustan Copper Limited.

### Fascinating Experience

However, the trick, as advised by the veteran mining experts, provided us with instant relief. The pressure in the eardrums was released considerably, the moment we started swallowing our saliva. The cage suddenly slowed down and in no time touched the floor of the 20th level (later on we were told that this level is known as V. I. P. level since all the guests and visitors are generally brought only upto this level). Before the door of the cage was opened, Mr. R. K. Raj, the P. R. O. announced that we were exactly at a depth of about 2100 ft. from the ground level. Much in contrast to our anticipation the underground scene, which greeted us, was rather fascinating.

## Hazards Of Mining Operations At Mosaboni

(From Our Own Correspondent)

We were led to a big concrete-roofed (50' x 50') through wide and brightly illuminated corridors. A lone operator was working on a giant winder machine (750 H. P.) through remote-control system. We were rather anxious to know as to how such a huge machine could be brought at such a depth through the narrow vertical shaft of the mines in which we just came down. It was revealed that the said winder and all such big machines had been brought underground in dismantled condition and were assembled there itself. What a stupendous task that might have been!

However, there was not much activities to be witnessed at that level. Partially owing to the reason that the said level had almost completely been worked out and was practically devoid of any further reserves of one and more so due to a large number of absent on that particular day which was a day of some local festival and since most of the miners were local people they just absented en mass jeopardising the entire mining activities. We were rather disappointed. Having sensed our feelings the mining engineers invited us to a further depth. Arrangements were made immediately and we boarded another cage. This time the cage was different from the one which we boarded earlier. It was more or less like a solid heavy iron boat planted on a couple of rails laid on an inclined shaft running along the coaxis of the inclined ore body at an angle of about 60 degrees.

There was no operator in the cage. (We could know afterwards that it was also being operated through remote control system).

The cage was all open and it moved with a high speed. The track was inclined and more or less illuminated and the shaft was very wide unlike the vertical shaft.

The overall effect was too thrilling rather to some extent horrifying to the visiting pressmen. One after another we were crossing the various levels but the tiny lamps visible down the inclined track remained far beyond our reach when all of a sudden the cage stopped. We reached the 25th level at a depth of about 2600 ft. below the ground level, By that time we were more or less acclimatised with the changed underground environment. A continuous flow of cold air greeted us. This was more than what we expected since we were anticipating a humid and hot atmosphere underground.

### Inside operation

Here we came across the actual mining work which was being carried out in a 30 mtr. wide inclined slope. The heat was enormous, almost suffocating at the actual place of work, since there was no scope for a flow of cold air. There was no electric connection and consequently, the darkness was blinding. The only source of light being provided through the torches fitted with the Mining caps. The inclined floor was too uneven for the visiting pressmen to crawl over.

### Hazards of mining operation

It was evident that the job of the miners tough, painstaking, monotonous and of course risky, although hard rocky roof is kept under constant vigil and is strengthened from time to time by rock bolting system, a novel method

introduced for the first time successfully by the experienced mining engineers of this copper complex. No props, no pillars and practically no support of the roof other than the long iron bolts grouted on the top roof to hold the layers of the rocks together. Practically the entire roof, about 30 metres wide, was hanging and that too very safely. Mr. Banerjee and Mr. Prashar explained that the mining is being done upto the 31st level at a depth of about 3200 ft. They also said that going further down for mining might be difficult due to excessive heat. The introduction of airconditioning of a portion of the mine might pave the way for mining at a further depth, observed the said mining experts.

While walking down the scrupu-

lously cleaned and brightly illuminated lanes and bylanes, fitted with mini rail tracks, crossing the huge water reservoirs fixed with big pumping sets and overlooking a suitably equipped workshop for the repairs and maintenance of various useful mining and pneumatic equipments, we almost forget that we were there for one and a half hour at a depth of about 2600 ft. below the ground level. Once reaching the surface, we were told by Mr. M. A. Khan, Mines Superintendent, that Mosaboni being the main mine, the Indian Copper Complex mines the entire area of Singbhum thrust belt which include various mines i.e. Surda, Badia, Pathargora, Kendadih and Rakha.

## A GOOD MAN GOES

Naresh Banerjee

As a Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdul Ghafoor's term of office will be well on record in the political history of Bihar. The coveted Chief Ministership was thrust upon him at a time when the honour could not be bestowed on a second man despite there being powerful contenders, mainly due to internal differences and group rivalries. The exit of Ghafoor has also been guided by the same internal conflict.

It is no surprise if Ghafoor has described himself as the "most unfortunate Chief Minister". Since his assumption of office, he had to contend with attacks from within and outside, with the result that he could not do many things he wanted to do effectively. He was sorry to have spent Rs. 5 crores for maintaining law and order to face the JP-led movement which otherwise could have been spent on some developmental works.

