



Estd. 1874

REVISED SERIES VOL.- IV, 186<sup>th</sup> & 187<sup>th</sup> issue Dated 7<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Price ₹ : 2.00



## The Bi-Centenary of Pyaricharan Sarkar

- Dr. Kalipada Pradhan

In a glowing tribute to him, Vidyasagar wrote immediately after his sudden, unexpected death: *We knew each other from early youth, and we were so closely attached that in him (প্যারিচারণ সরকার) I have lost a dear and affectionate brother. To the public the loss cannot be easily replaced. His great ability, high character and single-minded zeal in works of humanity rendered him highly useful to society at large, while his devotedness to the cause of temperance which was manifested in the foundation of the Bengal Temperance society, in the publication of many valuable tracts in English and Bengali, and in other acts, will doubtless be long cherished in grateful remembrance by all lovers and promoters of temperance in this country*¹.

What Vidyasagar remarked through the impressive lines about Pyaricharan, another unforgettable figure and one of the most important personalities of the nineteenth century Bengal renaissance, endowed by nature with great talents constitutes the basics of his character. It is less in the spirit of adulation than it is out of the desire to study the course of Sarkar's career and his service in public life. This was dedicated to his most ardent close associate and intimate friend whose early life was somewhat plagued by his unfortunate family feuds. His eldest brother's premature death did not allow him to pursue much in institutional education further. He was forced to leave his college and take up a Bank job for some time in Hooghly and afterwards joined as the second teacher of the Hooghly School in 1843 where his teachers gave him glowing certificates and praised his acumen in Mathematics and English. In the same year his essay *on the Effect upon India of the new communication with Europe by Means of Steam* appeared in the Department of Public Instruction's Report on Education. He became the Headmaster of Barasat School in 1846, and occupied the post till 1854. With time the school was renamed Barasat Peary Charan Sarkar Government High School in his honour.

Pyaricharan was the truest and sincerest well-wisher and friend of Vidyasagar. This is worth to reckon with. Once he openly said elsewhere: I have seen four persons in life. Of them one was Pyaricharan. Once he saved Vidyasagar from a disgraceful situation by giving him instantly three thousand rupees in response to his urge to pay the same to somebody Vidyasagar had to pay as he made himself responsible for his conduct. Out of extreme generosity Vidyasagar stood surety for the person urgently seeking a job who took to flight with the amount in a petty way within a brief spell of time after employment. Again, at a point of time, a misunderstanding arose between them when Pyaricharan took initiative to repay huge debts incurred by Vidyasagar with the help of his

Continued on page 2

## Glimpses of participation of Bengalee Association, Bihar in Kolkata Book Fair 2022



1) Release of Sanchita Special issue and History of BAB on Shankha Ghosh Mancha on 12th March 2022



2) Release of Panch Dugune Dosh on Shankha Ghosh Mancha on 12th March 2022



3) The stall No. 191 in preparation on 1st March 2022

4) A busy evening in the stall



4) Cover images Sanchita Special issue, History of BAB, Commemorative collection on Subhash Chandra Ghosh (Pen-named Chandragupta Maurya) and a story book 'Panch dugune Dosh'

## Bengalee Association, Bihar in IKBF 2022

IKBF or International Kolkata Book Fair began this year on 28th February and ran till 13th March. It was held in the Fair-grounds near Karunamoyee metro station at Kolkata where it is being held for so many years after being shifted from the ground (later developed as a park) adjacent to Victoria Memorial and then from Maidan also. With an atmosphere relaxed from scare for one more phase of lockout, publishing houses, centres for data entry, printers all worked overtime since December 2021, to deliver new Book Fair special issues of little magazines, new editions of old books and publication of new books to show-case in the fair and cater to the readers.

Bengalee Association, Bihar also took the initiative to prepare a new Book Fair special issue of Sanchita and a collection of writings about the history – struggles and achievements – of the Association.

Moreover, the president of the Association Dr. (Capt.) Dilip Kumar Sinha and editor of Behar Herald, Bidyut Pal jointly decided to publish a collection of some stories written by them, most of which would specifically explore the trust with mother-tongue of the Bengalees living in Bihar.

But most important was the decision of the Association to book a stall for itself to participate in the Book Fair and make it a platform for Bohirbanga (Beyond Bengal, in India). The secretary of the Association, Sunirmal Dash made all-out efforts to get the stall booked in time.

