

# Bihar Herald

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## MOVE TO SUSPEND P. M. AND HER SUPPORTERS

New Delhi, Oct. 31. — The "Syndicate" leaders are understood to have decided to suspend the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her two senior colleagues, Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, from the primary membership of the Congress Party.

According to a party source, Mr. Y. B. Chavan is also to be suspended from party membership.

They are also understood to have decided that the Congress Parliamentary Party be asked to elect a new leader in place of Mrs. Gandhi before the Parliamentary session begins on November 17.

Almost immediately, however, the Congress General Secretary, Mr. Sadiq Ali, came out with a denial that there was no such move. Speaking on behalf of the Congress President Mr. Sadiq Ali said, "There is no truth in this news. No such action has been decided."

Such a move if made, will disable Mrs. Gandhi and her supporters from attending the Working Committee on November one which was to consider among other things the proposed requisition for an early meeting of the AICC to elect a new Congress President in place of Mr. Nijalingappa.

The requisitionists alleged that Mr. Nijalingappa had been "advised" to reject summarily the demand for a special session of the AICC.

The crisis in the Congress Party assumed a new dimension yesterday with a six-page letter from Mr. Nijalingappa to Mrs. Gandhi.

### Charge-Sheet

The letter, described as a "charge-sheet" was said to have accused Mrs. Gandhi and some of her leading supporters of indulging in anti-party activities and attempting to split the party.

Mrs. Gandhi did not reply to Mr. Nijalingappa's letter last night, it was learnt.

Our Special Correspondent earlier reported: The stage has been set for the final confrontation between the two warring factions in the Congress at the C. W. C. meeting on November 1.

The efforts for rapprochement were non-existent as both the Syndicate and the Prime Minister's camp seemed determined for the decisive battle in the party.

While the Prime Minister's camp after high-level talks last evening felt that the ball was in the Syndicate court as a result of the success in the signature campaign Mr. K. Kamaraj and Mr. Morarji Desai last night advised Mr. Nijalingappa not to relent. This view was reiterated at the dinner meeting Mr.

Nijalingappa and Mr. Kamaraj had at Mr. S. K. Patil's residence.

### P.M.'s Camp

The Prime Minister's camp on the other hand discussed the situation at Mrs. Gandhi's residence last evening. It was attended by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, Mr. F. A. Ahmed, Mr. D. P. Mishra, and Mr. U. S. Dixit.

Unconfirmed reports suggested that the Congress President Mr. Nijalingappa was thinking of ruling out the requisition on technical ground and for aggravating the situation.

Faced with this grim situation the Congress President yesterday had hectic consultations with a view to formulating his strategy as it became clear today that over 400 signatures had been obtained by the requisitionists which relegated the Syndicate into minority in the A.I.C.C. the voting strength of which is 709.

### Bihar Signatures Handed Over

The requisition containing the signature of 36 A. I. C. C. members of Bihar was yesterday handed over to Mr. Umashankar Dixit, member, C. M. C. by Mr. A. P. Sharma, President B.P.C.C.

The total membership from Bihar being 70, it has been proved that the requisitionists have succeeded in obtaining the signatures of majority of the members.

The supporters of the Prime Minister make no secret of the fact that it would mobilise strength despite strong resistance from Mr. K.B. Sahay, Mr. M. P. Sinha and Mr. S. N. Sinha. Besides Mrs. Gandhi's supporters believe that their position would have been even better but for Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's opposition to signature drive coupled with the statement made by Mr. Morarji Desai at Patna calling the requisition move as an act of indiscipline.

The B.P.C.C. President, Mr. A. P. Sharma, met the Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi, Home Minister Chavan, Food Minister J. Ram and apprised them of the political situation in the State.

## President Opens Shanti Stupa

★ Staff Reporter ★

Rajgir: The twenty-second Shanti Stupa and the first outside Japan was inaugurated here on Saturday by the President, Mr. V. V. Giri, before a select gathering of multi-national Buddhists.

The 160-foot Stupa on the crest of the Ratnagiri Hill, overlooking a horse shoe shaped saucer of a valley studded with Buddhist landmarks, emitted rays of peace in the forenoon sunlight.

Looking wistfully at the gleaming bronze image of Lord Buddha installed in a scooped out inset of the semi-circular dome, the President, Mr. Giri, pinpointed the special meaning and profound significance of Buddha's teachings in the present world enveloped by forces of violence, untruth and greed.

Although spearheaded by a non-official organisation like the Rajagriha Buddha Vihara Society, the function was dominated by officialdom, presumably for security reasons as the President and the Dalai Lama were present.

Thus a function ostensibly commending the teachings of Lord Buddha to the common man looked as though it was organised by the elite for the elite.

The former Deputy Prime

Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, Chairman of the Rajgir Buddha Vihar Society, presided over the function.

The power driven aerial ropeway connecting the Gridhakut Hill feature with the Ratnagiri crest could not cope with the unprecedented rush of visitors. The ropeway, too, got formally inaugurated today.

The ropeway was reserved for over 10 minutes to provide foolproof security for the Dalai Lama on his 800 metre journey to the crest of the Ratnagiri Hill.

Possibly perturbed by the pitiful wave of violence in the country, Mr. Giri reminded the people that Buddha had bequeathed to the people freedom from dogmatism as a precious legacy. Buddha had emphasised the need to "oppose injustice with courage, break the barriers of caste and race which disfigure human Society and encourage people to think for themselves.

In short, Mr. Giri said, Buddha preached rationalism.



President Giri

Inaugurating the 18th session of the Sarvodaya Samithi, the President, warned that unless all people in this country unitedly fought the forces of communalism, the secular basis of democratic order might be endangered.

A galaxy of Sarvodaya leaders including Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Mr. Jayaprakash Narain, Mr. U. N. Dhebar, Chairman of All-India Khadi Commission, Mr. R.R. Diwakar, Chairman of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi were guiding the deliberations of the Samithi.

## DISSOLUTION OF ASSEMBLY SOON

★ Our Special Representative ★

Patna, Oct. 31. In all probability, the Governor, Mr. Nityanand Kanungo, will recommend dissolution of the State Assembly next month.

This is understood to have become inevitable, because prospects of a popular Government are nowhere in sight. Some of the major political parties in Bihar have also started demanding dis-

solution of the Assembly for they do not see any prospect of their coming together to stake their claim for a majority.

After a series of experiments in Coalition Govern-

ments, the Governor now feels that he should not go in for yet another, without being convinced that the new Government will be stable or last even for six months. He is learnt to have made it clear to leaders of all political parties meeting him and discussing possibilities of the formation of a popular Government.

## J.P. OPPOSED TO POPULAR GOVT. BEFORE 1972

Rajgir: Jaya Prakash Narayan, Sarvodaya leader, on Sunday strongly opposed the formation of a popular Government in Bihar before the general election in 1972.

Addressing the sixth annual Prohibition Council here on Sunday Mr. Narayan said: "The State Legislative Assembly which was under suspension should be dissolved and fresh election in the State should be held with the election in the country."

He said even if a Government was formed now it would not be a stable one.

He criticised the legislators for changing side so often and said that their "support was sold in auction".

Mr. Narayan pleaded for a joint front of youths and Sar-

vodaya workers of the country for launching a mass agitation in favour of prohibition.

Mr. Narayan blamed the States and the Central Government for boosting the sale of liquor in the country. "For filling their exchequer, they are giving licences for opening of wine shops in villages also", he said.

He said for enforcing prohibition there was no way out except for launching a massive agitation, including picketing of wine shops. He asked Sarvodaya workers to work for the people's awakening and mobilisation of their support to make the movement a success.

The Congress list of 165 MLAs has been found to contain 15 to 20 names, who have been changing their loyalties and as such their support could not be taken for granted. Also support of some groups and individuals would be conditional.

The overall picture, is, therefore, one of uncertainty and the Governor does not want to swear-in another ministry which may not survive.

But, will a mid-term election follow the dissolution of the Assembly. There is no indication of it at the moment. The census operation is due to begin next year and it is not known whether Election Commission could finalise dates for it or Bihar will go to poll to the general election of 1972 itself.



### WILD LIFE

Bihar recently observed Wild Life Week along with the rest of the country. Explaining the importance and utility of India's fauna, Mr. T. P. Singh, Adviser to the Governor of Bihar, in a broadcast talk, emphasised the need of preserving them. Rulers in ancient India were well aware of the role played by wild birds and animals in the nation's life and economy and had prevented by enforcing strict rules and regulations their wanton destruction. Nature maintains a balance and whole civilizations are known to have come to grief by ignoring and contravening the laws of nature. Asoka the Great was scrupulous about the sanctity of animal life and several edicts record the successive steps taken by him to give effect to his instructions about preservation of wild life, which was one of his cardinal doctrines.

A large part of Bihar is registered as forest area and a variety of birds and animals are found there. For long Bihar's forests have attracted big game hunters and there has been indiscriminate killing of the denizens of the forests and an apprehension has been expressed from time to time that the stage has been reached when many specimens of Bihar's wild life might become extinct. Tigers, elephants, sambhars and a variety of deer, wild-buffaloes and a large number of game birds roam about Bihar's forests. A large number of other animals are also attracted to Bihar forests from the neighbouring States as Bihar possesses some perennial water sources and saltlicks. They also brought to the State many hunters who took a special pride in destruction of animal life without any consideration for the preservation of the species.

The latest wild life census reveals that there are at present only 20 tigers in the Hazaribagh National Park. The name of the region suggests that tigers abounded in the forests there and they had fallen victims to indiscriminate shooting. Of late there has been a substantial reduction in number of the majestic Indian tiger. Use of high-powered rifles and unsportsmanlike hunting are stated to have reduced the number of the "striped king of the jungle" from nearly 40,000 to a tenth in the course of this century. What causes concern to wild life conservationists is that in some parts of the country, specially in South India, they have already become rare, and in other parts their number is steadily dwindling. A rogue buffalo, a killer elephant or a man-eater must be destroyed. But no true sportsman will indulge in the crime of killing for killing's sake.