Ghafoor however had every right

to continue as the Chief Minister of this State because he tried to make it free from corruption. He offered to protect the genuine rights and claims of minorities. Even his worst enemies could not brand him as corrupt or communal. A section of minorities under his influence denounced the current JP-led agitation which has surely strengthened the hands of the Congress. Ghafoor has been very effective in dealing firmly with the JP movement.

Though mentally Ghafoor was determined to do something tangible for the State, he could initiate actions only against the erring government officials. Political corruption of which Mr. Jay Prakash Narayan has tried to draw the attention of the concerned people could not be dealt by him because of many compulsions. He could not take action against those party colleagues who were openly opposing and known to be notoriously corrupt.

Ghafoor was a nominee of the Congress High Command and this was the cause of his weaknesses. He had to rush to Delhi everytime he thought of any action. He lacked some of the qualities of a seasoned diplomat or the duplicity of today's politicians which could have earned for him a band of sycophants. He came to power under unavoidable circumstances, and practically it was thrust on him. And the moment he decided to exert his individuality, he created an anti-Ghafoor group. Nobody in Delhi or in Patna had ever thought that he would prove so independent and so asserting, and so much unconcerned to retain the Chief Ministership.

Mr. Jay Prakash Narayan wanted Ghafoor to go for understandable reasons, because of might pave the way for the dissolution of Assembly. Moreover, Ghafoor proved to be very tough towards his movement. Naturally all those who are with the movement do not like him. His party colleagues charged that Ghafoor failed to give the desired leadership to face the challenge posed by Jay Prakash Narayan. The High Command possibly retained him for some time for the simple reason that by removing him the problem of in fighting would not stop. Then who else could be a better man who would give J. P. a tougher fight?

The State has witnessed the big strikes of doctors, teachers, engineers and others during Ghafoor's regime. If he failed to give relief to common man during his regime it was mainly due to his preoccupation with law and order problem in the State.

Ghafoor has rightly claimed that the maximum number of corrupt officials had been punished during his Chief Ministership. But that could not be taken easily by the people who believe in living with corruption. For the man on the street, only developmental actions carry any weight. A successful dialogue with JP would have equally earned public appreciation for him.



Politics is a game for those who can take appropriate decision at the right moment. Because Ghafoor is not an opportunist he lagged behind in initiating some formula for keeping the majority who matters. He could not go out of his way to humour those unscrupulous lot. No Chief Minister can do anything worth recording in Bihar so long his colleagues in politics do not act hand in hand as far as possible, and that has not been seen in this State since 1967. Irony of the situation is that every Chief Minister came to power with the tacit approval of all the party colleagues. And then gradually they have with-

drawn their support. Why this frequent changes in their stand ?

But Ghafoor will have the satisfaction of remaining in power for quite a longer period of time.

Neutral observers, however, believe that Ghafoor should have been given a fair trial as he was shaping well with total detachment to the lure of office. And despite all his honesty and integrity it proved that it is not easy to retain the Chief Ministership of Bihar. And perhaps he how feels that he is a misfit in the political gambles where winning or losing a game depends not on or honesty and integrity but on tactics.

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## THE SPACE TEMPLE

V. Gubarev

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Our car approaches the future cosmodrome. We see modern blocks of flats, an excellent hospital and a school. Prof. U. R. Rao, in charge of the test range, proudly shows us around.

"Our town meets all modern standards," he says. "If we are developing the most advanced technology in the country, then personnel, too, must be provided with everything." Near one of the buildings, I spotted a bonfire on which a woman was cooking some food. Children were playing about.

"They are local people," explained the professor. "They used to fish in lagoons and to hunt in the jungles. Living on the island, they were cut off from the mainland and made only occasional visits to the town.... We moved them from huts to good quarters. You know, none of them could read or write, while now all their children attend school...."

We were standing on the launch pad. Fifty or so metres away, rollers of the Indian Ocean

broke on the coast. The rockets are made at Trivandrum but tested here. A concrete rectangle with a launching device on it and a small house to shelter the launch team. A short distance from it, there is another pad of the same type.

### Complex

"This is our second launching facility for meteorological rockets," Rao explains. "And now I wish to show you something else...." The car comes to a halt. "This is the place," Rao says. We are upturned earth and bushes, torn out of the ground roots and all.

"We are building the main complex here," Rao says. "It will be finished by the end of 1976, to fire a communications satellite. The rocket will be brought from Thumba and launched here. And then anyone will have the right to call Sriharikota a cosmodrome."

No, this Indian scientist is no day-dreamer or visionary. He spent six years at Thumba in charge of the work to develop rockets. And when it became

necessary to test, he came to this island. It was overgrown with jungle and he needed almost seven hours to get to another part of the island where launching facilities were planned.

We had crossed the island in 10 minutes, Prof. Rao said: "I believe in the great space future of the island". No, he was not exaggerating. In two years' time, Sriharikota changed beyond recognition. Everything needed for space studies appeared in the jungles: a power plant, blast-off facilities, a telemetry centre but most important of all, it has an already operating ground tracking station.