To add focus on Bihar, Mukhaboyob publications of Agartala published a commemorative collection on famous writer of Bhagalpur, Subhash Chandra Ghosh, pen-named 'Chandragupta Maurya', whose name has been forgotten these days, in spite of giving once well-appreciated novels like 'East Buckland Road', interesting memoirs like 'Bench & Bar; novel on Santhal rebellion, 'Agniborni Shalpiyal' and many other novels. The collection has been edited by Birendrabhushan Mukhopadhyay and Tanmay Beer.

The stall booked for the Bengali Association, Bihar numbered 191. From the day one, it really became the platform for Bengali literature beyond Bengal. Writers from Jharkhand, Assam (Barak) and Tripura also displayed their books in the stall. As before, Prof. Tanmay Beer took the whole workload of preparing and managing the stall. Mr. Apurba sat on the counter, managed sales, stocks etc. for whole period of the fair.

But these efforts to showcase the social, cultural struggle of the Bengalees in Bihar under the leadership of Bengalee Association, Bihar in IKBF 2022 have put before the Association some more tasks. The Sanchita special issue dedicates itself to 250th Birth Anniversary of Rammohun Roy and also Golden Jubilee year for Sanchita. Association should use the anniversary celebration to propagate the necessity of rational, scientific, humanistic outlook developed through the phenomenon called Bengal Renaissance of which Rammohun was the harbinger, to understand the present-day world realities. Whereas, the jubilee of Sanchita should be celebrated in a way that will enthuse cultural and literary activities and encourage learning of Bengali language among the children of the families, in all the branches of the Association.

workers. Of all the strata of society, this class is the one which most requires that a solution be found to the painful conflict between compulsory professional labour by women and their duties as representatives of their sex, as mothers. Following a powerful class instinct rather than a clearly understood idea, the working class strove to find a way of resolving this conflict.

It was only feeling its way forward, and did not immediately choose the right path, but nonetheless it was without doubt the organised section of the working class that called for the defence of motherhood when the representatives of other classes were still denying the existence of the very problem, and when the measures suggested to solve it were looked upon as childish utopianism. As early as the first congress of the International in the late 1860s, the socialists raised the question of the protection of women workers as mothers and representatives of their sex. Since then, the organised representatives of the working class have constantly returned to this question. The measures originally proposed by the workers were, it is true,

Continued on page 2

## Society and Motherhood

- Alexandra Kollontai

Among the numerous problems raised by contemporary reality there is probably none more important for mankind, none more vital and urgent than the problem of motherhood created by the large-scale capitalist economic system. The problem of protecting and providing for the mother and young child is one that faces social politicians, knocks relentlessly at the door of the statesman, engages the health and hygiene specialists, concerns the social statistician, haunts the representative of the working class and weighs down on the shoulders of tens of millions of mothers compelled to earn their own living.

Side by side with the problem of sex and marriage, enveloped in the poetical language of the psychological suffering, insoluble difficulties and unsatisfied needs of noble souls, there is always to be found the majestic and tragic figure of motherhood wearily carrying her heavy burden. Neo-Malthusians, social-reformers and philanthropists have all hastened to provide their own particular solution to this thorny problem, and all sing the praises of their own method of restoring paradise lost to mothers and babies.

Meanwhile the number of children's corpses grows and grows, and the unruly birth rate, instead of 'sensibly' rising to the level that would meet the requirements of the state,

reveals an unpleasant tendency to steady decline. The prosperity of national industry and the development of the national economy depend upon a constant supply of fresh labour; the military might of the nation is ensured by the continual increase in the able-bodied male population. What should be done if the population growth not only diminishes with every decade but, as is the case in France, repeatedly drops below replacement level? Disturbed by these worrying symptoms, the state authorities in one country after another are joining the ranks of the defenders of young children and are turning to a principle alien in spirit to the modern order – the principle of state maternity insurance, a principle in sharp contradiction with the present social structure as the latter undermines the basis of marriage and violates the fundamental concepts of private-family rights and relationships. However, if, in the name of 'higher' considerations of state and under the pressure of necessity, the state authorities have been compelled to advance and implement a measure so at odds with the prevailing spirit of the representatives of the bourgeois world, at the other end of the social scale, among the working class, the principle of providing for and protecting mother and child is welcomed with enthusiasm and sympathy.