The Hazaribagh National Park is a great asset to the Bihar Government and is an important source of revenue. Besides the forest products, it also attracts a large number of tourists and in this respect it is an important foreign exchange earner. The District Forest Officer of Hazaribagh, Mr. R. A. P. Choubey, recently said that the records show that the National Park had the highest number of visitors taking all the national parks of the country together. The Government has formulated many development schemes which include provision for improvement of communication, afforestation, soil conservation, village plantation and improvement of waste land. Bihar's forests have shrunk as a result of the establishment of giant public sector projects. Illegal occupation of land and encroachment on forest lands are also increasing, resulting in destruction of forests and killing of wild life. Some tribal customs also add to the problem. Tribals consider hunting and felling of trees as their traditional right and it is not always possible to curb their activities. Encroachments are reported to be threatening the very existence of the National Park, for the creation and upkeep of which the State Government has spent fabulous sums of money. Unless these activities are stopped with a strict hand the National Park will surely lose its attraction.

Bihar's forests are known all over the country for their idyllic grandeur. According to a report of the Forest Department, 12,400 acres of land were converted into forests in Bihar at a cost of more than Rs. 28,00,000 during the year 1968-69. New plantations have been undertaken and now Bihar has an area of 30,776 square kilometres under forests which works out at 17.69 per cent of the total land area in the State. But the Forest Policy Resolution of May 12, 1952 suggests that "India, as a whole, should aim at maintaining one-third of its land area under forests". The gap between this target and the area now under forests, therefore, is large. One of the conservation measures the Indian Wild Life Board wants to be earnestly and immediately taken up is the upgrading of some of the sanctuaries and game preserves. Of the 84 wild life refuges in the country, only four have the status of national parks. The Board also wants uniform wild life legislation and

## THIS WEEK IN INDIA

### E. M. S. Ministry Defeated, Resigns

Kerala's Chief Ministers, Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, resigned following his Government's defeat in the State legislature.... Twelve eminent artistes in the fields of music, dance and drama have been selected by the General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for the 1969 awards.... A car with 10 persons travelling in it was washed away by the Villianur river near Pondicherry.... A provision of Rs. 45 crores has been made in the revised draft Fourth Plan for development of broadcasting and television... No foreign collaboration will be allowed in the manufacture of scooters.... The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, declares that she has no intention to resign....

The revaluation of the West German mark will have little impact on Indo-German trade.... The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, will take the salute at the grand ceremonial Naval Review in Bombay on December 28.... The six-member women's expedition from Calcutta scaled the 21,760-foot Barashigri peak in the Kulu-Lahul region on October 5.... About 12,000 villages of 17 districts in Rajasthan are in the grip of famine this year.... Three army personnel have been taken into custody by the police on a charge of committing dacoity in the Shaktinagar Colony in Agra.... Over 200 mini-rest houses are proposed to be put up by the Rajasthan Government across national highways for the benefit of tourists and upcountry travellers....

The Dalai Lama likes relations between India and Tibet to that subsisting between father and son.... A bill to liberalise abortion laws will be introduced in the ensuing winter session of Parliament.... The second Namboodiripad Ministry was in power for exactly 36 short of a 1,000 days.... Miss Luttu Raisinno Phizo, daughter of rebel leader A.Z. Phizo, has married Captain Som Prasad Anand of the Indian army.... The Government has decided to grant an excise duty rebate of Rs. 8 per quintal of sugar to encourage maximum crushing by the factories.... The heroes of American space exploration, Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins, were given a tumultuous welcome by a large gathering at Santa Cruz airport in Bombay....

The Government has banned the resale of new scooters within two years of their purchase.... Small industry has crossed the hump and is now poised for a speedy take-off.... India's imports this year are likely to register a sharp fall, according to trends noticed during the first six months.... Seven persons of a marriage party including the bridegroom and the bride, were drowned when a station wagon in which they were travelling fell into the Sirhind canal near Doon bridge, 20 miles from Ludhiana.... For the first time in India television was used to control the traffic during the historic visit of the moon explorers to Bombay....

The "moonlight fair" at the Taj in Agra was marred by a clash between police and visitors.... The Ministry of Home Affairs have agreed in principle to the setting up of a Tourist Police Force to protect the tourists from harassments by beggars, pimps and urchins.... The Prime Minister pays a tribute to the "paragmatism" of the business community.... Australia would provide India with a gift of 70,000 tonnes of wheat this year.... The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for the enactment of the Bihar Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1969.... Ten Ministers of State and two Deputy Ministers of the Maharashtra Cabinet were sworn in at Raj Bhawan in Bombay....

Mr. Darshan Singh Pheruman died in Amritsar on the 74th day of his indefinite fast to secure Chandigarh's inclusion in Punjab.... Train saboteurs will face death penalty in future, according to a Government decision.... The new licensing policy, which is now on the anvil, will not be made rigid.... Mirza Ali Sajjad Husain, great grandson of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, died at Lucknow on Monday.... Mr. Darshan Singh Pheruman equalled the world record in fasting for 74 days.... India is to supply bicycles and their spare parts worth Rs. 10,00,000 to Iraq.... Mr. Chavan is reported to be considering a proposal to extend the pension scheme to all revolutionaries who were deported to the Andamans under the British rule....

Commercial banks serve only 5,000 of a total of 5,64,000 villages in the country, according to an official report.... Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan perhaps the first State Guest of India to sleep under an open sky throughout the night.... India is understood to have secured from Burma the biggest order so far for the export of cotton yarn valued at Rs. 10 crores.... The pistol with which Nathuram Godse fired the fatal shots at Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948, was put on display at the Gandhi Darshan Exhibition in New Delhi.... A rise in national income of six per cent in 1969-70 is forecast in a mid-year assessment of the state of economy by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

**Tailpiece:** Acharya Vinoba Bhave expresses the wish that if he comes to power he would do three things first, namely, to disband the army, to distribute all the lands among the landless and to emancipate the harijans. —News items

—N. Mitra

expects that the State Governments will co-operate with each other in conservation and stringent implementation of wild life regulations. Only that can assure the preservation of Bihar's wild life.

## The Bourbons Again

★ By M. Kruglov ★

Almost forty years ago Alphonso XIII was swept off the Spanish throne and out of the country by a wave of popular wrath. A few days ago — on July 22 — his grandson Prince Juan Carlos de Bourbon was endorsed by the Spanish Cortes as successor to General Franco. The vote was taken in the presence of the Caudillo who, in his message to Parliament, himself proposed that Prince Juan should ascend the throne as King Juan Carlos I on his Franco's retirement or death.

The decision of the Cortes, which in no way represents the Spanish people, was adopted by an overwhelming vote. The only ones to vote against it were a handful of followers of another claimant to the throne, Don Juan de Bourbon, the father of Prince Juan Carlos, and a few die-hard Falangists.

The aged Caudillo (he will soon be 77) personally read the message in which he thus explained his choice: "Conscious of my responsibility before God and history, I have decided in all objectivity that Prince Juan Carlos de Bourbon possesses all the necessary qualities. He belongs to a dynasty which ruled Spain for many centuries. He has given obvious proof of his loyalty to the principles and institutions of the regime."

Franco's future successor is indeed closely bound up with the Franco regime. He has lived in Spain since his youth and has obtained a purely military education. His spiritual father and political mentor is Admiral Carrero Balanco, Deputy Premier and one of the Rightist leaders. In short, even if Franco goes, the ultras will preserve their influence in the ruling circles, Western newspapers note.

### Franco's New Plans

The Western press also writes that Franco, having chosen Juan Carlos as his successor, is now in a position to dismiss the ministers he does not like. It says, for instance, that he may fire Foreign Minister Fernando Maria Castiella who was none too successful in the last deal with the United States on American bases in Spain.

Castiella's most likely successor is said to be Antonio Garrigues, former Ambassador to Washington and now Franco's envoy in the Vatican. Garrigues is at the same time legal adviser to some large American companies in Spain and his nomination, writes France Presse, "might lead to more cordial economic and political relations with the United States."

By choosing Juan Carlos, Franco has made it clear that he intends to preserve the regime after he has gone, although in a somewhat different form. These plans are resolutely opposed by the progressive forces which cannot be deluded by promises that the future monarchy will be "liberal."

The Spanish people are again being saddled with a Bourbon. But Prince Juan's grandfather had to flee from the wrath of the people, and that should not be forgotten.

# The Sadhu Who Fooled A Maharaja

The Great Debate raging in the country over the issue of Princes and their privy Purses makes the sensational book 'MAHARAJA' (Allied Publishers; Rs. 18) by Diwan Jarmani Dass both timely and topical, illustrating as it does the excessive sex indulgence and erotica, the costly eccentricities, the sensational palace intrigues and political manoeuvrings of the Indian Princes.

A NAKED FAKIR from Rishikesh, a sacred place in the Himalayas, came to the Motibagh Palace when Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala was almost dying of heart trouble.

The Fakir was clad in a leopard skin and had long dusty hair tied up, like a pyramid, with bare legs. He sat uninvited on the bed of the Maharaja and whispered a few words to him which were inaudible to anyone else around. Thereafter, suddenly he came out of the palace and disappeared.

### Mission to Banaras

The Maharaja immediately called me and Pandit Ram Prashad, the Palace Physician, and confided in us that the Fakir had told him that he would be cured if he got the blessings of the great Saint in Banaras. But he left no name or address where to find him.