### Signals

The helicopter lifted clear of the ground and hovered. The engineers once again checked the container fastenings. One of them waved a hand. The helicopter began rapidly to climb, carefully carrying the container. The aerial began to rotate slowly.

"Altitude is reached," came from the pilot. The aerial stopped rotating, its metallic whiskers pointing at the container brilliant in the rays of the setting sun. The helicopter slowly flew along the clouds, and the aerial obediently followed it. There was a tense silence in the apparatus room. Large magnetic tape bobbins spun rapidly as if afraid to be late. The personnel did not let their eyes wander from the instruments and the as yet unmoving pointers.

And then everything came alive in the room. A signal had come in! It arrived from the skies, from that container, picked up by the aerial. The intricate electronic amplifiers and converters were no longer wasting their current.

The experiment was repeated several times. It was an imitation flight of India's first satellite.....

On April 19, the Indian Satellite was launched by Soviet rocket from the USSR. And two stations — one in Moscow and the other in Sriharikota, linked by direct teletype and telephone communication, are picking up the signals.

### Views From a London Window

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY WORK

Kalyan Sen

Mr. Kalyan Sen whose first thought provoking article on the current students' movements in England, Europe and America was published only two weeks back, sends his second despatch on the same subject. Mr Sen, has just left for London after spending about one year in this country on holiday. The students of our country will find this special despatch of Mr. Sen most rewarding as it gives a guideline to them how through agitation or movements, excellent work for the benefit of the community also can be done. Mr. Sen has assured us that he would continue writing for *Behar Herald* from London, where he goes back to join his teaching profession.

One important feature of student activity in the west is Student Community Action.

In Britain, the idea of mass participation of students in community action began to take shape in 1971 or thereabouts. This is distinct from individual involvement on a voluntary basis which had been present from a much earlier period. The National Union of Students (NUS) of UK appointed two full-time staff in 1972 to look after this work. These people also worked as co-ordinators for the action of various groups scattered throughout Britain.

The outlook behind the foundation of this group could be summarised as follows :

1. Students recognised that the institutions of which they were a part constituted an important factor in the gulf between the rich and the poor.

2. By exposing and attacking the introspection, isolation and indifference of the universities and colleges on the one hand and by using the knowledge and skills that these institutions have at their disposal for the benefit of the community on the other, students would be able to take advantage of the opportunities.

3. As a natural consequence of the above, several group actions followed: these were development of adventure playgrounds for local kids, free provision of legal advice centres and general advice centres on social rights, general support to Claimants' Unions and Tenants' Associations, etc.

The general aim towards which the whole thing worked was an attempt to give practical publicity to the need for shifting the balance of social power in favour of the disadvantaged by encouraging and developing the collective strength of the underprivileged.

Strong local centres have already come up in London and Birmingham. I have personally seen some of these centres in action in London where, though seriously handicapped due to lack of adequate funds, some solid work is being done and the general interest and sympathy of local people aroused and won.

### Student Community Action in U. S. A.

Corresponding activities are also developing in the USA where, naturally, the character of local problems differ from UK in many respects although common features are not lacking.

People working for Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), one of the largest organised student bodies in USA, formed a group "Rising Up Angry" in 1968. Initially, they worked with white working class young people in Chicago. Between 1968 and 1973, the character of this organisation changed but at the same time, its roots have gone deeper into Chicago. Legal Programmes and Health Centres are the most important wings of this organisation.

### Legal Programmes

A case Report : One Mrs. Burton lived in an apartment which the landlord refused to repair although on about hundred points, this apartment failed to satisfy the legal requirements of habitability. Mrs. Burton was being evicted and she withheld her rent. In the court, the judge told her : "I don't care if you live on the street; but you have to pay your rent." She got a continuance (equivalent to an injunction order) and got in touch with "Rising up Angry" (RIA). RIA people went to the apartment, took several photographs, had these enlarged upto two feet by three feet. When this visual evidence was presented to the court, the judge turned round completely and told the landlord : "You can't do this to people." Mrs. Burton won the case, the place was fixed up and she did not have to pay the rent for the disputed period.

Since the starting of the Legal Programme, about 1,000 cases have come through with various shades of legal intricacies. The point is that by this time, ties have been built up with the local people and a new wave of friendship and understanding has begun where, originally, a very great amount of suspicion and some violence were prevalent.

### Health Centre

This is a clinic which initially started when local people went up to the local hospital and to have this free health centre opened. The original people involved in this project gradually disappeared

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and slowly, RIA moved in. Here they test blood pressure, urinalysis, and do some gynaecological work. RIA people also introduced the practical idea of going out to the people. They used to go out in a van and tested children door to door for lead poisoning.

