

Behar Herald

SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY OUR MOTTO

Estd. 1874

NEW SERIES VOL.- I No.- 21 & 22 , DEC. 15, 2015, PATNA

Price ₹ : 2.00

50th Conference of Bengalee Association, Bihar concludes

Demand rose for Sharnartha Vikas Pradhikaar



Newsdesk – "I had been to Andaman once. There, in the Cellular Jail we were given a book listing the names of freedom fighters with other details, sent by the British authorities to stay for some time, for life or to die that jail. It was a huge list and of that list, I cannot say what percent, but a large part were the names of bengalees. So, that speak volumes about the contributions of bengalees in India's struggle for freedom".

These were the words with which the Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Welfare, Abdul Gafoor made a connect with the delegates assembled at Ram Mohan Roy Seminary, Patna on 12th December 2015 to attend the 50th Biennial Conference of Bengalee Association, Bihar. Bengalee Association, Bihar was formed in 1938 with none other than P.R.Das, the famed barrister of Patna at its helm. After independence, the activities of the Association were facing some crisis when three stalwarts, Prabhu

Mukherji, Dipendra Nath Sircar and G.C.Samanta (readers may read about them in the 2nd page) took charge and carried the Association to glorious heights. After formation of Jharkhand the bengalees or what they say about themselves, banglabhashis of Bihar faced a crisis of forced marginalization. The Government authorities and the administration seems to have developed a ridiculously erroneous perception that no further banglabhashis remain in Bihar.

"Otherwise", the senior delegates from Katihar, Bhagalpur and other paces said with a bitter smile to this correspondent, "how can one explain stoppage of printing of Bengali text books by BTBC, stoppage of formation of syllabus committee for Bengali by the government, unauthorized conversion of all Bengali teachers' posts to some other language posts...! However, all these were reversed in time. Through

numerous court cases, movements, vote-boycotts, persuasions etc. our 'Ductorbabu' could make the authorities understand that banglabhashis are there in Bihar, and they are sizable enough to affect the vote! That is the only thing you can count upon now-a-days!"

In the evening of 12th December, sitting on the dais of the Open Session, were Abdul Gafoor, Hon'ble Minister, Mohammad Salam, Chairman of Bihar Minorities Commission, Tapan Sengupta, General Secretary of All India Bengali Association and Pradipto Mukherjee, Vice Chairman of Bihar Sangeet Natak Academy, Secretary of Asian Development Research Institute Shaibal Gupta had reached earlier but he could not stay as he was having fever.

Before the speech by the guests, President of the Association, Dr.(Capt.) D.K.Sinha delivered a welcome speech and made the guests aware about the problems being faced by the banglabhashis in Bihar through an excellent power point presentation. In which he strongly presented the case for formation of a Sharnartha Vikas Pradhikar for 4.5 lakhs Bengali refugee settlers who have been settled by Government of India in the districts of West and East Champaran, Purnea, Kishanganj, Bhagalpur etc. Their socio-economic condition is miserable, as vindicated by a survey, which was conducted by ADRI under instructions from the Government of the state.

Children of Nai Dharti presented songs in Bengali and in Hindi to welcome the guests. There was an event in the schedule that the wards of those three stalwarts mentioned earlier, to whom this conference was dedicated, would be present in the session. But somehow, one of them failed to arrive. Amit Mukherji, son of Late Prabhu Mukherji and Dipankar Sircar son of Late Dipendra Nath Sircar were present in the session and were given Mementos by the Minister. Mementos were presented to guests by the President of the Association.

In his speech the Mr. Gafoor appreciated the demands of the Association and in general the problems being faced by the banglabhashis in Bihar as presented by Dr. Sinha and in a tone of assurance said that since the issues fall in four categories – some pertaining to Department of Minorities Welfare, some to Education,

Climate of Change

In a climate of confusing political changes we now got an Agreement on Climate-change at the fag-end of the year!