The Maharaja appointed a Committee under my chairmanship, consisting of myself, the Royal Physician Pandit Ram Prashad, Mr. Arjan Parshad Bansal and Colonel Narain Singh, to go and locate the Saint in Banaras and bring him to Patiala for his blessings and treatment. For this purpose, he placed sufficient funds at our disposal. The mission reached Banaras with several members of the retinue and, with the help of the Maharaja of Banaras and his Prime Minister, we started a hunt for the Saint.

All the well-known saints and sadhus were talked to by us, but no clue could be found of the real Saint.

### "I can save your Maharaja"

One day, by chance, the Raj Vaid had a vision when taking his bath in the sacred river Ganges and praying not only for the purification of his own soul but also for the discovery of the real Saint, so that his and my name may not be discredited by our failure in the mission entrusted to us. It so happened that within a few minutes the Raj Vaid and I and two other members of the Committee happen to go to a two storeyed house about 100 yards away. On the second floor of the house, we found a very fat and naked man squatting on the ground all alone.

Immediately, on seeing the Raj Vaid and myself, he shouted, "I can save your Maharaja. I know where you have come from."

On hearing this, we were convinced that this was the real Saint whom we were looking for, as he knew about the purpose of our visit before we spoke to him.

A telegram was sent to the Maharaja that His Holiness the Saint was discovered and that he would be brought to the palace, the next day, by a fast train.

Ordinarily, four compartments in the train were sufficient to carry 16 passengers including the members of the Committee, but seven compartments were reserved for the whole party. The extra compartment was for the use of the Saint who refused to share it with any other member of the party and insisted that in addition he wanted two compartments for his followers consisting of six men, two of whom were absolutely naked, while the other four were scantily dressed.

### "Most distinguished Guest"

The train was delayed by a few hours at the start on account of the great rush of people at the station to see the wonderful Saint. The Maharaja had further instructed that a special train should be requisitioned to cause no delay to the party in reaching his Capital. The Saint was taken straight away to the Palace in a Rolls Royce car.

The Maharaja, though seriously ill was allowed to talk to his visitor. His mental powers were intact though his physical stamina had deteriorated. After I had a talk with the Maharaja about the Saint, he ordered that one of the buildings inside the main palace should be vacated by the Maharanis and placed at the disposal of the Saint and his retinue. The Saint was ordered to be treated as the most distinguished guest. When he was taken to his appointed residence, he said, "I am not accustomed to living in palaces nor would I stay in such places. I am a recluse and wish to remain in a humble hut outside the town."

This message was conveyed to the Maharaja who ordered the locating of the most suitable place outside the capital in accordance with the wishes of the Saint. He was then taken round to see the various places in and outside the town. Ultimately, he approved of a two-storeyed dilapidated house near the race course.

### Fabulous gifts for the "Saint"

The Maharaja was very anxious to know why the Saint had preferred to stay in such a dilapidated house. It was explained to him that the Saint did not care to live in luxurious style, and the Maharaja was then satisfied that the Saint's preference for an humble abode was due to his simple way of living.

The Saint started to prepare for the treatment of the Maharaja, who was asked to come and pay him the first visit at six in the evening. This was winter season and the sunset time was generally before 6 p. m. There was no light in this house and the Saint detested electric or any artificial light.

He preferred instead an oil lamp as he wished to be as simple as possible.

On receiving the message, the Maharaja informed all his Maharanis and Ranis to be ready for the visit to the Saint in order to get his blessings for recovery.

### "I have renounced the world"

The Maharaja was ushered into the presence of the Saint and made to sit on the floor opposite him on a leopard skin. The Saint stretched his hand and put it on the head of the Maharaja and said that after an hour or so he would go and see Guru Gorakhnath and bring his blessings for the Maharaja, who would be able to listen to the talk he would have with the Guru with the help of an interpreter, his disciple. The Maharaja felt gratified at the assurance given by the Saint.

After the Maharaja had paid his respects, he asked the Saint for permission to allow the Maharanis and other women of the court to be presented to him.

After the meeting was over and the offerings were presented to the Saint by the Maharaja and the members of the family which came to several lakhs of rupees, ornaments and priceless jewellery, clothes and dresses of all kinds, both for men and women, the Saint looked at the Maharaja and said, "How do you expect me to accept all these presents when I have renounced the world. I have no desire to have any jewels or dresses, nor any gold or silver. These should be immediately distributed among the poor of the town and that would give me more satisfaction than if I kept these jewels and money for myself."

### "Look, the Saint is flying!"

The Maharaja was now convinced more than ever about the capability and spiritual powers of the Saint and agreed to the fulfilment of his wishes. The presents offered were then taken back to the palace treasury where they were distributed to the poor, in accordance with the wishes of the Saint. After a few minutes' talk with the Maharaja, the Saint asked one of his disciples to get the Maharaja and the whole gathering away from the main hall. He directed them to go out on the terrace while he would pray for the recovery of the Maharaja. He would also go beyond the Himalayas to see his Guru and bring his blessings for the Maharaja's recovery.

He sat on the leopard skin all alone in that room with his face covered with a turban which made it slightly visible. He spread his arms right and left and squatted on the floor with his left leg on top of the other like a Yogi.

There were kerosene lamps burning in each corner of the room and we could see the Saint squatting and meditating in that dim light. A few minutes later, there came out a tremendous noise from the nostrils of the Saint which

resembled the reverberating sound of an aeroplane while taking off from the landing strip. The disciple sitting by the side of the Maharaja and Maharanis told them that the Saint, after his meditation, was going up to the Himalayas. Again after two or three minutes they said, "LOOK THERE, THE SAINT IS FLYING."

### The "Saint" becomes Invisible

The Saint had gone up about a yard from the ground along with his leopard skin and was seen suspended half way between the roof and the ground. Seeing this, the Maharaja and other people began to tremble with excitement and engaged themselves in deep meditation and prayers. Again different types of noises began to be heard, sometimes like the barking of a dog or the roar of a tiger, and sometimes soft like the lapping of sea waves while at another time the noise was like a volcanic eruption.

After 20 minutes or so, the Saint was no more visible in the room and it was said that he had now gone over and flown to the Himalayas and was in touch with Guru Gorakhnath. Conversation between the said Guru and the Saint was most interesting. The Saint told the Guru on arrival somewhere thousands of miles away from the highest Himalayan peaks, "Oh Lord, I have come to pay my respects to you, Emperor of the World, and also to seek your blessings for the Maharaja who has been helping the poor and is a protector of the faithful". The Guru "Ochru, your wish shall be fulfilled: go back and tell the Maharaja that he will be cured".

This conversation was taking place between the Saint and Guru Gorakhnath. Their voices were coming from a distance and it looked as if they came from miles away.

After a few minutes, the same weird noises were heard as before and then the Saint was seen to descend slowly to the ground, emerging like an aeroplane from the sky. As soon as he arrived in the room, the disciple told the Maharaja to go and pay his respects to his Holiness. The Maharaja kissed the feet of the Saint in great reverence.

### Police Chief Exposes Saint's Trick

Some time afterwards, it was discovered from a note in the daily Police diary recorded by the Inspector General of the Criminal Investigation Department who was watching the activities of the Saint very minutely that on one side of the room there was a door opening to the small room formerly used as a bathroom.

The Inspector General of Police stayed in a corner of the room where he could have a full view of the Saint and the light was sufficient to give him a vivid picture of the Saint and his so-called flight to the Himalayas.

The Saint with the help of his disciples managed this miracle in such a clever manner that only the eye of the Inspector General of Police

could detect the feat. The Saint had two pairs of hands and arms from a dead body and turbaned dummy attached to a sheet of cloth. The two hands were projecting out of the cloth and in reality there was no difference between the actual hands and arms of the Saint and of the hands of the dead body and between the headgear of the Saint and that of the turbaned dummy.

It being dark, one could not see distinctly. The visitors who had come there were so imbued with religious and spiritual fervour that they could not apparently perceive what was actually happening behind the scene. The Saint after making some peculiar noises for which he was fully trained, left for the second room in darkness and the dummy which was hanging on the room was let down by a special mechanical contrivance and remained on the floor.

### Mystery of missing "Saint"

The Saint was shouting from the adjacent floor and he could imitate all kinds of animal noises like the barking of dog, roaring of lions, tigers, noises resembling that of the propellers of an aeroplane when it takes to the air.

In the meantime, he had arranged through a pulley, unknown to anyone excepting the few disciples, by which the dummy could be pulled up slowly. The dummy supposed to be the Saint himself was thus pulled from the grounds to the roof. As soon as the dummy reached the roof it was so well arranged that the dummy collapsed and became a part and parcel of the roof and so it was invisible to the eye. The same contrivance was used to bring the dummy back to the floor. As soon as the performance was over, the Saint would come and sit on the leopard skin and the dummy was moved away by one of the disciples.

As one of the disciples came to know that the whole plot was discovered by the Inspector General of Police and the consequence of it may be very disastrous for all concerned, the Saint along with the other members of his retinue left hurriedly at about two o'clock in the night without giving any notice of his departure to the Maharaja or myself.

Early in the morning, it was reported to the Maharaja that the Saint had disappeared and was not to be seen anywhere in the city or nearby.

The Maharaja died the same evening.

(By arrangement with the Blitz.)

### HIND ART COTTAGE

BLOCK MAKERS OF REPUTE

Govind Mitra Road, PATNA-4

## THE WOMEN OF MEDIEVAL INDIA

★ By Kumari S. Rai ★

Women enjoyed a high status in every field of life in ancient India. But the wheel of time turned and, with the invasion of India by foreigners there followed the gradual deterioration of the position of women. The situation continued for nearly three hundred years till British rule was established, which again gave an impetus for national awakening among the womenfolk. The early medieval period in India was marked by constant invasions. This resulted in total breakdowns of social institutions. Economic depression and insecurity of life followed, which led to the downfall of the status of women in society. With the spread of Muslim influence, the purdah system came into vogue. It gave a great setback to the cause of education among women. They were deprived of all facilities of community life, and the home was the only field left for all their activities.