The demand that the social collective (the community) provide maternity insurance and child protection was born of the immediate and vital needs of the class of hired

## Hunger Rules Over Second Covid-19 Wave

India's second wave that didn't see a national lockdown like in the first failed to significantly alleviate economic distress and hunger among the poor, according to a survey of 6,500 respondents in 14 states.

A report, quoting the survey, Hunger Watch-2, commissioned by the Right to Food Campaign and The Centre for Equity Studies from December-2021 to January 2022 says it evaluates economic distress following the second wave. The same organisations had conducted a similar survey, Hunger Watch-1, in October-December 2020 to measure the fallout of the first wave.

Of the respondents to the second survey, 66 per cent said their income had decreased as compared to pre-pandemic period. This proportion was larger among urban households, among households earning less than Rs 3,000 per month and among Muslim households. Only 34 per cent of the overall sample reported that their household's cereal consumption in the month preceding the survey was 'sufficient' and 79 per cent of the households surveyed reported some form of food insecurity.

Food insecurity is worse among urban households. Of Muslim households 87 per cent reported some form of food insecurity compared to 77 per cent Hindu households, the report noted.

The first survey had reported similar numbers suggesting that the absence of a national lockdown didn't automatically improve the odds of the poorest accessing adequate work and nutrition. Over two thirds of the respondents, for instance, reported that in October 2020, the quantity of food they were able to consume was less than what it was before the lockdown. Seven out of 10 respondents reported a worsening nutritional quality of

diets.

In 2020 too, the survey found, those belonging to socially vulnerable groups such as Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims as well as households with single women, aged, disabled were worse off. These households reported higher decline in consumption of food.

Only half of those interviewed ate eggs, milk, fresh foods and fruits less than 2-3 times a month. More than 25 per cent ate dark, green, leafy vegetables and pulses fewer than three times a month whereas 41 per cent reported that the nutritional quality of their diet had deteriorated compared to pre-pandemic levels. This proportion was higher among the urban than the rural households.

### 'PDS is providing relief'

The PDS is providing relief, the report underscored. While 84 per cent of the households had a ration card, over 90 per cent of those who were eligible said they received some food grains. However, other schemes weren't effective. A quarter of households with eligible members said they could not avail the Mid-Day Meal Scheme or the Integrated Child Development Services provisions.

For both surveys, more than 70 per cent of those interviewed were from rural India. While 64 per cent were Hindu, 18 per cent were Muslim and 71 per cent of the respondents were women. Both male and female working members reported spending approximately 18 days working in the month prior to the survey. Non-agricultural casual labour was a prominent source of employment in rural and urban areas. Of all households 18 per cent reported that a child that was in school before the pandemic had dropped out.

[From New Age weekly, Feb 27 - Mar 5, 2022 issue]

Continued from page 1

### The Bi-Centenary of ...

many contemporary friends and editors of *National Paper*, *Somprakash* and *Hindu Patriot*. Vidyasagar was shocked to learn their voluntary efforts and expressed his deep concern over the affair and refused their help. To utter hopelessness the Well Wisher editor excused himself to Vidyasagar for the step he had taken in starting this fund. Notwithstanding the fact their friendship remained intact for life. Pyaricharan was born under the British rule at Chorbagan in North Calcutta on January 23, 1823. His family hailed from Tarha of Hooghly in Bengal, and the family surname was originally Das. For services rendered, the Nawab of Bengal had awarded the title *Sarkar* to Bireswar Das, an ancestor. Bhairav Chandra Sarkar, Pyaricharan's father, had become quite wealthy as a ship chandler serving the East India Company, and the family was a fairly good example of the new *bhadralok* class. Sarkar received his first school education at David Hare's Pataldanga School, and after that he was admitted to Hindu College with a scholarship of forty rupees per month, but shortly after the sudden death of his eldest brother he had to leave the college and busy with his income by his own initiative. His brother was working in Hooghly

and could only send money to their mother. As a Hindu widow she had little standing in the family and was thrown out in a violent way from the family home, along with Sircar and his younger brothers and sisters.