Women outnumber men at the health centre. There are some kids in the age range of 10-12 years who help out at the clinic by taking blood samples and noting other vital signs. Jimmy, a 12 year old, told an interviewer:

"I've been working here about a year. I was just getting into trouble before that. Then I started coming down here with a friend of mine." He stopped to explain to a patient how they drew blood and what they could determine from it. When the patient thanked him, Jimmy replied, "That's the way, the whole place works, people sharing each other's work. *It's the only way society will be changed, people helping each other.*"

### International activities

In Britain there is an organisation called Third World First. They work among students in Britain to promote an understanding and awareness of the problems facing developing countries in the Third World as well as raising money for development agencies.

John Hubley from this organisation visited India and spent one summer to study the Gramdan movement. Some very useful information covering this visit is contained in a privately printed pamphlet a copy of which I picked up at a stall opened by Third World First in London.

John actually visited several centres where Sarvodaya idea was being actively pursued. These places cover a scattered area consisting of Bombay, Baroda, Hyderabad, Tanjore, Madras, Madurai, Varnasi etc. First, he tried to understand the basic concepts behind Sarvodaya. He was led to the following account by Gandhi on his vision of the ideal Indian Village:

"It is a complete republic, independent of its neighbours for its vital wants and yet interdependent for many of its other wants in which dependence is a necessity. Thus every village's first concern will be to grow its own food crops and cotton for its cloth. It should have a reserve for its cattle, recreation and playground for its adults and children. Then if there is more land available, it will grow useful money crops, excluding tobacco, opium and the like. The village will maintain a village theatre, school and public hall. It will have its own water works ensuring clean supply. Education will be compulsory up to the final basic course. As far as possible, every activity will be conducted on a cooperative basis."

It will be quite relevant to give some extracts from John's report. His visit has been an eye opener for himself and perhaps it may be so for some readers as well. Two of the areas he visited were Agrindus Institute at Govindpur, U. P. and Anand Niketan Ashram at Rangpur in Gujarat.

### Agrindus Institute

This place is in Mirzapur District. Water was scarce there, the land was poor, the soil eroded and stony with large gullies and ravines. The people were poor, suffering from malnutrition and diseases and exploited by moneylenders. The aim was to provide a centre for development work which also try and make the Gramdan declarations in the surrounding villages become a reality.

John was taken round Agrindus by one of the trainees in charge of a twenty acre unit. John says:

"He was an agricultural graduate from Assam who has been here for two years. Most of the land in his unit was rocky scrub when he came and he supervised himself the clearing and levelling operations which were done by hand. He then had to build a small dam, and is planting on the land behind the dam the new high yielding varie-

ties of rice. It will be the first time the land has been cultivated.

"I visited the blacksmiths shop and saw them making Persian wheels for irrigation, passed the dairy, the primary school and the machine shop where the agricultural machinery is serviced; they are also renovating scrap diesel engines for the farmers in the district."

"After my tour, that afternoon, I met Mrs. Prembhai, the Director's wife. She is a doctor and runs the clinic which serves the district, She said:

Our organisation is different from government ones because all of the Institution members have identified themselves with the local villagers. Villagers do come and see them and friendships have been made irrespective of creed or caste. Most Gandhian institutions are trying to propagate the ideological commitment rather than putting the ideas into practice which we are doing here. In no case has anyone anywhere succeeded in putting the Gramdan ideologies into practice. They are theoretically very attractive but we are still trying them out....

"Prembhai returned from the town.... He said:

We have no fixed working hours. We leave the people themselves to decide. There are no weekly holidays, everybody makes his own programme. I only become worried if the turnover of a group is going down and then I talk to them. It is a loose fellow-ship. People can come here at any time to ask me questions.....

"I asked him whether the charities that help the Gramdan development programme in India were interested in the ideological aims of the Gramdan movement or just the physical development side Prembhai said:

"I can't say that war on Want believes in Gramdan. Individually some of the workers are

closely with the ideology. But in this particular programme W.O.W. have great involvement in the ideological aims.

On the one hand we have an ideology, on the other we are fighting against famine, poverty and disease. The latter ends are attractive towards agencies such as Oxfam and W.O.W.

"We then visited and talked to some villagers who had received land through Bhoodan. On purpose he taken me first to someone who was comparatively well off. He had done pretty well and dug a well, planted fruit trees and was making attempts at levelling and bunding of the land...."

"He was a potter and was able to make tiles for the Ashram.."

"Looking around the potter's house it was scrupulously clean and some of the grain bins were still full. His standard of living was certainly improved since he had received land through Bhoodan.

"The other one he had shown me was in a far worse state. The house was dirty with chickens running loose. I was shown the amount of food the poor family had to eat that day. The amount was pitifully small and had to be divided among four people. Then that family in an act of hospitality which was heart rending gave me two eggs as a gift. I did not want to take them but Prembhai told me that they would have been deeply offended if I had refused. I gave them some money for the eggs which reluctantly they accepted. I had the eggs later that day for lunch — they went without theirs.."