Geographical Factors: All these changes, however, affected northern India more, as the foreigners landed there first. Condition in South India remained unchanged, as there was no disturbance of invasions there. Social institutions continued as before and the status of women, too, was maintained. Education was widespread among them and instances show that some of the women of those times were great writers and poets. They wrote in regional languages and in Sanskrit. There was Ganga Devi, who wrote the epic, 'Madhura Vijayam,' Tirumalamba Devi, who wrote 'Varadambika Parinayam',

and Manorama, who wrote 'Proudha Manorama', the classical work on Sanskrit grammar.

Women of those days pursued higher studies and devoted their time to literary activities. This of course can be attributed to the comparatively peaceful and stable social life in South India in those days. In the political field also we find some notable ladies standing out as efficient rulers and administrators—Razia Begum, Chandbibi, Tara Bai and Ahalya Bai Holkar, for instance. They excelled in administration and were great warriors. Besides, there are instances of Moghul princesses playing a great part in the court life of Agra and Delhi. Zeb-in-Nisa, the daughter of Aurangzeb, composed such fine poems that they remind us of the high culture of that period. We have another great example in Jijabai, the mother of Shivaji, who represented the real culture of Indian womanhood.

While, however, quoting these examples of women coming out from the high society, the fact that women generally suffered social deterioration, cannot be denied. At least in North India, the picture was far from pretty. Women were forced to strict seclusion in the purdah system. Polygamy was legal and it may have been due to the influence of his custom prevalent among the princes and nobles of those times that child-marriages were common specially in most orthodox Hindu families.

The Dread of Girls: They believed that it was a burden to keep the responsibility of grown-up girls with them and the earlier they were married, the better it was. Again, we find the absence of this custom in South India, where people did not perform the marriage of their daughters unless they attained puberty. Legally, the position of Hindu ladies was most insecure and unsatisfactory. They had no rights of inheritance, either from the parents' or the husband's side. This led to their total dependence on men who at times misused their authority over them. Destitute women had no other go but to bear all silently within the four walls of the house. Widow-marriage, though prevalent among lower classes of people, was not allowed in higher castes.

The only point of consolation, perhaps, for Hindu women, was the system of joint family in which women got life-long shelter and could pass their lives under the protection of elders. In some of these joint families women enjoyed the upper hand, and, in a way, ruled in their domain of home.

Dawn of a New Age: This state of affairs continued till the establishment of British rule in India, when, along with the whole nation, women made a mark in the history of India by joining hands with men and ushering in not only the glory of independence for India but also a high status of life for the women of this country (Patriot).

bands. All these, however, remain dreams because of improvident maternity. It would not, therefore, be out of place to say here that whereas the struggle for our independence brought out Indian women to participate in the country's liberation, the challenge of population growth should make them come out for guaranteeing and assuring for themselves the rights for education, for employment, for marrying when they like, and having children only when they want.

Yes, women have to fight for these rights and it is time that the women's associations make them realise that the best time for marriage is when they are biologically mature about the age of 20. And that, since the maternal instinct is also coupled with the ambition to have bright children, they could have children with higher IQ, if they had them in the 30's.

There are a hundred million women in our country today who can have children. Also, about one million girls enter the reproductive age-group from amongst the 200 million children in the country. Whereas those who are capable of reproduction today need to space their children and to limit the size of the family to three children, great stress has also to be laid on the education of the one million girls so that they may learn to take decision and help in that in so far as marriage and motherhood are concerned because it is ultimately a woman who is responsible for bearing and rearing of children.

There is a perceptible awakening amongst our women-folk already. About 3 million have already accepted the loop and about 2 million have undergone sterilization. These 5 million women cannot certainly be wrong and are a living testimony of the effectiveness of family planning methods. However, their acceptance has not made any dent in our population problem and we still go on adding 13 million to our population every year.

The fact of the matter is that these women who have more than 8 children contribute most to this great population or baby boom. Hospital statistics and other data, however, inadequate, show that about 6.5 million abortions take place every year in our country. Of these 3.9 million are induced and 2.6 million spontaneous. It is also estimated that about 400,000 illegal abortions take place often with fatal results. What better proof is then needed to say that these women, a vast majority of them married, do not desire unwanted pregnancies and even risk their lives not to have another child. The society owes to them an obligation not to let them die and, therefore, must evolve methods so that while such precious lives might be saved they may also be enabled to adopt terminal methods. Keeping in view this point a Bill for liberalisation of medical termination of pregnancy is to be introduced in the Parliament.

One of the greatest concerns of a mother is to ensure

the long life and proper growth of her children. Many of our people had to have large families in the old days because diseases and pestilence claimed many a life. However, we have controlled communicable diseases and death rate has gone down and our life expectancy has gone up. If children can be protected against diseases and provided adequate nutrition for their development, there is no reason why any mother would not adopt family planning method if only to ensure the better upbringing of the few children she has. Taking into consideration these aspects, maternal and child care, nutrition and immunisation have been built in the country's family planning programme. Also, realising the fact that out of the 21 million births which take place in the country 20 per cent are in urban areas and less than 10 per cent of women accept family planning, efforts are now afoot to increase their acceptance from 30 to 50 per cent by initiation of a post-partum programme. The philosophy of this programme is that better results can be achieved if young mothers are motivated for family planning in the hospitals in the pre-and postnatal periods and given a choice of methods. The post-partum programme is being introduced in over 50 hospitals attached to medical colleges or those conducting more than 3,000 deliveries per year. The number of such hospitals will go up to 150 by 1971.

The developmental efforts afoot in the country have brought in increased food production, have boosted industrial output, provided more employment, but all the progress has thus far been nullified because of our growing numbers. The situation actually may worsen if the imbalance between the population and resources continues. Indian women have a great responsibility in bridging the gulf between resources and people. Let them assert their right to have smaller families for their personal health, welfare, leisure, development and progress. And let our society help realise these rights. Only this way can the road to progress be smooth.

## The Great Responsibility Of Our Womenfolk

★ By Dr. Dipak Bhatia ★

Indian womanhood is wide awake to the many social problems which have to be tackled on an emergency basis. It is equally conscious of the many pockets of backwardness and ignorance that still exists. Notwithstanding the phenomenal progress our women have made during the last few decades, there is lot to be done still — and the initiative for change has to come primarily from the women leaders themselves. It is in this light that they must approach the problem of family planning too.

Social problems, as a rule, are directly linked with the economic problems and in the economic of the women lies the key to social progress. Such emancipation would give them a greater capacity to take decisions in personal matters and about their immediate environment.

The main philosophy of the family planning programme is that by helping people to regulate the size of their families the economic process of savings, investment and development would be promoted.

Let us now consider the role of women in the control of population. Studies have shown that the desire for children both in urban and rural women usually declines

after the third child. Though a large number of our womenfolk want to have smaller families to look after, they are not able to do so either because of the lack of the knowledge contraceptive methods or because of lack of general education.

Education and employment potential of women in our present day society have a direct bearing on the population problem. Already a large number of women are employed in skilled jobs for which education and specialised training are necessary. With increasing facilities more women will seek and get employment. It can be said on the basis of studies undertaken that working women have lesser number of children and that the number of children born to women varies inversely with the degree of education they have had. However, till such time as women education becomes universal a large majority of them will seek non-domestic employment which promotes adoption of pregnancy preventing methods.

The type of employment is important. Even though 55.72 per cent of those engaged in cultivation and 23.86 per cent of all agricultural labour are women, these occupations do not act

as automatic motivation for small families.

Taking into consideration the socio-economic status of women in our country and realising side by side their vital role in solving the population problem, we have got to launch a programme to strengthen their personal motivation, convince them of the need for adoption of methods for spacing of children and even for sterilization and, lastly, to create a climate in which the actions they take are accepted by the society.

To my mind it appears that all social welfare organisations and women's associations in the country need to be involved in family planning work because only when our women are released from the over-burdening domestic chores and have time for leisure, enjoy better health, realise that a small family means more availability of funds for their own use, and are given a varied choice of employment, can they play their rightful role in the society.

Practice of family planning could give women the assurance for all the good things that they have missed. All women like good clothes, their charms are enhanced by better health and they do like to go out with their hus-

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# NETAJI IN ANDAMAN

A Photographic and documentary exhibition on the life and work of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose organised by Netaji Research Bureau will open at Port Blair, Andaman, on the 21st October 1969 — the 26th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. A historic photograph of Netaji arriving at Port Blair 26 years ago as Chief of State of the Azad Hind Government will be simultaneously and ceremonially unveiled in the airport lounge of Port Blair.

The Netaji Exhibition at Port Blair revives epoch-making events in the history of India's freedom struggle, namely, Netaji's visit to Andamans in 1943 as the Head of the Provisional Government, the hoisting of Indian National Tricolour by Netaji at Andamans and his visit to the Cellular Jail, the Indian Bastille.

The details of Netaji's visit to Andaman are of abiding interest. The Provisional Government of Azad Hind was proclaimed at Singapore on the 21st Oct. 1943. Soon after, Netaji flew to Tokyo to attend the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations which met there on the 5th and 6th November. On the second day, Premier Tojo of Japan announced the decision of the Government of Japan to transfer the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.