While at Barasat High School as Headmaster, two brothers, Nabinkrishna Mitra and Kalikrishna Mitra of Barasat, offered in 1847 to fund Bengal's first private school for girls if Sarkar would agree to help set it up. The school, later renamed Kalikrishna Girls' High School began operations, but Barasat was an extremely conservative Brahmin-majority area and the residents were outraged. There was a rumour at that time that several landlords were offering money to have Sircar assassinated. At this point of time John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune stepped in to help. He strongly urged the financiers not to give up, and in due course the opposition became weaker in their mission. Bethune visited the Barasat school in 1848, and was so impressed that in 1849 he set up the Bethune School for Girls in Calcutta. Sircar continued to be active in campaigning for women's education helping to set up several more such schools including a technical and agricultural schools. His adherence to scientific view and unorthodox approach did transform him in his personal life.

## Elections in BAB, Forbesganj branch



General body meeting and elections in Forbesganj branch of Bengalee Association, Bihar was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in Jain Atithi Niwas.

Dr. Dipak Mitra and Dr. S. K. Laha were elected president and secretary respectively. The meeting was presided by Dilip Pal and central observer was Pranab Kumar Das. Inter alia, Madan Kumar Chatterji, Alok Das Bishwajit Chaudhary and Dulal Ghosh were elected vice presidents, Ratan Sen, Abhijit Biswas, Jayanta Das and Munna

Roy were elected joint secretaries, for the posts of asst. secretaries Gautam Das, Sanjit Niyogi, Sandip Bose and Amar Bhadra were elected, Prosenjit Choudhury was elected treasurer and as executive committee members Gopal Nandi, Swapan Roy, Pradip Biswas, Uttam Pal, Subroto Kundu, Uttam Roy, Rakesh Das, Animesh, Niranjana Das were elected. The meeting elected Tamal Sen, Ujjwal Choudhury, Abhijit Sarkar, Dilip Pal, Rathin Dutt, Alope Sengupta and Sanjay Pal were elected.

His fearless progressive stand on his contemporary social issues like women education, polygamy, widow remarriage is evident in his works. With a stipend of two hundred rupees, he was appointed headmaster of the Colootollah School and was responsible for changing its name to Hare School. In 1861 he was appointed as a temporary lecturer at Presidency College, Calcutta, and in 1867 he was made permanent. There was some opposition to this act as he had never completed his education. But in those days, this was not so unusual as it later was to become, and Sircar's teaching-learning abilities were plainly evident to the authorities.

Sarkar continued his campaigning for women's rights, donating two and a half thousand rupees, then a huge sum of money to the Widow remarriage Fund in 1869. In 1873, he became a member of the working committee of Keshab Chandra Sen's Society for the Suppression of Vice in Indian Society. He was also associated with the Bengal Temperance Society. Keshab Chandra Sen later took up his work on temperance in Indian Reform Association. Even after he was appointed as Assistant Professor at Presidency College, he used to visit Colootollah school and take a few classes whenever he could. Very meticulous he was in teaching and always corrected his students' work minutely. He also insisted that they should learn practical skills as well, and used to teach them gardening. In 1875, while working in his garden, he cut his finger. The wound turned gangrenous and an operation failed to save his life. He died on 1 October, 1875.

Pyaricharan Sircar, also spelled Pyari Churn Sircar or Pyari Charan Sircar in contemporary documents was an educationist, first popular English textbook writer and social reformer in nineteenth century Bengal. His series of Reading Books introduced a whole generation of Bengalis to the English language, sold in the millions and were translated into every major Indian language. He was also a pioneer of women's education in Bengal and was called *Arnold of the East*. The First Book of Reading for Native Children was published in 1850, probably by the School Book Press, set up by him at home