John's visit to the Anand Niketan Ashram at Rangpur in Gujarat was an eye opener in many respects. This Ashram founded by Hariballabh Parikh, then a young activist in India's struggle for independence and a follower of Gandhi. The people lived in poverty because of the exploitation by money lenders, police and corrupt government

officials. Alcoholism was rife and so were disputes. This often resulted in violence and murders.

Hariballabh won their confidence, slowly at first, by acting as a mediator in solving some of their disputes. He later developed this into a sophisticated instrument called the 'Open Court' because the trials were held under a tree in the centre of the Ashram. John goes on to say :

"This court has now dealt with 20,000 cases, civil and criminal, imposing sentences which the villagers themselves enforce.. The open Court has saved thousands of rupees worth of litigation expenses as well as prevented many murders. But more important than that it has created a sense of social awareness, fair play and community solidarity. Through it, the people have become aware of their collective wisdom and strength....."

"Several years ago, the banks were nationalised in India in an attempt to give credit to the small farmers. An ambitious scheme was drawn up in this area whereby the bank officials actually went out to the villagers to give out the loans. In 1970, Rs. 140,000 and in 1971, Rs. 575, 145 were disbursed. *So far there have been 100% recovery of the instalments on these loans from the 562 farmers from 122 scattered villages—an amazing achievement.*"

#### Impact in the west

As regards the impact of the principle of Sarvodaya, it is rather surprising that in the west, a certain section of the young generation do feel that herein lies the possible solution of some of the ills of highly industrialised society. Also, the idea of transition to a state of socialism without a violent revolution is partly accepted by many activists there, but there is also a sense of askance. The impact of Marx and Lenin is still too powerful on the western mind to allow them to see the possible practical realisation of the non-violent method of transition to socialism. This situation is succinctly brought up in a correspondence John had with Kaithan, a sarvodaya worker. John says :

"Some of my friends reading the descriptions of growing food shortages and riotings in India and influenced by the impressive achievements of China in overcoming her own poverty, asked me why a revolution has not happened in India which would establish a true socialist system. Impatient of the Gandhian grass roots approach towards socialism they quoted Lenin's statement that if he had to wait until the masses were stabilised it would take centuries. Worried about this, I asked Kaithan's opinion. His reply serves as a fitting end to this account :

#### Extracts from Kaithan's letter

"How is a socialist government going to come into power in India? Where is there such a party that is strong enough to take power? In a way, India's party is socialist. Their goal is a socialist pattern of society. You must remember that we are a democracy. I think that socialist government for Britain alone can solve her problems. But that is not realistic at moment.

".....Gramdan Sarvodaya is a revolution but normally the west cannot understand a non-violent or people's revolution....."

"China has made great strides. Agreed. But perhaps at very high human cost. India has also made tremendous strides in these twenty five years. A fairly impressive book could be written on that itself. Newspapers as such write and talk very superficially. How Gandhi and others have awakened the masses in India! No one can realise this unless they have seen it.

"A people's revolution is on and it will not take centuries. Again history must give the verdict I take my stand with Gandhi and that kind of programme. Lenin talked the language of the 'privileged' did he not, although he felt much for people? Is not socialism alone real when it is established at the people's level and hot at the ruler's levels?"

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then alone the poor nations really develop and work out true people's rules. Again a book could be written on this. But I wish Westerners who are truly interested would start thinking hard for a just economic order that will make socialism possible throughout the world.

"I am sure that there will be some young souls who will go to other countries and identify themselves with the struggle here. Richard Dudley of the U.S.A. is doing so. He had become a citizen. It is going the whole way. There must be a calling for it. Most western youth still stay in their own place and work for true community and one humanity there. Perhaps that will be the most difficult. We need all kinds of pioneering. Wherever we are we must come together, work together

as one nation. Again I cannot go into all the details of that. Your own conscience must guide you.

"You must continue to feed it with truth, sympathetic knowledge of the conditions of the hungry and a growing knowledge of the exploiting society of which you and I are a part then we must do something about it—even now.

"A British student in India is sending me one hundred rupees monthly for our Batalgundu Gramdan work. Evidently he lives very simply and thus releases that amount. I am saying there are hundreds of ways to do it. Find your own way. Get at the job. *This western analysing, telling others what to do, assuming that their own situation is more or less perfect is devilish. It will take us nowhere.*

## Rabindranath And Work

S. N. Chakravorty

The 9th of May, Rabindranath's birthday, must have seen countless ritualistic celebrations. Admitting some usefulness of such celebrations, unintelligently arranged repetitive and formal rituals breed a passivity which does not liberate mind. One may enquire if during what is known as Tagore Week any of the ritual enthusiasts reads something of Rabindranath which he had not read before. It is almost a safe guess that for the vast majority of the educated section major portion of Rabindranath's writings still remains unread.