In the last week of December 1943, Netaji left Singapore for Andaman Islands accompanied by Shri A. M. Sahay, Minister without portfolio and Secretary to the Cabinet, Lt. Col. D. S. Raju, personal physician, and Major B. S. Rawat, A. D. S. He arrived at Port Blair by a twin-engine bomber on the afternoon of the 29th December, 1943. He was received at the airport by the Japanese Admiral at Port Blair with all honours due to a Head of State, given a Guard of Honour by the Azad Hind Dal, and introduced to leading Indian civilians. From the airport he proceeded to the Japanese military headquarters which is now the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. He then met local Indian civilians at the bungalow which subsequently became the headquarters of Major-General Logonadhan of the Provisional Government and which is now occupied by the Chief Secretary. Thereafter he left for the Aberdeen Jetty to take a speed boat to Ross Island.

On arrival there he drove up in a jeep to the former British Chief Commissioner's house at the top of the hill. He stayed in that house, now demolished, during his short visit to Andaman. On December 30, 1943 Netaji left Ross Island in the morning for Port Blair. From the Aberdeen Jetty to the Gymkhana ground he was taken in a procession. In front of the Andaman Club at the Gymkhana ground Netaji hoisted the National Tricolour to the accompaniment of the National Anthem,

received the freedom of the city of Port Blair from its Mayor and addressed a mass meeting of Indians for 90 minutes.

Later in the morning he held discussions with the Japanese military officers at their headquarters and inspected the defences of the island. Netaji came to the Cellular Jail at 2-30 p. m. and spent two hours there. He returned to Ross island late in the afternoon and held a banquet there which was attended by Japanese officers and leading Indian residents. On December 31, 1943 Netaji left Ross Island early in the morning and visited the office of the Indian Independence League at Aberdeen Bazar (originally the club of the Local Born Association). He made a speech for about half an hour in the hall on the first floor. The hall has since been known to local residents as Netaji Hall. He left for the airport at about 9 a. m. and flew back to Bangkok on route to Rangoon.

The headquarters of the Provisional Government was shifted to Rangoon in the first week of January 1944. In the course of a broadcast from Rangoon soon thereafter, Netaji said :

“... I shall now give you a very interesting piece of news, namely, that after I arrived in Burma I was able to visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. You will remember that on November 6, 1943, at the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations in Tokyo, His Excellency Premier General Hideki Tojo made a historic declaration to the effect that the Government of Nippon would transfer the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. Following that declaration, I had conversations with the Nippon authorities on the subject both in Tokyo and Shonan. After these conversations, the Imperial Navy authorities arranged for my visit to these islands, during which I was accompanied by members of my Government and of my personal staff. I have now returned here after completing that trip. The object of my journey to the Andaman Islands was to discuss with the local Nippon authorities preparatory measures necessary for effecting the transfer of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. In pursuance of the discussions that were held there, I can now announce that I have appointed Lt. Colonel A. G. Logonadhan a high-ranking officer of the Indian National Army as Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As soon as transport arrangements are made, the newly appointed Chief Commissioner will proceed to the above islands to take charge. During the visit, I and the members of my party had the unique experience of our lives when we stood on the soil of Free India for the first time. It was an unforgettable event for us to see our tricolour national flag fluttering in the air over the former British

## TELEVISION FOR SCHOOLS



Closed circuit television, in which the pictures are sent from place to place over a telephone wire instead of being broadcast in the usual way, can now be used by more and more schools, thanks to new lightweight equipment produced by a British firm. The equipment, which has been simplified to avoid the need for having experts to work it, is seen here being taken from a van outside a school. It can all be loaded on to two trolleys which can then be wheeled by two people to wherever needed.

## WIDENING THE SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL TV

★ By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON ★

Lessons by television are now no longer confined to countries with a public television service. Schoolchildren and students anywhere in the world can benefit from television on “closed circuit”

Instead of being broadcast in the usual way, the pictures are sent from point to point by telephone line — perhaps even from one classroom to another in the same school — or they can be stored on special recording tape and shown over and over again.

### On two trolleys

Until recently, however, closed-circuit television was expensive and bulky, and needed experts to work it. Now Britain has developed equipment that anyone can operate. Designed and built by the Marconi Company specially for teaching purposes, it can be packed on two trolleys and taken round

a school or factory by two people.

One trolley contains the equipment for controlling sound and vision, while the other carries the tape recorder, microphones, viewing screens and cameras.

With this a specialist teacher visiting a village school can record a lesson or demonstration which can be shown any number of times to different classes in the same school or in other schools in the area. In a factory a difficult task can be demonstrated to hundreds of workers who could not otherwise get near enough to see it properly.

Remote village schools can benefit as much as schools on large closed-circuit television networks like the one recently started by the Inner London Education Authority in Britain, linking 300 London schools; by the end of

this year the figure will have risen to 1,300 schools.

### Teaching surgeons

Another use of educational closed-circuit television is in the training of student surgeons at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. Each of the four operating theatres has a camera suspended from the ceiling, and during operations the camera is moved to show the patient's eye in close-up. The pictures are relayed to large viewing screens in the students' lecture rooms.

In 1936 Britain was the first country to start television broadcasting and to use it for education. It seems fitting that Britain should now be pioneering television as an educational medium on closed-circuit systems.

Chief Commissioner's residence on Ross Island. During our stay there we occupied the former British Chief Commissioner's residence and we wondered all the time how the wheels of history were now moving in India's favour. The sight of our national flag flying over the Chief Commissioner's house made us all think of the day when the same flag will be hoisted over the Viceroy's House in New Delhi.

“My countrymen, you remember that since August last year I have been giving expression to my hope and belief that before the end of 1943 we would stand on the soil of Free India. That this dream has actually been fulfilled before December 31, 1943, has given us the greatest happiness. While we were in the Andaman Island we visited the notorious cellular jail in Port Blair and paid homage to those patriotic countrymen of ours who suffered indescribable persecution and torture in the past and some of whom even laid down their lives as victims of British tyranny and brutality. We were informed by the former Superintendent of the

Jail that the last batch of political prisoners consisting of about 200 court martialled prisoners were transported back to India along with some British officials shortly before the Japanese occupation of the island. . . . . “From what I have seen of the islands and of their natural resources, I am confident that as part of Free India, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will become a place fit for free, cultured and progressive men and women to live in.”

Some time later at a press interview, Netaji had this to say.

“For Indians the return of the Andamans represents the first territory to be liberated from British yoke. By the acquisition of this territory, the Provisional Government has now become a national entity in fact as well as in name. The liberation of the Andamans has symbolic significance because the Andamans was always used by the British as a prison for political prisoners. Most of the political prisoners sentenced to penal servitude for conspiracies to overthrow the British Government—and there have

been hundreds of them—were locked up in this island. Like the Bastille in Paris, was liberated first in the French Revolution, setting free political prisoners, the Andamans where our patriots suffered is the first to be liberated in India's fight for independence. Part by part, Indian territory will be liberated but it is always the first plot of land that holds the most significance. We have renamed Andamans as ‘Shabed’ in memory of the martyrs and the Nicobars as ‘Swaraj’.”

Thus Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose made history and gave a new dimension to Indian Revolution in the Andamans 26 years ago. His two days on that far-off island in the Bay of Bengal were the culmination of continuous struggle and sacrifice of the Indian people over half a century. It has to be recorded, however with shame and regret that there is even today not a solitary symbol of any kind anywhere in the Andamans of this epoch-making visit of Netaji and what it represented.

Courtesy: Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta.

# THE PATH WHICH LED ME TO LENINISM

★ By HO CHI MINH ★

After World War I, I made my living in Paris, now as a retoucher at a photographer's, now as painter of 'Chinese antiquities' (made in France!). I would distribute leaflets denouncing the crimes committed by the French colonialists in Vietnam.

At that time, I supported the October Revolution only instinctively, not yet grasping all its historic importance. I loved, and admired Lenin because he was a great patriot who liberated his compatriots; until then, I had read none of his books.

The reason for my joining the French Socialist Party was that these 'ladies and gentlemen' — as I called my comrades at that moment had shown their sympathy toward me, toward the struggle of the oppressed peoples. But I understand neither what was a party, a

trade-union nor what was Socialism nor Communism.

Heated discussions were then taking place in the branches of the Social Party about the question whether the Socialist Party should remain in the Second International, should a Second-and-a-half International be founded or should the Socialist Party join Lenin's Third International? I attended the meetings regularly, twice or three times a week and attentively listened to the discussion. First I could not understand thoroughly. Why were the discussions heated? Either with the Second, Second-and-a-half or Third International the revolution could be wagged. What was the use of arguing then? As for the First international what had become of it?

What I wanted most to know — and this precisely was not debated in the

meeting — was which International sides with the peoples of colonial countries.

I raised this question — the most important in my opinion — in a meeting. Some comrades. It is the Third, not the Second International. And a comrade gave me Lenin's Thesis on the national and colonial questions' published by L' Humanite to read.

There were political terms difficult to understand in this thesis. But by dint of reading it again and again, finally I could grasp the main part of it. What emotion, enthusiasm, clear-sightedness, and confidence it instilled in me! I was overjoyed to tears. Though sitting alone in my room, I shouted aloud as if addressing large crowds: 'Dear martyrs, compatriots! This is what we need this is the path to our liberation.'

After that, I had entire confidence in Lenin, in the Third International.

## Logical

Formerly, during the meetings of the Party branch, I had only listened to the discussion. I had a vague belief that all were logical, and could not differentiate as to who were right and who were wrong. But from then on, also plunged into the debates and discussed with fervor. Though I was still lacking French words to express all my thoughts, I smashed the allegations attacking Lenin and the Third International with no less vigor. My only argument was: 'If you do not condemn colonialism, if you do not side with the colonial people, what kind of revolution are you waging?'