This year had really confused us by changes. Who could have imagined financial imprisoning of an ancient cradle of civilization, Greece by the financiers of the world? Who could have imagined such an immigrant-influx in the prosperous countries of Europe which would force these countries to face crisis and bring into operation anti-immigrant laws or rules? Erstwhile Hindu kingdom of Nepal adopted a democratic, secular constitution (not discrediting Madhesi movement any way, after all it is part of the discourse)! While Maduro government (of popular Chavez-line) got defeated! The heinous horde of savages against human civilization, the IS found to be a big supplier of cheap oil to purchase which all major dealers of the world market make a queue up to horizon! Muslim-majority Bangladesh yet hanged its fourth or fifth war-criminals, who happen to be leaders of Islamic fundamentalism in that country, to death... And within India, the victory juggernaut of

May 2014 elections got a big jolt in Bihar and bigger jolt in Gujrat! Suddenly pictures were changed in Instagram, foul-mouthed history-shit'ers admonished to keep silence and... Amidst all these, nearly 200 countries after deliberations for two weeks, signed an agreement on climate-change in Paris.

After signing of the Agreement, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "History will remember this day, the Paris agreement on climate change is a monumental success for the planet and its people."

Representatives of various countries of the world have greeted the signing of the Agreement with tears of joy. The deal commits countries to keeping the rise in global temperatures by the year 2100 compared with pre-industrial times "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and says they will "endeavor to limit" them even more, to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The world has already warmed by about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times.

But while reporting the signing of this historic agreement the media claimed that the above clause of the "Paris agreement" was a **key demand of poor countries ravaged by rising sea levels and other effects of climate change.**

So, rising sea levels only ravage poor countries!

And, poor countries are to remain poor at least till 2010!

Confusing, really.

"Then the thorns on the way you crush with your own blood-stained feet..."

Newsdesk – Perhaps it is not for the first time that the children of Nai Dharti find a special mention in these columns. With their songs they did inaugurate the event of release of this New Series of Behar Herald as well. And their mentors, the Secretary and present President of Nai Dharti, Nandita Mukherji and Chameli Pal were also present on that occasion. NGOs are, for the last three decades, playing increasing role in socio-economic development of the people, especially among dalits, street children and juveniles. And Nai Dharti, though being just one of them is a pride for banglabhashis of Bihar as

banglabhashi women have come forward to form, raise and develop it and expand its activities.

These children sing unbelievably pure! They are not bengali-speaking. Carrying the life of streets as their not-too-distant past, they are not properly hindi-speaking as well. You begin listening with an apprehension that their diction would be flawed. And you get fooled! When they sing "Anandoloke, mangalaloke birajo satyasundaro" or "Jodi tor dak shune keu na ase tobe ekla chalo re", they beat many banglabhashi Biharis (the

Cont. page 2

Nandalal Bose

We are proud that you, Great Master of Art, was born in our Tarapur, Mungger of Bihar

Nandalal Bose also known as "Nandalal Basu", was a Bengali master painter whose great paintings presents an amalgamation of tradition and modernity. Nandalal Bose was a prolific artist who worked excellently in numerous media such as water color, wash, tempera, wood-cut, lithograph, dry-point, pencil-sketch, and pastel work, batik on cloth, Italian fresco, Jaipuri fresco and Ajanta style fresco. His best works are in wash, pen and ink drawings and fresco. A foremost pupil of Abanindranath Tagore, he started with "Indian style" of painting, before blazing off an alternative style at the Kala Bhawanin Shanti Niketan. He was influenced by the Tagore family and the murals of Ajanta, his classic works include paintings of scenes from Indian mythologies, women, and village life.