If this observation be true in regard to his writings, it is truer that the number of knowledgeable persons about Rabindranath's political, educational and rural reconstruction is still less.

We call that character great in which there is neither any dichotomy in words and deeds

nor any disunity in ends and means. Even a partial assessment of such a great character is difficult, let alone a total comprehension. In the history of civilisation Rabindranath is one such great character. People know more of Rabindranath's words than his deeds. It will be an amazing discovery for him who will come to know of his deeds. Rabindranath did not like personal publicity. In an age when the foreign rulers had no incentive to let others know what valuable work Rabindranath was doing without the aid from the administration, rather in spite of its unsympathetic attitude, the confidence that Rabindranath was able to instill in the mind of the rural folk signified a revolutionary change in their outlook. He realised in no time that the problem of rural Bengal was not poverty, of course poverty was intense, but, the greatest curse

was that all traces of confidence in themselves were obliterated. At least, in the limited sphere of his experiment he succeeded. But, there was no communication to other areas of the result.

He was acquainted with rural Bengal when he was twenty eight years of age, sent by his father to administer the zamindari. First hand knowledge immediately taught him that it was not where pity, compassion or charity could be of any abiding help. That was why he wanted to start from the beginning about which a mention has been made earlier. From rural Bengal he wrote to niece : (*Chhinapatra*) "My respect for work is increasing as I am taking more and more work on hand. That work is an excellent thing I hitherto knew only as a precept from books. Now I am experiencing in life that man's real fulfilment is through his work; through work I perceive objects, I know man, in the wide field of activity truth comes to be known face to face."

The multitude of work to which Rabindranath has referred related to various rural reconstruction work at Silaidaha and Patisar (then in East Bengal now Bangla Desh). Subsequently, the training centre was started at Sri Niketan and work extended to several areas in the district of Birbhum. Rabindranath had unlimited faith in man, we may recall that in his message on his last birthday in 1941 he called it sin to lose that faith. He also believed in the potentiality of man's development for he saw man's liberation (*Mukti*) in the fulness of his expression. With such an unflinching faith in man he initiated an experiment of self-supporting rural economy at Patisar which survived the Pakistani rule until the early sixties. His concern was to revive the self-confidence in the rural folks but such events did not make news then.

Rabindranath's role as a political and social worker has not attracted attention because being essentially a poet he was too sensitive to fight. For that matter,

he was not a fighter as we understand this word. Antagonism in the political sphere induced him either to withdraw or, to continue with his work without entering into any dispute. Yet, the place he allotted to the individual and his initiative is as true to-day, in spite of our dependence on state aid in almost every thing, as was then.

Unfortunately, we do not read his writings deeply and extensively.

Even if we do, we do not understand him or catch the significance of his observations. And, even if we get a glimpse of the significance we do not try to apply them in our life. To synchronise the three would need character which is rather in short supply. Therefore, the tendency by and large is to observe certain rituals mechanically. If that involves some creative work to a few to the vast majority it is only passive participation and no thinking.

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## Literacy Drive Among Hindi Speakers

### Laudable Venture Of Jamshedpur Bengalee Association

( From Our Own Correspondent )

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A meeting of the executive committee of the Jamshedpur branch of Bihar Bengalee Association was held recently at the residence of its secretary Mr. Nakuleswar Mukherjee

In the presence of the famous litterateur Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Mukhopadhyay this branch launched a literacy programme here among the Hindi speaking people.

Mr. Nakuleswar Mukherjee explaining the reason for launching this programme among Hindi-speaking people said that Biharis, who were mostly Hindi speaking at Jamshedpur were comparatively backward compared to others. On the other hand Bengalis were more developed in education and other fields. There were 300 schools and 15 colleges at Jamshedpur, many of them were founded by Bengalis. Thus Bengalis got opportunities for school as also higher education here. Therefore, the Bengalee Association felt the need, for

eradicating illiteracy among poor and illiterate Hindi speaking people of Jamshedpur, he said.

In a brief address, Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Mukhopadhyay said, certain sections of people in Bihar think, Bengalee Association has a narrow view. It belongs only to the Bengalis of this state. It is not at all correct. He said, "Bengalee Association is not for the Bengalis only. Whoever can speak Bengali and wish to join the Association, are welcome." He suggested to keep the name of the Association, Bihar Bangabhashi Samity instead of Bihar Bengalee Association.

#### Tata-Robins-Fraser's Tenth Anniversary

Tata-Robins-Fraser Limited (TRF), a wellknown industrial Plant here completed its ten years existence on March 31, 1975 last.

TRF were promoted in late 1962 by the Tata Iron & Steel Co. Limited, The Associated Compa-

nies Limited, Hewitt-Robbins Inc. USA and General Electric Company, UK.