Not only did I take part in the meetings of my own Party branch, but I also went to other Party branches to lay down my position'. Now I must tell again that Comrades Marcel Cachin, Vailant Courturier, Monmou-

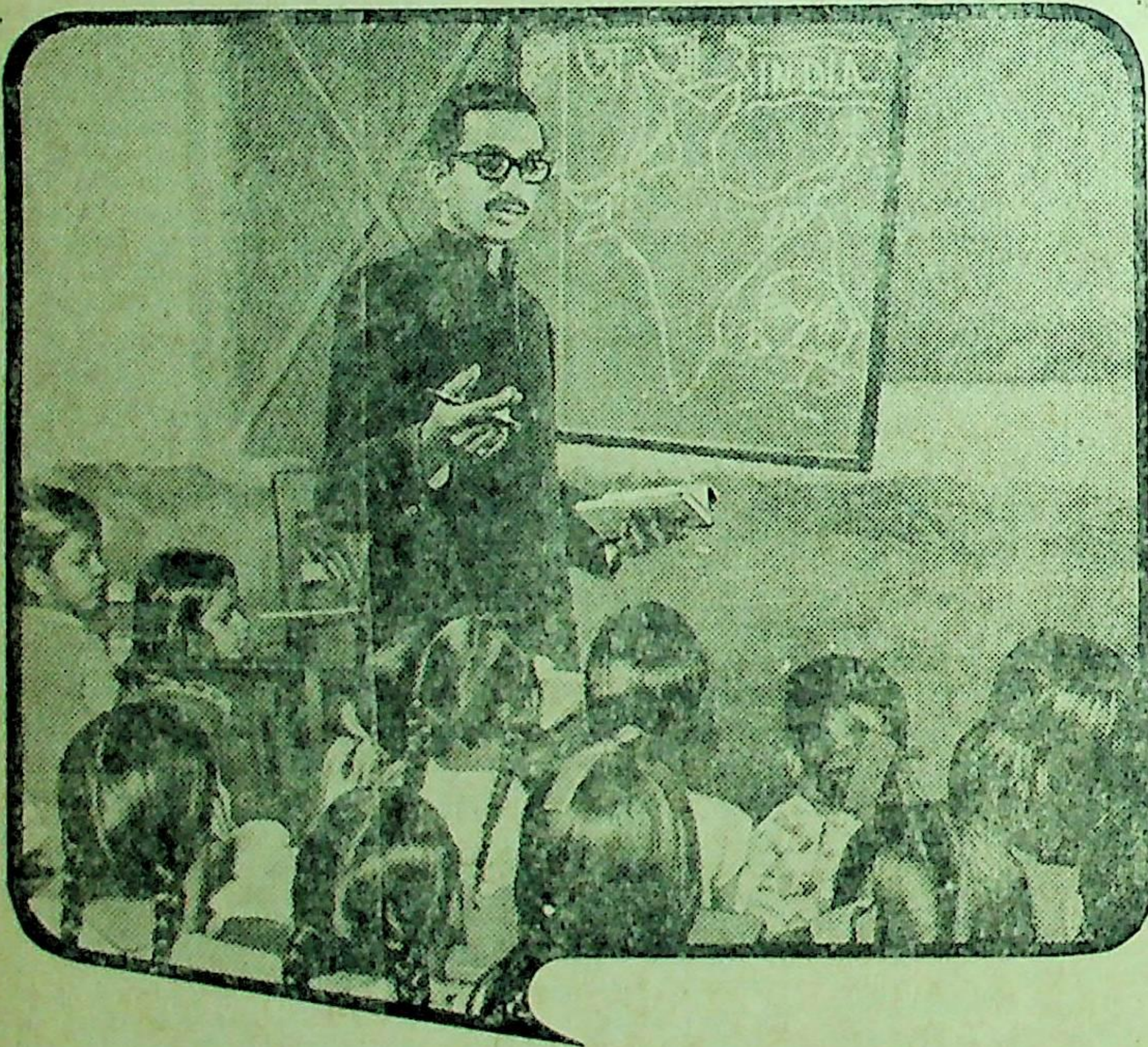
seau, and many others helped me to broaden my knowledge. Finally, at the Tours Congress, I voted with them for our joining the Third International.

At first, patriotism, not yet Communism, led me to have confidence in Lenin, in the Third International. Step by step, along the struggle, by studying Marxism-Leninism parallel with participation in practical activities, I gradually came upon the fact the only Socialism and Communism can liberate the oppressed nations and the working people throughout the world from slavery.

There is a legend, in our country as well as in China, on the 'miraculous Book of the Wise'. When facing great difficulties, one opens it and finds a way out. Leninism is not only a miraculous 'Book of the Wise', a compass for us Vietnamese revolutionaries and people; it is also the radiant sun illuminating our path to final victory, to Socialism and Communism.

## meet a man of property.

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## GANDHIJI AN INSPIRING WRITER

New Delhi :

No one who has used the stuff of words on a massive scale has been as passionately purposive as Gandhiji. No one has used words with such intensive longing to be down to earth on the one hand and, paradoxically, to reach for the stars on the other.

This is one of the assessments of Mahatma Gandhi's abilities with the pen given in the book *Gandhi the Writer* by the well-known author, Bhabani Bhattacharya, just published. The book has been brought out by the National Book Trust of the Government of India and sponsored by the Ford Foundation on the occasion of the Gandhi Centenary.

In the 323-page book, Bhabani Bhattacharya deals with the early readings and writings of Gandhiji, the authors and books which influenced him, his work as a journalist and the journals he edited like *Indian Opinions*, *Young India* and *Harijan*, the hymns and songs he loved and his impact on Indian literature.

The author has devoted a chapter for the impact of the *Bhagwad Gita* on Gandhiji. The *Gita* according to Gandhiji, presents some basic problems which are hard to solve, but it is free from any kind of dogma and it gives us in a short compass "a complete reasoned moral code" which satisfied the intellect as well as the heart. The appeal is universal.

Bhabani Bhattacharya says that Gandhiji's impact on Indian literature has been two-fold. "First," he says, "there is the copious contribution from his own pen. Some of it is in Gujarati... the major part of his writing had to be in English. Through English alone could Gandhiji reach all the corners of the Indian sub-continent across the linguistic frontiers.

"Second, he has been what one may call a writers' writer. While he produced no creative work of his own he inspired creativity on a

scale surpassed by none. Some part of the best writing everywhere in India bears his counter signature. There are certain substances known as catalytic agents; their mere presence helps the process of chemical fusion of other substances in the crucible and something new is produced.

"Gandhiji, no creative artist (he lived in an era of creative thought but that was a different matter), brought about this catalysis in Indian literature, which gained in depth and dimension by his advent."

### All for common man

Bhabani Bhattacharya writes that Gandhiji not only stood for the common man but "transformed himself into the common man: garbed as the common man, thinking his thoughts, sharing his feelings, in key with his hopes, fears and dreams."

"In all his thoughts and emotions, his identity, his oneness with the common man was complete. He was replica of the masses of India, conceived by a master sculptor and brought miraculously to life :

"And that was the secret of his immense impact on Indian writing. He did not have to be a creative artist. As an artist in life, he inspired creatively."

A new short biography of Gandhiji entitled "Gandhi, warrior of non-violence" by P. D. Tandon and Roland E. Wolseley has also been published by the National Book Trust in commemoration of the Gandhi Centenary.

The author says in the preface: "The sense of values — the sensitivity — that Mohandas Gandhi always displayed may be what more of the world's people need today. If they are successfully to find a way to avoid the catastrophic end of the human race in a new world war or a violent world revolution, be it from the extreme left or the extreme right the Gandhian way may be the only one that mankind can risk."

# ARMED FORCES DIARY

## J and K Militia Re-Union

The Jammu and Kashmir Militia held their re-union last week at Srinagar. The Militia, raised in the wake of Pakistani aggression in 1947, were originally known as the Home Guards. They were volunteers armed with sticks and weapons used in sports.

In March, 1948, the Home Guards were organised into the J and K Militia Battalions and by April that year they fought alongside army units to drive the enemy out of the State. During these operations, they provided valuable information to the Army about enemy movements, guided army units over little known country paths and assisted in keeping the lines of communication clear. They had also taken part in a number of offensive operations and captured many prisoners with their arms and equipment.

During 1962, Jawans of the J and K Militia were deployed in Ladakh. Some units were later converted into Ladakh Scouts and absorbed into the Army. During the Indo-Pak conflict in 1965, battalions of the J and K Militia fought along the ceasefire line and took a heavy toll of Pakistani infiltrators in the Srinagar valley. During the last twenty years, Jawans of the Militia have won five Maha Vir Chakras, seventeen Vir Chakras, fifteen Sena Medals and thirty-one Mention-in-Despatches.

## Defence at Children's Fair

Defence pavilions at various exhibitions organised in the country have proved a big attraction. Of the thousands of visitors who go to these exhibitions, the Defence exhibitions have attracted primarily the younger

age group. A small Defence pavilion has been set up, which will be of particular interest to children.

The Defence exhibition has models of aircraft, ships and armament used by the Army. It has photographs depicting the activities of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Defence Production establishments. The pride of place at the exhibition is taken by the Gnat aircraft, produced in the country, which is placed at the entrance of the exhibition.

The International Children's Fair was inaugurated by the prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi at Kotla Grounds in Delhi on October 17.

## Services stores preservation

The annual losses on account of Services stores and equipment has been considerably reduced due to the efforts of the inter-Services Stores Preservation Organisation of the Defence Ministry.

The Organisation celebrated its silver jubilee last week. It has trained over 6,000 persons during the last 25 years of its existence.

The Minister for Defence Production, Shri L. N. Mishra, inaugurating a symposium in New Delhi said that the problems associated with the preservation of the stores and equipment of the Services has far reaching consequences in the context of defence preparedness and should be given its due importance.

Shri Mishra suggested conference-type courses of short duration at top and middle management level from the store-holding Services, in addition to the present courses being run by ISSPO for the working level.