and the rest of the Reading Books (numbers two to six) came out between 1851 and 1870, not necessarily in sequence. The School Book Revision Committee after twenty years from the publication of his *First Book* wrote about this book: *On the whole the best we have seen for the lower classes*. He wrote a few books on Geography. His last incomplete book was *The Tree of Intemperance*. Pyaricharan's reformist impulse had its roots in the belief that the British rule had opened up new avenues for pursuing meaningful social change. As Asok Sen says, the reformer's goal was to enlighten the public, educate the government, and thereby win the *necessary state and social support for his desired goals*<sup>2</sup>. He played a significant role in the Bengal reawakening and the remaking of the polity of Bengal. Apart from his role in initiating women's education and impressing upon people to send their daughters to school when Bethune school was opened, he played a pioneering role in the teaching of agriculture in a scientific manner. He set up a vocational training centre for the children of women workers and was instrumental in opening many new schools. He was one of the patrons of Hindu Mela. He was appointed editor of the government newspaper Education Gazette in 1866, but resigned from that position when he was not allowed to publish certain news. He took a leading part to promote prohibition and was one of the founders of Eden Hindu Hostel. He published two newspapers named *well-wisher* and *Hitasadhak*. He had as much generosity as Vidyasagar. A number of poor students, widows, disabled and infirm persons were the beneficiaries of his generosity. His income was four thousand rupees per month at that time. Still, he was involved in debts. He used to feed everyday nine hundred famine-hit people at his Chorbagan alms-house set up in opposite to his residence at Muktarum Babu Street, Calcutta in 1866 when terrible famine broke out in Orissa and Bengal. Very honest and simple he was in his personal life. He was fond of eating, practised homeopathy and vocal-instrumental music. He was not only the father of seven sons

## In Memoriam

Aijaz Ahmad



Prof. Aijaz Ahmad was a learned scholar in ideology, politics and culture. "I feel, to truly have democracy, we need to have socialism. There is something deeply incompatible between democracy and capitalism that only produces oligarchic power."

Tarit Shekhar Basu



Died 2nd March 2022

Owner of famous book business house Bharati Bhawan, prolific producer of standard text books, renowned photographer and a helpful man.

Sabitri Sarkar

Sabitri Sarkar was a teacher in Aghore Prakash Shishu Sadan and also teachers' representative in the managing committee of the school.



17.1.1959 - 7.3.2022

and six daughters but he helped his nephews rear up and establish all of them like his sons and daughters.

Sarkar represents an exceptional stream of thought and consciousness. Quite extraordinarily at a time when religion had become the preferred mode of self-expression for English Educated Hindus, he extended earnestly his help to Vidyasagar in respect of social reforms. Apart from his outstanding service to the spread of English education, scientific temper and sense of reason, his ideas and performance in child education in particular deserve due attention and research. His multi-faceted achievement should be studied widely at all levels. Especially in today's critical times, the initiation of new discourse on his life and contribution is of immense value and indeed relevant in a new way.

### Notes and References :

1. Nabakrishna Ghosh, Pyaricharan Sircar, 1902 Calcutta, P. 5-6.
2. Asok Sen, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar and his Elusive Milestones, Calcutta, Riddhi-India, 1977 P- 73.

[Dr. Kalipada Pradhan is Life Member, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata- Jahalda, 721443, Paschim Medinipur, W.B.]

Continued from page 1

## Society and Motherhood

somewhat inconsistent and contradictory, and did not correspond to the basic tendencies within the workers' movement. However, as the close link between the working-class movement and the trend of increasing female professional labour became clearer, the basic demands of male and female workers on this issue were gradually defined.

The demands at present being put forward by socialists for the protection of and provision for

Continued on page 4

## Bengali literature in Bihar

- Bidyut Pal

Roots of Bengali literature in Bihar can be said to be very old because the languages of this Eastern region of the country share a common root language which existed in this land. Bengali poetry or literature in general claim Charyapada to be their oldest predecessor. Perhaps Maithili and Oriya also claim the same. As R. R. Diwakar says in his celebrated work 'Bihar through the ages':

"Charya songs were written in an Eastern vernacular closely resembling the different local varieties of the New Indo-Aryan of the east. Charya songs were equally intelligible to the speakers of all eastern dialects. Moreover, the Siddhacharyas did not all belong to only one region but they came from Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and even from as far west as Saurashtra. The monasteries (Mahaviharas) of Tantric Buddhists in Bengal and Bihar (viz. Pandubhumi, Jagandala, Somapura, Vikramsila, Nalanda and Odantpuri) were open to scholars and monks from everywhere." [Pages 350-352]

He further clarifies:

"It is generally believed that till the 9th century AD the languages of eastern provinces such as Bihar, Bengal, Assam and Orissa had not developed any features distinct enough to be clearly distinguished from one another."

Not only the language, the script also was the same.

"During this period, the same script was used throughout East India, i.e., from Varanasi (and further West) to Assam. This was the eastern version of the Kutila or later Nagari script."