(Courtesy: <http://gobengal.com/nandalal-bose/>)



Born: December 3, 1882, Tarapur
Died: April 16, 1966, Kolkata



Cont. page 2

Guru Charan Samanta Memorial Collection released



Newsdesk – After a long gap Bihar Bangla Academy has taken a programme of publications. Government has also earmarked increased grant not only for the establishment but for the development side of the expenses as well. Encouraged by that, Academy officials are also trying to contact those writers who had entrusted their valuable manuscripts with the Academy on request, yet had to go for other publishers due to inactivity of the Academy for some years and its administration falling in the hands of incompetent directors. Even renowned book distributors were angry with the incomprehensibly un-academic behavior of the Academy officials of that time, and had severed all ties with it. And what could be better for a start, than with a

commemorative collection in loving memory of Guru Charanda, or Prof. Gurucharan Samanta, first deputy director of the Academy and the mastermind behind all the valuable publications by the Academy during yesteryears, especially those during the directorship of Pranab Shankar Mukhopadhyay and Abhas Chatterji. Of course the untimely demise of Prof. Samanta last year remains painful even today. Yet, his way of work, his advices are there to enlighten the future course of Bengalee Association, Bihar and Bihar Bangla Academy. All these contextual thoughts came to mind when Prof. Sumanta Neyogy, renowned historian, released the book and did its Lokarpan i.e. dedicated it to the people.

Delegates hail the courageous resistance by Barari women

Newsdesk – While deliberating on the Secretary's report on the second day of the conference the delegates focused on the activities of the branches of the Association at various places during this period. Biggest delegation of 23 had come from West Champaran. Organisation is going strong under the able leadership of Madan Banik. Regular meetings of the branches are being held. Different problems are being solved by timely interactions with DM, Bettiah and other authorities. Regular dispatches are being sent to President, Bengalee Association, Bihar or to Vice Chairman, Minorities Commission. Recently, as Mr. Banik said, authorities has assured to fulfill one of the important demands of the Association there – to construct Vivekananda Park in Bettiah. When Tapas Ghosh from Bhagalpur narrated the tragic incident of death of an employee of some private nursing home in Munger, everyone in the hall shared the remorse. Pained by the obvious division among the local populace and the medical practitioners' brotherhood and

subsequent litigations everyone were thoughtful and tried draw lessons and future directions from the occurrences. But delegates were greatly enthused when Mr. Ghosh narrated the Barari incident of April this year. Hooligans in jeeps, heavily armed, attacked the bengalee refugee colony to loot and grab the land. Women in hundreds came out then and there and valiantly pushed the hooligans back. Immediately, next day a strong procession of around thousand, of which 45% were women, marched on the streets and warned all types of miscreants to stop eyeing the bengalee settlers as soft targets. Administration also took measures and recently the police head quarters has taken a decision to situate a police station in Barari.

and forcing a rich fat patient out of his car near the dark polo-fields, so that he may run in fear to reach home and have a good sleep which he wanted!). This 'pagla doctor', Dr. S.M. Ghoshal was the inspiration behind so many things people of the Bengali community saw happening in Patna of 60's. Then there was Dr. A. K. Sen, their contemporary, Prof. S. K. Bose, the educationist, Bibhuti Bhushan Mukhopadhyay, the great writer and many others who provided support.

Thus, Prabhuda, Mantuda and Gurucharanda became the stalwarts, trail-blazers for the rejuvenated Bihar Bengalee Samiti's activities, and the activities of the projects initiated by it – Bihar Bangla Academy, established by Government of Bihar as a granted institution later on, and the Vidyasagar pilgrimage of Nandan Kanan at Karmatar.

Naturally, the 50th State Conference of Bengalee Association, Bihar was dedicated to these three personalities.

Remembering stalwarts of the 60s, 70s & 80s



Newsdesk – They came from different walks of life. Prabhu Datt Mukherjee was a successful businessman and leader of businessmen in Bihar. Bihar Chamber of Commerce, Bihar Industries Association, Bihar State Petroleum Dealers Association all knew their 'Prhubabu' or 'Prabhuda', the dependable leader. The Authorities of the Government could not but have regard for him. And yet he was endeared 'Prabhuda' for all the workers of Bengalee Association, Bihar, 'Prabhuda' for persons who needed help from Samaj Kalyan Samiti.

Dipendra Nath Sircar, began earning his bread as Private Secretary of renowned barrister Priyo Ranjan Das (younger brother of Deshbandhu Chitto Ranjan Das) came from humble backgrounds. A self-educated man, he started a small business in the printing line, Sulekha Printing Works, later on. Of course, while staying with P.R. Das he gained firsthand experience of the activities and scope of Bengalee Association, Bihar in the initial years, of the battle with the British authorities on the issue of infamous Domicile Certificate.