## Moon Melts At 1,500 Degrees

Heidelberg (DaD) — The moon rock brought back to earth by the crew of Apollo 11 is being analysed by no fewer than 134 scientific institutes. Four of the twenty lunar rock research centres outside the United States are in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The samples, each weighing only a gramme or two, have been delivered and the researchers have three months in which to conduct their experiments, at the end of which a joint conference is to be held in Houston and the conclusions reached by all 134 research facilities announced. Not until this body has convened will the general public learn exact details about the age, nature and origin of the moon.

Professor Joseph Zahringer, head of the cosmic chemistry department of the Heidelberg Max Planck Institute, was one of the few foreigners privileged to take part in the initial experiments at the Luna Receiving Laboratory in Houston, Texas. He was a member of the seven-man team engaged in anorganic gas analysis of the samples. This team went on to examine the eight-inch plug of moon surface the astronauts brought back along with the eighty-odd pounds of lunar rock they collected.

On returning to Heidelberg Professor Zahringer was in a position to disclose initial results of the experiments conducted. The Apollo 11 astronauts, he announced, had brought with them various kinds of moon rock, beginning with the black lunar dust, which is at least six inches deep over the entire surface of the moon. In an ultra high vacuum this dust stuck together like an oily film and was as thick as an emulsion. This would account for Armstrong and Aldrin's feeling of treading on a slippery surface.

Part of the lunar rock is distinctly similar to terrestrial volcanic stone. It is covered in bubbles, partly contains glass and is roughly as heavy as rock from well below the earth's surface. Other samples are agglomerates, containing finely-grained components gathered together in larger lumps. Lunar rock melts at roughly 1,500 degrees centigrade.

Gas analysis of the samples, Professor Zahringer noted, had resulted in a number of surprises. The moon proves to be full of solar wind, helium, neon, argon, crypton and xenon brought to light when the sample was melted in the American laboratory. The concentration of these rare gases was comparable with that found in certain meteorites. According to the professor this inter-

## The First White Whales In Europe

Duisburg (DaD) — Instead of in the Canadian Hudson Bay, they gaily swim in a four meter deep special basin of the Duisburg Zoo (Federal Republic of Germany): The two Beluga whales Moby and Alua. They are the first of their species to be admired in a German or even in a European zoo. More than 60,000 persons have already had a look at them in the new "whale-arium" on the Kaiserberg. Its heavy stars are well on their way to stealing the show from the second attraction in Duisburg, namely from the dolphins.

For some years, zoo director Dr. Gewalt has toyed with the idea of completing his stock of 4000 animals with a pair of Belugas. The first unexpected chance came in 1966 when a white whale went astray in the river Rhine. Not only the whale but also the zoo director made headlines. But "Moby Dick" got away and was never seen again. However, his pursuer did not give up.

Early this August, he went to Canada where, with the help of ten Indians, he forced two young animals into the shallow water of the Seal River. He caught them by hand and then loaded them into his boat. 14 days later, after they had first been brought for observation to a tank container of the Churchill Whale Station on the Hudson Bay, the two "kings of the oceans" — each three meters long and weighing 700 pounds — started out on their trip across the Atlantic on board a jet freighter in ice-cooled special containers. Once in the Ruhr city of Duisburg and into their basin, the guests from overseas, who seemed to feel no homesickness, soon developed a healthy appetite for mackerels and herring.

Before Moby and Alua have grown to their full size of six meters and also become snow white, they will learn a few tricks such as eating from the hand, swimming through a tire, etc., to amuse the zoo visitors. As whales have a reputation of belonging to the most intelligent group of mammals, Dr. Gewalt hopes to have apt pupils who will soon regain the high expedition costs: 20,000 DM (5000 dollars) for the license fees for catching the whales and 60,000 DM (15,000 dollars) in transport costs. Contributions from both private persons and industry provide the necessary financial backing. Should anything happen to Moby or Alua, the Canadians have promised to provide substitutes free of charge.

planetary gas in surface rock from the moon can only have been the result of solar wind influence.

Preliminary estimates of the moon's age have also been made. According to Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the moon must be between two and four and a

## He Swallows Mice, Lizards & Snakes

Harry Wilton, a 65-year-old German from Herford does not differ much from other people in looks. But there is more to Wilton than meets the eye: he has king-sized esophagus with a humpty-dumpty stomach and his taste is something else.

Wilton swallows live animals just for other people's amusement. It is the kind he swallows however, that make some spectators turn green as they watch. The performance diet consists of "delicacies" like mice, snakes and lizards. He has also hooked on goldfish and occasionally gulps down a turtle.

That Wilton downs them completely is of interest to medical circles as well as side-show visitors. He is frequently invited to attend classes in medical schools to serve as a demonstration of the alimentary canal in X-ray. For students, it is obviously a vivid demonstration.

When Wilton can find no small animals around to swallow, he is certain to spy substitutes — after all, the show must go on. He has been known to down such morsels as wooden eggs and pocket watches. Of course, digestion of these does not work nearly so well as with animals.

But then digestion is not the thing: Wilton quickly disappears behind stage after performances where he swallows inorganic materials, a single rule on his mind: anything inorganic that goes down, must come up again. (UPS).

## Computer Dating Takes Over

Hamburg (DaD) — This young couple are two of 10,000 people who apply to a Hamburg marriage bureau every month to have a computer select the man or woman most likely to be the one for life. Each customer has a right to 99 selections a year. Last year roughly 250,000 were made. The net result was 2,000-odd weddings, 2,500 engagements and 3,200 lasting relationships. Before his or her name are filed an applicant must undergo a personality test, be interviewed personally and pay a fee that varies according to income between 400 and 2,500 Marks (100 and 625 US dollars). There are also certain age limits. At the moment there are not enough men over sixty to meet the demand.

half thousand million years old. Professor Zahringer reckons that its exact age is somewhere in between, which would make it the same age as the earth. Not until further research has been conducted over the next three months will it be possible to draw any cosmological conclusions.

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## A "Dead Man" Tramps Through Europe

Pforzheim (DaD) — This is Otto Silberhorn (50), German by birth, goldsmith by profession who has been a full-time tramp for many years. Officially, he "fell for his people and fatherland" during World War Two. He always carries this document with him and from time to time visits "his" grave in Iunesia. Silberhorn has spent his "second" life as a clochard underneath the bridges of Paris, in London's Soho, in Genoa and Amsterdam, Andorra and Montenegro. He has been in films with Jean Gabin, Anna Magnani and Guilietta Masini, was friends with Hemingway and Picasso, who painted the portrait of the "professional" tramp. Silberhorn speaks six languages and works, when necessary, as a herdsman, fisherman or in the vineyards. En route to warmer Spain, he recently visited his native city of Pforzheim (Federal Republic of Germany) and mused: "I must do without many things but I am happy."

## Chinese Infiltrate Into Burma

Impbal : A large number of Communists from China, believed to be deserters from the Red Army, have infiltrated into North Burma in recent months and have allied themselves with Burmese insurgents in the India-Burma border region according to reliable reports received here.

The reports said the infiltrators, numbering as many as about 10,000, had joined the so-called Kachin Independence Army (K. I. A.), Shan rebels and the Communist Party of Burma.

During the last four

months there had been a series of gun battles between these combined groups and the Burmese army, with heavy casualties on both sides, the reports said.

Areas north of Kachin State and East Shan State are stated to be now virtually under the control of the rebels and Chinese infiltrators, who are also reported to have assured Naga hostiles in India of material help.

Kachin and Shan rebels are reported to be acquiring fire-arms from some unknown sources in South-east Asia by barter against opium.

## Thefts in Gandhi Centenary Camp

Calcutta : Even the Gandhijee Kasturba Centenary Commemoration Camp has not been spared by burglars. The first theft took place between 4 and 5 a.m. on October 17. The thief made off with a watch, a few valuable articles of personal use and about Rs. 25 of the Commemoration Society's funds.

A thief broke in again, between 3.30 and 4 a.m. on October 26. This time an old timepiece, a Primus stove and a pair of trousers were

taken away. Chased by the guard, the thief dropped the stove and the trousers. The burglary is a mystery, as the gate was locked, with the key in safe hands.

Mr. Amritalal Chatterjee of the Society, a disciple of the Mahatma, refuses to blame the thieves and ascribes the thefts to poverty. To eradicate such evils, a change of society was necessary, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and it was important to remember this in the centenary year, he said.

## PATNA DIARY

Oct. 24. President V. V. Giri, accompanied by his wife, Mrs V. Saraswathibai Giri, was today accorded a big reception at the Bihta airport on his arrival here from Delhi on a two-day visit.

One Mahendra Sao of Dinapur was arrested today by the Kadamkuan Police in connection with a robbery committed in the night of October 18 on By-pass Road near Lohia Nagar.

The death toll in the agrarian violence in Amarapur diara in Shahabad district yesterday rose to 15 as one of the 16 injured died in the Buxar hospital today, according to reports received here.

The Pirbahore police here have challaned two persons for selling spurious copies of Dhruva Swamini written by Jai Shankar Prasad and published by Bharati Bhandar, Leader Press, Allahabad.

Oct. 25. Mr. Dip Narain Sinha, President of the Bihar State Co-operative Federation, has issued an appeal to co-operative organisations and workers to make all-out efforts to celebrate the co-operative week from November 1.

President V. V. Giri returned here this evening from Rajgir by helicopter after inaugurating the Vishwa Shanti Stupa there.

A young cyclist, aged about 16 years, was crushed to death on the main lower road near Langertoli mahalla in Patna by a speeding truck today.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai said here this evening that it was for the Congress Working Committee to decide as to when and where the AICC should meet.