With the development of Modern Bengali literature in 19th century the land of Bihar became important to that literature in two ways. Firstly, the educated and literary-minded Bengalis living in various towns of Bihar began contributing their share of creative persuasions to the great fount; literary groups began to be formed and magazines began to be published. Secondly, with the development of Calcutta (aka Kolkata) as a great metropolis of the East, the necessary alter-egos of the highly urbanised soul, searched the eternal human values in proximity with nature over the land, people and expanses of Bihar.

The second point needs in a different perspective of analysis. Discussion on Bengali literature in Bihar should remain limited within the scopes of first point only.

Naming the names may begin with Baldeb Palit. He is quite known among the 'forgotten' educators living in Patna. He

lived in Danapur, worked in the cantonment and funded establishment of schools. At least two schools in Patna were established at his behest whereas a school in Danapur carries his name (Baldeva High School) even today. But few of the Bengalis of Patna even, know about Baldeb Palit as a poet acclaimed and appreciated by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay himself in his literary journal 'Bharatbarsha'. Though Bankim said him to be "old-fashioned" (quite obviously this happens with most of the diasporic literature in all international languages) he also greatly appreciated the poetic flavour of 'Kabyamanjari' by Baladeb Palit. Known Biographer of litterateurs, Brajendranath Bandopadhyay praises Palit for his innovative work in using some Sanskrit rhymes in Bengali poetry for the first time.

The second name is of Kedarnath Bandopadhyay. Though main body of his writings were published while he was living in Benares or elsewhere outside Bengal, he made Purnia of Bihar his home after the death of his wife. A literary gathering centred around him developed in Purnia of which Satinath Bhaduri was also a young participant. A litterateur with great human observation, wit and experiences he has a number of books of novels, stories, travelogues (mentionable is that of China), plays and poems. Three volumes of his writings has already been published by Bihar BanglaAcademy.

After this we may mention the period of growing Sharatchandra and the followings he developed in Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur. Saratchandra, one of the greatest of all times in novel and short stories written in Indian languages, cannot be confined in the precincts of 'Bengali writing in Bihar'. His greatest works were written later. But in Bihar, Bhagalpur particularly, he developed his thirst for creative writings and also the primary human materials for those. He also directly, greatly contributed in developing the culture and quality of literary 'addas' (informal gatherings) and local magazines in Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur. So many literary personages developed from these 'addas' and magazines. One particular name is of Anurupa Devi from Muzaffarpur. She became quite a popular novelist. His novels were regularly serialised in periodicals published in Kolkata and then published as books. She was one of the early feminists as well. Her 'Leela' lecture at Calcutta University presents a glimpse of her thoughts.

One other, contemporary Bihari Bengali writer and novelist was Ashalata Singha. Though born and brought up in Bihar, she went to Birbhum during later period. Collection of her

writings was published by Bihar Bangla Academy during 1980s.

After this comes the age of a golden period of Bengali novels and short stories in which three names from Bihar shine brightly even today; they not only were creators of great prose but pioneered in content and form in many ways.

Bibhutibhushan Mukhopadhyay, the famed 'Darbhanga ke Bibhutibabu' gave us 'Kushi Pranganer Chithi', an unique river-centric autobiographical narrative, which is equally important for Bengali literature for the inter-face it creates with the land and people of Bihar and for Hindi literature for the first-hand literary exposition of the plains of a great river called 'sorrow of Bihar' due to devastating floods every season. Bibhutibabu was a prolific writer. Along with his novels and short stories, his gem of a work in the genre of children's literature is 'Ranur Pratham bhag', whereas his humour sketches were also elegantly successful.

Balaichand Mukhopadhyay – Banaphul – was another great of the trio. He was from Bhagalpur. His novels were widely read. His plays were enacted in theatres. Successful films have been made based on his stories. But he also developed a genre of micro stories in Bengali. Called 'anugarpa', this form is very popular now a days on social media platforms.

Lastly, Satinath Bhaduri from Purnia. A political activist and literary rebel from the beginning, his very first novel 'Jagori' (Vigil) pioneered in a new type of novel in Bengali. Contemporary political discourse through stream of consciousness of a prisoner waiting to be hanged, his father and mother lodged in other parts of the jail and his younger brother waiting outside to take the body of his brother after death. His next famous novel 'Dharaicharit Manas' is also a trailblazer both for Bengali and Hindi. It explores the liberatory aspects of the movement for India's independence by positing it in the daily life of a mostly illiterate backward community of Purnia and the latter's interaction with the educated urban leadership of the movement. Satinath lived short. But his great body of literature and diaries are treasures for social and aesthetic research.