Production of the company plant started in Jamshedpur in 1965 and will reach its production target of approximately Rs. 3 crores in 1975 and its turn-over will exceed Rs. 6 crores which will include the supply of turn-key plants. The Tata-Robins-Fraser design, manufacture, instal and commission wide range of equipments for industries that include the nation's core industries namely, Power Stations, Coal Mines and Washeries, Fertilizer, Steel and Cement Plants, Iron and non-Iron Mines, and ports.

These days TRF is associated with a number of prestigious national projects, including the Haldia Dock Projects; Coal Handling Plants at Koradi, Maharashtra and Harduaganj, UP; NMDC's Bailadilla and Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines; CWPC's Badarpur Thermal Power station and several State Electricity Board Power Stations.

TRF is the first Indian Company to build fine Coal washeries in India.

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#### Baby sold for Rs. 2

Jorhat : Hunger and motherly love know no bounds. A beggar woman, unable to get any alms for three consecutive days, offered to sell away her six month-old baby to anyone providing her with a square meal.

The offer was accepted by another woman who herself had to borrow a paltry sum of Rs. 2 to offer as a token price to the mother.

#### Life convicts offer eyes & blood

Calcutta : Life convicts in Midnapore jail have decided to donate blood and eyes without seeking any remission of their term of sentence or payment thereof, the Minister for Jails, Mr. Gyan Singh Sohanpal, told newsmen here recently.

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'Get up, you little imp', cried mother pulling me out of the cosy bed. Ooh! what the hell was mamma upto? I thought getting out of my bed and almost tumbling to the floor. I suddenly remembered that we were to go to Tripura by the early morning flight that day. I quickly wrapped myself in a shawl and went out to wash my face and hand. In twenty minutes, I was dressed up and was ready to start for my first flight.

The huge clock on the wall showed that it was already four. Mother and I both were getting impatient. We had to reach the airport by a quarter to five. In the morning at four O'clock my uncle and aunt were supposed to pick us up and reach us to Dum Dum. Aunt was to go with us too. Each minute seemed to be an hour. I was specially excited because this was going to be my first flight in life.

I waited and waited, racked my brain to find a way of passing the time. I undid my hair and did it again; I admired myself in the mirror; I untied my shoe laces and tied them again and again. But the blessed time never seemed to pass a bit. I cast frequent glances at my wrist watch. We waited till 4.30. Still there was no trace of my aunt and uncle. We really got angry.

"They are the most irresponsible people in the world. For them I am going to miss —? Just then I heard a sound which made me jump to my feet and run to the door. I saw a car stop at our gate and my uncle jumped out of the car in a very jolly mood and grinning all over. He was not a bit afraid of missing the plane. He blew my mother's scolding in the air and made us all burst out laughing. The next moment we were being driven towards the airport.

I heaved a sigh of relief at reaching the airport at last. we went in and our luggage was weighed. I don't have any idea about how much extra money mum had to pay for the luggage.

## My First Flight

Sayanti

Here we offer our readers a change for a while. This is an article from a very junior pen. In the midst of solemn discussions and thoughtful observations, it is of a different taste. Our readers, many of whom may be frequenters of airways may get amused seeing Sayanti (a student of Standard VIII) flying for the first time.

Our bags were checked and we went to the other side where the bus was to come to take us to the plane we were supposed to go by. I looked all around. There were many people. Suddenly among them I caught sight of a film-star. Actually he was not much of a film-star. He acted only in side roles in the movies. I supposed he was waiting for the plane to Bombay. Just when I had started studying him with attention the damned mike blared and there came an announcement that the bus for the flight no. 469 was waiting. That was mine. I ran and jerked myself into the bus just in time. The bus took us to our plane. We showed our boarding cards one by one and went inside. The air hostess was standing by the doorway to greet us. She smiled at me as I passed her. I smiled back with a little nod. We settled ourselves in our seats comfortably. I looked around excitedly. Ooh! I could not imagine that I was going to fly in the air far above the ground. I had heard that the air hostesses were very beautiful, and charming. I examined our air hostess but she was not very beautiful, she was quite goodlooking though.

When it was time for the plane to start its flight the air hostess announced that we should tie our seat-belts. I did so. To tell the truth I was a bit scared at first. When the plane started rising, I felt that I would fall the next minute. After sometime, I got over

my fear. I looked down and saw the roads of Calcutta. They just looked like long black ribbons meandering all through the city. The houses looked like toy houses and the people looked like little lilliputians. Big lakes looked like small pools and puddles. When we were flying above Bangla Desh we saw the river Padma with its tributaries. I was thrilled to see it because it was such a huge river. It sent a shiver down my back to remember how Pakistan army had killed men, women and children near that river. I was glad that India had helped Bangla Desh so much.

I was enjoying the flight. We were served with some tea and biscuits by the air hostess. After sometime the air hostess came with a tray full of sweets. She offered them to everyone. At last she came to me. I felt like grabbing a handful of them, but I had to be polite, so I picked up only two sweets and thanked her. I think she read my mind and offered some more. I accepted them gladly thanking her again. I unwrapped a sweet and put it in her mouth. She smiled at my action and went back to her work.