Guru Charan Samanta, the son of the priest of Ramgarh raj,

came to Patna as a post graduate student and as an activist of IPTA (Indian People's Theatre Association), Manimela (an organisation promoting cultural activities among children) and Bratachari movement (initiated by Gurusaday Dutt, a movement for enhancing physical and mental strength by war-dance etc.). That means, he was a young cultural activist with evidently left leanings.

What was the similarity in them, their being Bengali speaking? No. That was simply their shared identity. Similarity was, that all three were men of formidable honesty, integrity and call of duty. It was duty, not in the sense of a slave but in the sense of a free, enlightened mind.

Of course, they also had their great elders and contemporary friends, as later generations found in them; more active in other social political fields, without whom the constellation cannot be completed.

They had, above all, the 'pagla dactor' for local populace with them (the doctor, who was famous for demanding whole of the stool in earthen pot for pathological test, advising a patient to use cheap peace of car-tube instead of kneecaps

India-Connect for Bengalis



Newsdesk - All India Bengali Association was formed earlier this year in New Delhi. Bengal Association of New Delhi had taken the initiative. Tapan Sengupta, the Secretary of Bengal Association, New Delhi is known for his organizing capabilities. Naturally he was also given the charge of this new all India organisation. Since then he is on the job. A meeting of the Working Committee was held at Ahmedabad, Gujrat. Second conference will be held at Chennai in the month of January next year.

As Chief Guest of the Delegate Session of the Conference of Bengalee Association, Bihar Mr. Sengupta, speaking on 13th noon, elaborated on the logic of this All India body. It is simply to connect people, the bengalee speaking people of various states with one another. It is a federative organisation. Only different organisations of the states can become its member.

Even now, even at the developing stage, the organisation "guarantees the security of your young daughter in Delhi for 15 days, if she is having a schedule for examination or interview there – a safe lodging, boarding and security in the city as well... you know Delhi is not that safe now-a-days. Even then we will provide security to your daughter." Sengupta said.

He further claimed to have developed cheaper staying place for patients and attendants going to Vellore and by next year, arrange a cheap transit home for pilgrims at Haridwar.

Its affiliate organisations are spread all over India. In Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Jaipur, Chennai and Mumbai the organisations of Bengali people built for various purposes, even including clubs doing Durgapuja, Kalipuja are coming together to develop this connect state-wise and at All India level.

Cont. from page 1

Demand rose for ...

some to other departments and then some to Chief Minister's consideration even – he will take care that way. Anyway the Government is sensitive to the issues of banglabhashis. He knows that language and culture is part of life for banglabhashis. And they are playing there due role in the development of the state.



Chairman, Minority Commission receiving Memento



Dipankar Sircar receiving Memento



Amit Mukherjee receiving Memento

Cont. from page 1

Then the thorns

identity with which members, Committee members and Office Bearers of Bengalee Association, Bihar associate themselves).

They themselves provide meaning to the line of the song they sing – "tabe pather kanta o tui raktomakha charantale ekla dalo re" (Then the thorns on the way you crush with your own blood-stained feet...). They are crushing it, everyday.

Conference Side Lights



Flag hoisting



Chairman, Reception Committee, delivering his speech



P. S. Pal, placing Secretary's Report



Guests as audience in the Cultural Programme



At the Registration Counter



The Dinning Hall

Key Points of the Paris Climate Pact

December 12, 2015

LE BOURGET, France — The 31-page document that details a landmark agreement reached on Saturday could be a turning point in the struggle to contain global warming, according to several experts who have been scrutinizing the small but momentous changes to the document's wording.

Read a complete analysis of the text here.

Here are some highlights of the agreement.

- It calls for "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change." This language recognizes the scientific conclusions that an increase in atmospheric temperatures of more than 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, would lock the planet into a future of catastrophic impacts, including rising sea levels, more devastating floods and droughts, widespread food and water shortages and more powerful storm. But it also recognizes the scientific conclusions that warming of just 1.5 degrees Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, could present an existential threat to low-lying island nations that would be inundated by sea level rise at that rate of increase. But while those nations celebrated the inclusion of that 1.5 degree target, it is more aspirational than practical. The national plans submitted for the conference would probably result in an increase above 3 degrees Celsius.