After this golden period, we do not find big names of that stature. But Bengalees from Bihar continued to contribute in the fount of Bengali literature. During the 60s and 70s of the last Century we find number of literary magazines, literary gatherings (addas), published or hand-written literary magazines, books worth-mentioning.

[Contd.]

## Trip to Andaman - The Paradise Island

- Sohini Paul

After spending a week in the Paradise Island, I am on my way home, heading towards Veer Savarkar Airport (Port Blair) with a "boatload" of memories ... the turquoise blue sea and pristine white beaches of Andaman have bowled me over. This place is very real, pristine and pure – probably slid completely off the tourism map resulting in very few tourists. The beauty of these islands surpasses your expectation of an average Indian beach destination. This was my 2nd visit to Andaman and we have spent most of our time in the two most beautiful islands - Havelock and Neil.



In Port Blair, (The Capital City of Andaman) we visited the Cellular Jail and watched the Light and Sound Show. The Cellular Jail, also known as "Kala Pani", was a colonial prison used by the British to exile freedom fighters during the British rule in . Such Monuments serve as a reminder of the sacrifices of our forefathers and the price of independence..."Lest we forget".

Andaman is the only place in India to have the commercial seaplane service. My parents and I didn't want to lose this chance. We flew in a seaplane from Port Blair to Havelock instead of taking a ferry across.

**And the Cool Sea Plane Ride.....**

The Cessna 208 Amphibian aircraft has a capacity of 9 passengers and offers large individual window seats. As the seaplane took off from the air strip at Port Blair the breath-taking mix of colours of the island paradise made the aerial view simply amazing. Landing in the sea strip near Havelock was the next best thing. As we disembarked the seaplane on to a floating pontoon placed on the water dome, a speed boat was ready, exclusively for us, to take us to the shore. This ride made my trip even more special.

**TIPS: The luggage capacity for each passenger is 5 Kgs. So, make sure you travel light and avoid carrying extra baggage.**

**Havelock Island**

If you want to spend your holiday in a paradise, chase an adventure, experience the thrills you have secretly desired then without any delay plan your vacation to HAVELOCK.

Havelock is a surreal tropical paradise with beautiful sandy beaches and lush green forest located in the Bay of Bengal. Even though the Radha Nagar Beach (Beach no. 7) on Havelock has been voted as the Best Beach of Asia by The Time Magazine in 2004 based on the quality of sand, sea-depth, and many more factors, Vijay Nagar beach (Beach No. 5) remains my personal favourite. The Govindnagar Beach (Beach no. 3) and Elephant beach deserves a visit as well.

**Where to Stay:**

Havelock's staying options range from chic resorts to camping sites on beaches (check whether the camping on the beach is open before you plan on visiting). Resorts in Havelock are mostly very expensive.

The Dolphin Resort (Government Accommodation) located in Vijayanagar Beach is a budget option occupying a near-divine location and is popular with holidaymakers. Most of this beach is lined by large mahua trees whose trunks grow along the ground for many feet before they begin to climb vertically. This beach is perfect for long walks along the sea. It is a place to forget your worries, put the past behind and revel in the present's beauty.

**Things to Do:**

The secret of this island lies hidden in its relaxed environment, the rich nature and unique lifestyle of local people. I went to Havelock to lie on the tranquil beach and look at the corals. The colour of water changes from a crystal blue to topaz green and leaves you speechless. The landscape looks like a water colour painting of blue water and white sands.

There are a lot of marine sports that one can indulge in or just relax at the beautiful beaches. This white sand beach offers tranquillity, solitude and serenity. Due to the distance and inaccessibility, these waters are filled with fishes of all kinds and colours. The corals are untouched, and awaiting to be discovered by the curious divers.

There are a lot of diving clubs in Havelock who provide diving and snorkelling lessons. From the posters and directions given on the road you can either walk around and find a diving club yourself or ask your Resort for the details and they will guide you with a host of options.

Scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, sun bathing, elephant safari and fishing are popular activities here.