Thus we flew above many hills and green meadows. The hills looked like heaps of mud covered with mosses, over the ground. The meadows looked like green patches scattered here and there. Every thing was so pleasant because it was early in the morning. The sky looked lovely with

the touch of grey and red. The sun was glowing in the east. I was admiring the beauty of the sky when I heard the voice of the air-hostess asking us to tie our seat-belts.

The plane was going down slowly. At last it touched the ground with a jerk and sped over the run-way. I liked the descent of the plane very much but at the same time I was sad because the flight had ended. I had adored my first flight and am ready to pounce upon another chance to travel by plane.

## Ney Years Day Festival At Satsang

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Satsang Nagar (Deoghar), April 16: The New Year's Day festival commenced here at dawn with Vedic hymns, Usha Kirtan and Congregational prayer. The message of Sri Thakur Anukulchandra for the welfare and wellbeing of the universe was recited from his 'Asirbani' and solemnised with devotional oblations. Over a lakh of people from all over the country assembled here to attend the function.

Mr. Haridas Mitra, The Deputy Speaker, West Bengal Assembly, presiding over a big public meeting at the Utsav Pandal while expressing concern over the degenerating moral character of the people and prevailing corruption in the society, recalled the forewarning of Sri Sri Thakur which he had given long before as how to resist these evils. The greatest boon to the mankind of Sri Sri Thakur, he said, was to feel the very existence of oneself by love and compassion obtained through the pursuit of Dharma. Therefore, the influence of Dharma over politics in building

up a strong and ideal State could not be denied, he said.

On the concluding day of the three-day Utsav Mahayajna, presiding over a mammoth public meeting held in the evening, Mr. Mrityunjay Banerjee, Education Minister, West Bengal, said that as good literature was capable to remove the ignorance similarly ideal education and good literature could create immense good to the society and its people. He expressed his satisfaction that Satsang initiated by the Seer-Guide Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra was endeavouring to materialise it for the welfare of the country.

Mr. Kumaresh Ghosh, well-known litterateur of West Bengal speaking on the occasion over the importance of education and literature in nation building, said that basic object of an ideal education was to build up the character in man which could never be possible unless literature was based on Dharma. He said that all great teachings of Sri Sri Thakur was the main spring of good and dynamic literature which could uplift the whole nation.

Earlier in the morning a Women's Conference was held in which different speakers urged the mothers to follow the principles of Sri Sri Thakur for their all round development. Thereafter, the 148th All India Ritwik Conference was also held attended by thousands of workers to discuss there new line of programme to serve the society in the changing environment more effectively.

Among other important persons, who addressed the public meeting here were Messrs. Manik Ray, Sailendra Nath Bhattacharya, D.P. Mukherjee, P. K. Das, Hariballabh Narain, Principal of Satsang College and R. N. Majumder.

At the conclusion of the Utsav, Sri Nani Gopal Chakraverty, Secretary, Satsang conveyed hearty thanks to all those who participated in the function and made it a grand success.

## Homage Paid To Thakur Anukulchandra (Own Correspondent)

Satsang Nagar (Deoghar), April 16: The All Indian Navavarsa Purushottam Swasti-Tirtha Mahayajna Utsav began here yesterday with the chanting of vedic hymns early at dawn followed by Usha Kirtan and congregational prayer offered by thousands and thousand devotees hailing from all over the country within and outside of India at Satsang Ashram.

Mr. Justice B. P. Jha of Patna High Court, presiding over a big public meeting held on the occasion in the evening at the well-decorated Utsav Pandal said, Sri Thakur Anukulchandra's deep love for humanity at large was eternal without prejudice and distinction to any 'ism' or religion whatsoever. Although he came to this world in flesh and blood, still he was incarnate of supreme love. Mr. Justice Jha said he would be very glad if the cherished desire of Sri Sri Thakur for opening Sandilya University could be fulfilled.

Mr. Charu Mihir Sarker, former Minister of West Bengal said that advent of Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra was a complement to all the former godly incarnations in this world and so he had an extra super quality to solve all the human problems. According to Sri Sri Thakur, an individual who made a society and a nation could deliver no good unless he achieved perfection guided by 'Guru', he said.

Earlier inaugurating the ceremonial function Pandit Cnedilal Shastri, Ex-Vice-Principal of Deoghar College said that Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra was an apostle of love. For without love, he said, the very existence of humanity was not possible.

Mr. Nani Gopal Chakraverty, Secretary, Satsang welcomed the visitors and devotees of Satsang attending the festivals while others who spoke on the occasion were Messrs R. M. Biswas, P. K. Das, N.B. Mishra, R. Prasad and Seikh Mukhter Ali and several others.

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