- To achieve that goal, countries should "reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter." Advocates say this wording sends a clear message to the fossil-fuel industry that much of the world's remaining reserves of coal, oil and gas must stay in the ground and cannot be burned. But the agreement does not call, as a previous version did, for "reaching greenhouse gas emissions neutrality in the second half of the century," a provision that oil producers fiercely resisted. OPEC states lobbied for language that suggests that at least some fossil fuels can continue to burn, as long as the greenhouse gas emissions are absorbed by a larger number of "greenhouse sinks" such as new forests.

- The agreement acknowledges "the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change." This was deemed crucial by poor and small-island countries that suffer the most from extreme weather and from long-term impacts like droughts. However, this provision "does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation," a point that wealthy nations, which did not want to be held financially liable for climate change, insisted on.

- Ahead of the agreement, 186 countries submitted plans detailing how they reduce their greenhouse gas pollution through 2025 or 2030. The agreement requires all countries to submit updated plans that would ratchet up the stringency of emissions by 2020 and every five years thereafter, a time frame that the United States and the European Union urged. India had initially sought a 10-year review cycle.

- The deal requires a global "stocktake" — an overall assessment of how countries are doing in cutting their emissions compared to their national plans — starting in 2023, every five years

- The deal requires countries to monitor, verify and report their greenhouse gas emissions using the same global system. The United States has insisted that an aggressive system of counting and verifying each nation's emissions is crucial to the success of any plan. The United States had also pushed for the creation of an outside panel of experts — a sort of "carbon auditor" to verify nations' emissions reductions. Developing countries, including China and India, had pushed for two separate accounting systems — a more stringent one for rich countries, a more lenient one for poor countries. The United States scored a victory with the inclusion of the single accounting system, but all the details of how it would work, including the creation of the outside verifying body, have been punted to the future.

- The agreement sets up something called a "Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency" to help developing countries meet a new requirement that they regularly provide a national "inventory report" of human-caused emissions, by source, and track their progress in meeting their national goals.

- The agreement, which takes effect in 2020, calls on nations to establish "a new collective quantified goal" of at least \$100 billion a year in climate-related financing by 2020. It avoids a specific number, and even the \$100 billion-a-year aspiration is mentioned in the "decision" part of the document, not the "action" section, to avoid triggering a review by the United States Senate. But it makes clear that the \$100 billion — promised in 2009 in Copenhagen — is the bare minimum going forward.

- When countries update their commitments, they will commit to the "highest possible ambition," but the agreement does not set a numeric target. It acknowledges "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances." This language is essential to a country like India, which believes it will need some time before it can reach peak emissions, given the need to provide 300 million people with electricity. The agreement calls on rich countries to engage in "absolute" reductions in emissions, while calling on developing ones to "continue enhancing their mitigation efforts."

— SEWELL CHAN (Courtesy - NewYorkTimes)

The Charter

Behar Herald, published from Patna is the oldest English weekly of Bihar and one of the oldest English weeklies of India as well. Beginning its journey in 1875 AD, it has retained till date the record of being published regularly for more than 110 years.

Eminent and learned media enthusiasts of yesteryears from the bengalee community of Bihar ran the weekly for decades. In the year 1938 Bengalee Association, Bihar was formed. In that very year the ownership of the weekly was transferred to the Association. Since then the Bengalee Association, Bihar and its leadership took care to publish this weekly as its own voice.

The sail was never smooth. Shortage of funds, of volunteers to work for it appeared to be critical many a times. Management had to be taken over by some or other wealthier individual of the Bengalee community or his business unit, for short periods. Yet the trust of Association with Behar Herald never ceased. To quote Rabindra Nath Thakur, the Gurudev, from the blessings he had given to the weekly on 4th Oct'1938:-

Death, I refuse to accept from thee
That I am nothing but gigantic jest of God.
That I am annihilation
Built with all the wealth of the Infinite.