Oct. 26. Bihar made the first historical attempts to wards the political unification of India, the Governor, Mr. Nityanand Kanungo said here today.

President V. V. Giri left Patna for Delhi by air this morning after a two-day visit to Bihar.

Mr. Vijayanand Pandey took over today as the Superintendent of Police, CBI, Patna.

Oct. 27 : Mr. U. Rai, C.B.I., D.S.P., Delhi, along with some other officers is camping here for finalising

the corruption cases against four class I officers, a number of SDO's and other subordinate staff of the Electricity Works Department of the State Government, it is learnt.

A jeep dashed against a quarter while backing in Adalatganj area resulting in serious injuries to a boy and a lady.

Some valuable diamonds and pearls etc., stolen from the Jalan Museum in Patna City some time back, have been recovered from Bhagalpur, it is reported.

The first session of the 58th Annual meeting of the Numismatic Society of India was held here yesterday under the presidentship of Dr. B. P. Sinha, Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, Patna University.

Oct. 28 : The State Government have fixed the procurement price for coarse paddy and coarse rice, both of fair average quality, at Rs. 56.25 and Rs. 95.25 per quintal respectively.

Small cultivators of five blocks of Patna district will be advanced short-term agricultural loan upto Rs. 5,000 each by the Bank of India.

The 58th annual conference of the Numismatic Society of India and the third annual conference of the Indian Archaeological Society concluded their three-day session here tonight.

The Bihar State Election Supervisors' Association was formed at a meeting of election supervisors from different sub-divisions of the State here today.

Oct. 29. Acharya Vinoba Bhawe arrived here this afternoon from Rajgir by car after attending the All-India Sarvodaya Sammelan there.

A young widow was today found dead at her residence at Nawabganj Mohalla under Malsalami Police Station.

Mr. P.K.J. Menon, Adviser to the Governor, visited the Kankarbagh housing colony today to know for himself the progress of development work launched last August.

Oct. 30. The State Government has submitted the Bihar Children's Bill to the President of India for its enactment and placing it on the Statute book.

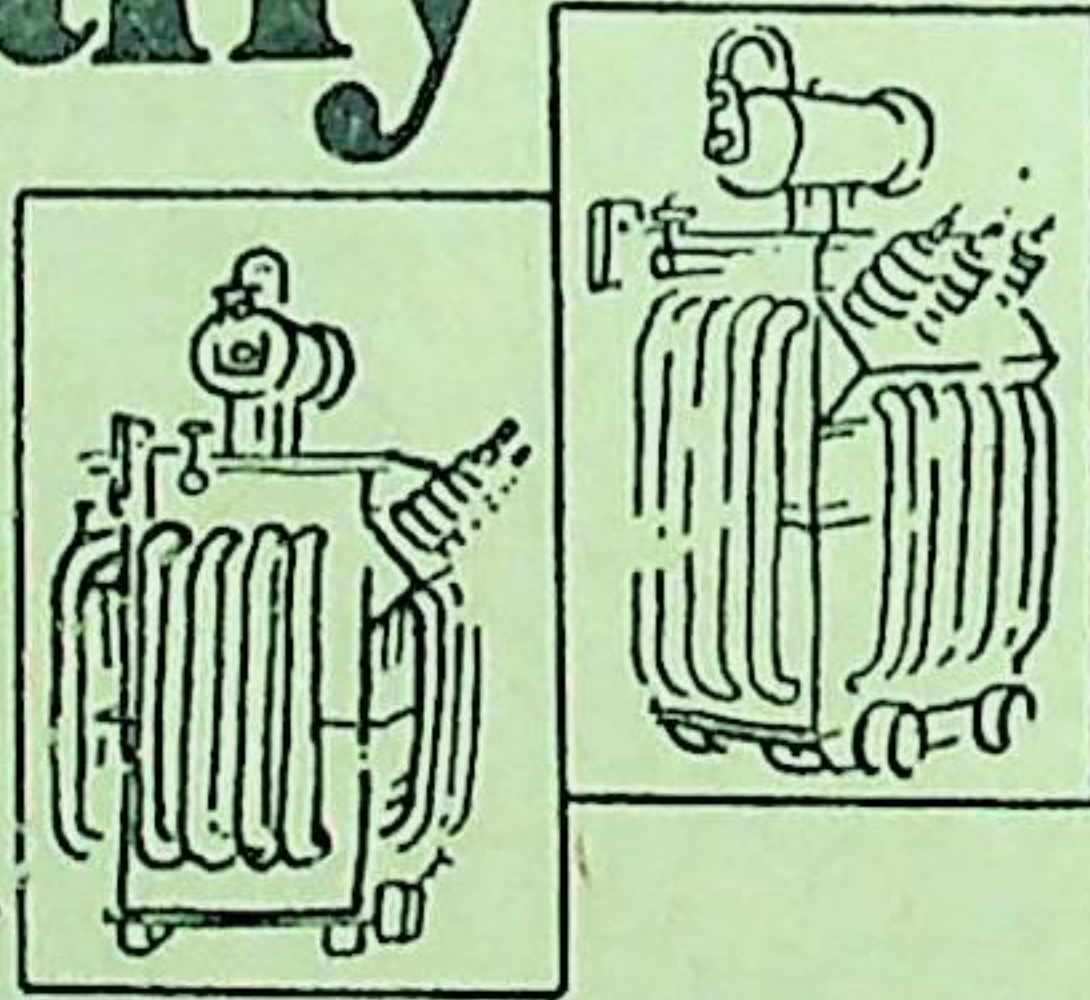
Mr. R. L. Singh Yadav, General Secretary, Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee, claimed here today that 45 out of 69 AICC members from Bihar had signed a requisition for an early session of the AICC.

The Local Self-Government Department, it is learnt, has allotted a sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs during the current financial year for the execution of the Chiraiyatana scheme.

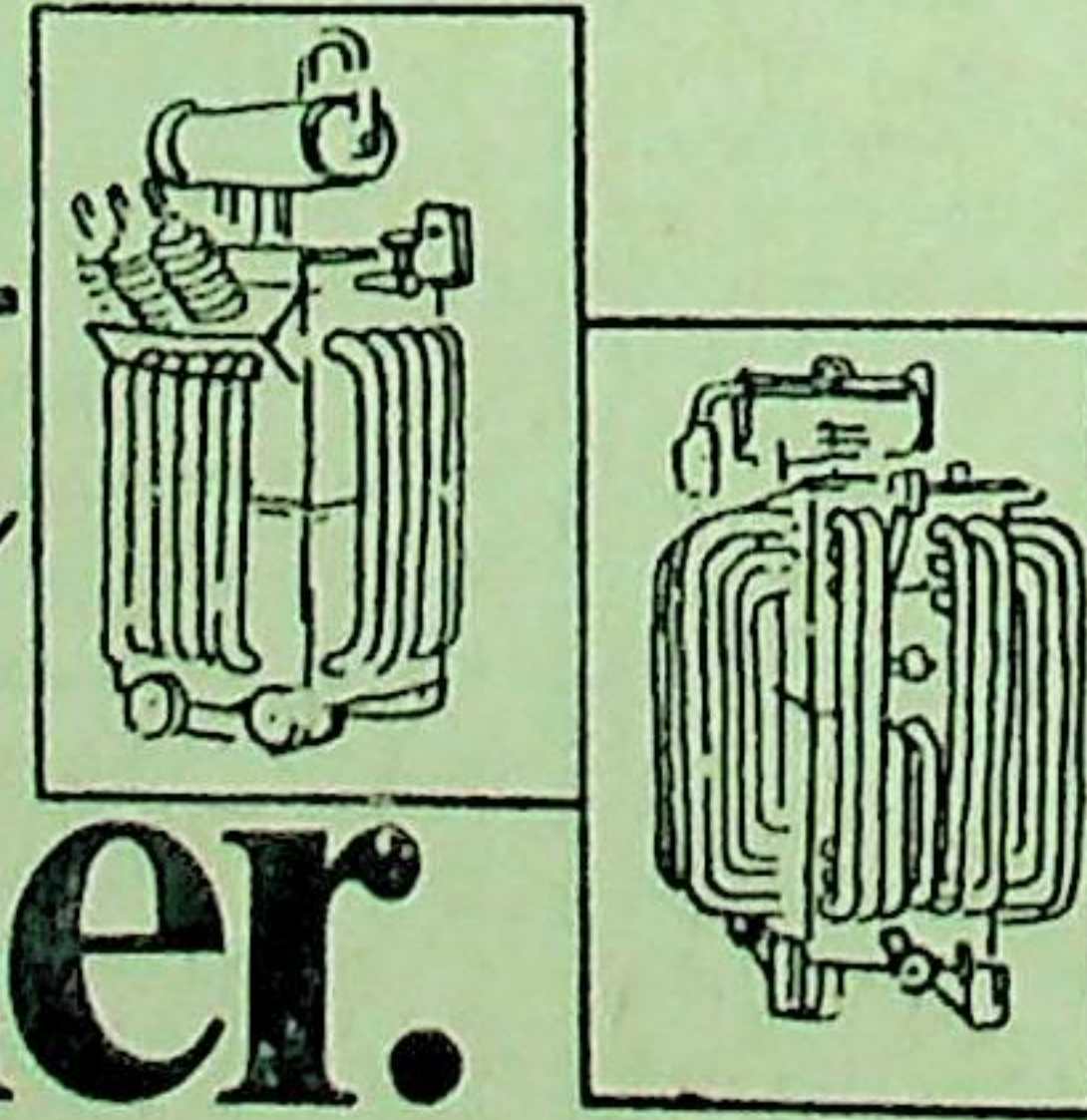
Acharya Vinoba Bhawe was given a touching farewell today when he left Bihar for Sevagram after his stay in the State for a little over four years.

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