In the year 1975, Centenary of Behar Herald was celebrated and a valuable Centenary Volume was published.

The then Hon'ble President of India, Janab Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad messaged: "There are only a few weeklies in India with such a long history and tradition as the Behar Herald."

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi sent his good wishes: "The worth of a newspaper or journal is measured by the seriousness with which it approaches public problems and the effort it makes to stimulate the quality of rational analysis of events. I give my good wishes to the Journal on its centenary."

Hon'ble Speaker of Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Shri Harinath Mishra reminisced: "It was because of Behar Herald's crusading mission that Gandhiji came to Bihar and started his first ever Satyagraha in this country in the district of Champaran against the Indigo planters in 1917."

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Janab Abdul Gafoor observed: "Many eminent and distinguished sons of Bihar and Bengal have remained associated with this Journal and have contributed to the intellectual and cultural growth of this state. The Behar Herald has, throughout its long career taken a balanced view of men and matters and has always adopted a constructive approach."

Up to 1987 the journal continued. But then the publication ceased.

Now, in 2015 the Bengalee Association, Bihar has again taken up the challenge to publish it. The New Series of Behar Herald was inaugurated on 15th July 2015.

Since inception, democracy and secularism have been the motto of the weekly, with representation to all minorities to use the weekly as their forum for rights.

The test of democracy lies in the sense of securities that a minority feels in any society. No minority can expect, consistent with values of democracy and secularism, any special treatment or favour. Likewise no minority must ever be denied rights and securities that the Constitution guarantees.

By reviving the journal we simply hope to uphold the highest ideals in journalism now as well as in the future and let us hope for another hundred years!!!

It is our earnest endeavour to work tirelessly and relentlessly for restoration of pride and glory of our state — Bihar, the ageless Bihar.

We dedicate ourselves towards achieving the same.

Committee for Behar Herald
Bengalee Association, Bihar

Introduction of tram in Patna and its demise

- Prabuddha Biswas

Horse-drawn tram was introduced in Patna along with Kolkata in 1886-87 phase, connecting the then Patna City with the new township of Bankipur to serve the population of Patna.

TRAM IN OTHER TOWNS

In those days, bullock carts, 'Tongas served as the 'vehicle of transport' for commoners and elites used to ride on Palanquins, 'Buggies' and on Elephants. In that background; English experimented with 'horse-drawn tram' as rapid mode of transport (like 'Metro Rail' and 'Mono Rail' in modern times) for big towns like Calcutta (now Kolkata), Patna and Dacca in the Bengal province. In the Indian subcontinent, various variants of trams, as 'rapid mode of transport' were also experimented in various towns and they included Madras (now Chennai), Bombay (Mumbai), Nasik, Delhi, Kanpur and Lahore.

The main intention of the colonial rulers behind the introduction of tram-service in the bigger towns was to 'to cater more people in carrying them from one part of the town to other part in lesser time and at cheaper price.'

PATNA TRAM ROUTE

In Patna, the track for the 'Horse-drawn Tram' was laid down from the then 'Patna-City Railway Station to Bankipur-stand. Presently, the 'New Railway Over Bridge' is fast coming up on the spot, west of the Patna Sahib Railway Station; which was the starting point of the 'Horse-drawn Tram' of Patna.

The then 'tram-route' moved through the present day 'Chawk-Shikarpur Road' towards Patna City Chawk, in the north. After reaching 'Ashok Rajpath', in the Patna City Chawk, the Tram route turned left and moved west, along the 'Ashok Rajpath' and ended its journey in Bankipur, on the very spot; in front of the present day Pirbahore Police Station; i.e. the western-end destination of Patna horse drawn tram route.

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF NEWLY EMERGED MAHALLAS

Presently, the western-end destination of the 'horse-drawn tram' is the very busy area, i.e. Sabzibagh Mahalla; which had emerged as the busy Tonga stand of Bankipur since second half of 18th Century. After the shifting of the Patna factory of Gulzarbagh to the Company Bagh (Patna District Court Campus) during 1767-68; the Sabzibagh tonga stand became more busy area. The introduction of track of 'horse drawn tram' justified the growing importance of newly emerged mahallas of Sultanganj-Mahendru-Muradpur in between old Patna City and newly emerged Bankipur Township.

THE ORIGINAL PLAN

At that time, Patna city railway station was the most important station and the 'horse drawn tram route' was laid down consciously to serve the passengers 'for both ways'.

The original ambitious plan was to extend the tram-route, phase-wise; till Danapur and further to Maner and linking them with respective ferry-ghats to cater the businessmen and passengers of Doriganj, Chapra and Revelganj (very important markets of those days) across river Ganges. But it was never materialized.

THE VIABILITY OF TRAM AS 'RAPID MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT'

During the time period from 1886-87; a joint-stock company was formed to run trams in Patna. The Company started with horse-drawn tram but it struggled for 17 long years but was forced to close down in 1903 after several hiccups, due to non-viability.

Contacts for Behar Herald at :

Bhagalpur	- Rakesh Chandra Jha	- 9162312692
Madhupur	- Tapas Kumar Sil	- 8092277258
Purnea	- Pradipta Bhattacharya	- 9430686431
Munger	- Mukul Das	- 8507173599
	- Falguni Mukherji	- 9661527029
Gaya	- Nimai Bhattacharya	- 9234797962

Family Planning in India: A Bird's Eye View

- Dr. B. B. Mandal

India was the first country in the world to adopt family planning as an integral part of its socio-economic development plans in 1952 "to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the requirement of national economy". Its need was recognized long before India's independence. As early as in 1891 when the Census Report invoked Thomas Robert Malthus to contend that overpopulation was responsible for India's poverty, several Indian scholars also accepted overpopulation as the cause of India's economic backwardness. Perhaps the first action oriented family planning was made in 1925 when Professor Raghunath Dhondo Karve opened a birth control clinic in Pune. In 1930 government operated birth control clinics were opened in Mysore and by 1939 such clinics started operating in the then Central Province and Uttar Pradesh. All India Women's Conference also advocated birth control as far back as in 1932.

The National Planning Committee set up in 1938 under the chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru constituted a sub-committee with Professor Radhakamal Mukherjee as its chairman to draw its recommendations on population problem in India. Recommendations of the sub-committee laid the foundation of the official policy of family planning in post-independent India. During the period preceding Independence there was a wide-spread debate among political and intellectual circles over the need of family planning and population control. Mahatma Gandhi who was opposed to the use of contraceptive believed that self-control was the best contraceptive. But many of his followers and colleagues, notably Jawaharlal Nehru favoured artificial methods since self-restrained was impractical for most people.

Since inception of the programme, it has passed through mainly four phases. In the initial stage, research and experimentation in trying out different methods and creating motivation among potential couples were carried out. Facilities for family planning were made available in health clinics. Unexpected increase of population as recorded in 1961 Census necessitated a shift from clinical to cafeteria approach according to which multiple family planning methods were simultaneously propagated. Monetary incentive was also introduced. Third phase of the programme started and ended with national internal emergency (June, 1975 to March, 1977). In stead of voluntary persuasion, compulsory sterilization programme was introduced. The latest phase has begun after March 1977. Force or coercion in any form was ruled out and the programme was renamed as family welfare. Along with it, priority was given to programmes involving social restructuring through full employment, uplift of backward classes, health care, education, water supply, child care and mother care.

Since reduction in crude birth rate in a short period of time was the motto of the programme, sterilization was highly recommended. But tubectomy (female sterilization) which outnumbers vasectomy by huge percentage is opted when she has desired number of children or is at tapering period of fertility, thus becoming almost non-consequential for population control. In view of this, from the year 1990, temporary or spacing methods have been emphasized.

According to available information, seven states such as Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Sikkim have dipped below 2.1 replacement rate or population stabilization rate whereas in four states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland, fertility rate is above 3.5.

High fertility rate in Bihar (4.0) seems to exist for a number of factors. Nearly a half of the girl's marriages occurs below the legal age at marriage of 18 years and becomes mother early. As girls are "parayadhan", sons are potential labour force for about 89% of the population living in the villages of Bihar. Besides, desire for sons is influenced by traditionally transmitted belief that "Pindadan" by son(s) is a means for securing place in heaven after death. It also signifies social prestige in patriarchal social life. Parents also see their sons as social security at their old age. As a caution against death of son that may come at childhood or at young age, parents want at least two sons. It is because of such preference, death of son at infancy quickens next child birth within a period of 16/17 months while in case of girl's death, next child birth occurs at an interval of over 24 months after her death. Since the probability of a son being born of a pregnancy is 50:50, a couple has to have a statistical minimum of four children to assure the survival of a son beyond childhood. In addition to these socio-economic factors, lack of adequate health care facilities in rural areas of Bihar which could reduce child mortality, discourages acceptance of fewer child births.

Event Planner

January 2016

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
53	28	29	30	31	1 Satyendra Nath Bose's Birthday	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12 Swami Vivekanand's Birthday	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Birthday	24
4	25 Michael Madhusudan Dutta's Birthday	26 Republic Day	27	28	29	30	31

Standard Industries

35, New Market, Patna - 800001

Telephone No.: 2222343

e-mail : amitmu1947@gmail.com;
standard7864@gmail.com



Cruiser
Luggage

Travelstyle TravelExecutive

Committee of Behar Herald (2015-16)

Executive Editor	: Alope Chatterjee	9470484293	alokechatterjee22121956@gmail.com
Editorial Committee	: Dr. B B Mandal	9835870065	bbmandal42@gmail.com
	: Bidyut Pal	9431882019	bidyutkajol@gmail.com
	: Prabudha Biswas	9334140561	pbiswas62@gmail.com
Chief Reporter	: Partho Pratim Roy	9835062191	
News Correspondent	: Tarun Kumar Mukherjee	9006645950	tkm303@gmail.com
Managerial Committee			
Convener (Ex-officio)	: Dr. (Capt.) Dilip Kr Sinha	9835021064	dilipsinhadr@gmail.com
	President, Bengalee Association, Bihar		
Members	: Purnendu Skehkar Pal	9431664536	purnenduskehkarpal@gmail.com
	: Sachhida Nand Sinha	9006765551	sachchida.sinha@yahoo.co.in
Circulation-in-charge	: Shib Shankar Guha	9835214172	guha_ss@yahoo.co.in
Advt.-in-charge	: Anjan Kumar Sen	9431492263	
Managing Editor	: Sunirmal Das	9430294287	sunirmalpat@gmail.com
Office	: Bishwanath Deb	9835495788	biswanathdeb.bba@gmail.com
Office Assistant	: Ms. Ranjana Sinha	9801584341	
Accounts	: Bibhas Dutta	9334126307	

Dear Patron & Readers of Behar Herald

Now you can get the Behar Herald from your newspaper supplier/hawker. Ask your newspaper supplier / hawker to collect the same from M/s Eastern News Agency, New Market, Patna - 800 001 (C/o Waseem Khan 0612-2204493). (From 11 am to 8 pm)

We are interested to deliver Behar Herald in Bihar & Jharkhand through your newspaper hawkers. We request to send your name, area, mobile no. and the your hawkers name & his mob. no., so that we can contact him for the delivery of Behar Herald. We will pay commission to them. **If any difficulty, please contact - SS Guha, Circulation Incharge - 9155071149 or Sunirmal Das - 9430294287.**

TRIBUTE

IN LOVING MEMORY
LATE SHANTI SEN

4.11.1929 - 23.12.2011

Wife of Late Amiya Sen

*We will always remember
your love, affection and sacrifices*



ASHIM SEN, ANJAN KR. SEN (SONS), MANJUSHREE SEN (DAUGHTER IN LAW), PREETI SEN SARKAR, RINI SEN (GRAND DAUGHTERS), PRITAM SARKAR (GRANDSON IN LAW)

Behind Mona Cinema, Bankipur, Patna - 800004
Mob - 9431492263