For me it's hard to resist the temptation of any adventure sports and I decided to go for my first scuba diving experience with Ocean Tribe, a diving club located close to Vijayanagar Beach.

**Getting around:**

The best way to explore this gorgeous island is to hire a motorbike or a bicycle and roam around. You can also ask your resort to arrange for a vehicle.

This island is popular with foreign tourists and they stay here for 2-3 months at least to enjoy the beauty and the laid-back lifestyle of the place.

**... and then we met the locals**

The close-knit warmth of small communities never fails to amaze me. We took an auto to the local market and met the cute little three-year old daughter of the auto driver who accompanied her father to the market to get a haircut. She entertained us with the stories of her school and friends.

The island is mostly inhabited by Bengalis. After partition of India in 1947, these people immigrated to Havelock Islands from Bangladesh and the Government of India gave them acres of land in this Island to support their livelihood. Today the price of land in Havelock Island is very high and is in great demand as it is gaining popularity as a tourist spot offering the most exotic location for Resorts. Many of the locals have already sold their land to the Resort owners and some are waiting for the negotiation.

Even though we wanted to stay back in Havelock but we did not want to miss the opportunity of spending a day in the quintessential soul of Andaman-The picturesque Neil Island. So, after spending 5 days in Havelock, we took a ferry to Neil.

**...time to say good bye...Andaman I will come again**

Strangely the flavour of both these islands (Havelock and Neil) are radically different as they portray diverse definitions of bliss. Havelock throbs with vibrant tourist activities and Neil is a return to meditative side.

This vacation with its fair share of leisure and adventures turned out to be a very relaxing, memorable and fulfilling one not only for me but also for my parents. And a big thanks to our friend Emulus for his guidance as it helped us plan this trip.

**How To Reach:**

The Andaman Islands are a group islands in the Bay of Bengal and Port Blair, the Capital of Andaman is connected to the mainland in the following ways:

By Sea - Regular passenger Ships are available from Kolkata, Chennai and Vishakhapatnam

By Air - Flight from Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi

Connectivity from Port Blair to Havelock and Neil Island

By Speed Boat (Port Blair to Neil and Havelock)

By MV.Makruzz ( Port Blair to Havelock)

By Sea Plane (Port Blair to Havelock)

Best Time to Visit - November to February

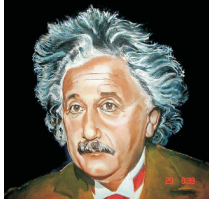
Remembering the 20th Century great

## Albert Einstein

### DISARMAMENT

It has not become a generally recognized axiom that the giant armaments of all nations are proving highly injurious to them collectively. I am even inclined to go a step further by the assertion that, under present day conditions any one state would incur no appreciable risk by undertaking to disarm—wholly regardless of the attitude of the other states.

If such were not the case it would be quite evident that the situation of such states as are unarmed or only partially equipped for defense would be extremely difficult, dangerous, and disadvantageous—a condition which is refuted by the facts. I am convinced that demonstrative reference to armaments are but a weapon in the hands of



14.3.1879 – 18.4.1955

## Psychological Problems Faced by Children and Teenagers

- Sabarni Kumar Pal

Edited by Dr. (Capt.) D. K. Sinha

Continued from last issue

### Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)



**Post (after) Traumatic (injurious to body or mind) Stress (harmful) Disorder (abnormality)**

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a common psychiatric condition in childhood and adolescence. After experiencing or witnessing a traumatic or terrifying event in which there was serious physical harm or threat, child can develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), comparable to, once called 'shell shock' or 'battle fatigue syndrome' for adults.

Intense fear, helplessness, or horror is the common cause of PTSD in children. These are caused by traumatic ordeals caused because of, physical assault, the unexpected death of a loved one, an accident, or natural disaster. Shock, anger, nervousness, fear, and even guilt are common reactions shown in children affected with PTSD.

For a usual person such reactions are common and the intensity gradually reduces and even goes away with time. But in a child with PTSD, experience of these feelings, not only come back to them again and again, but the intensity of these feelings for a PTSD may increase with time. PTSD symptoms can seriously disrupt the childhood for months and years.

#### PTSD Symptoms

Usually, the symptoms of PTSD start to surface within 3 months; sometimes they take up to 6 months after the event and in some cases and it can take even a year to show signs. The duration of recovery and the severity of the condition can vary but it can range from 6 months to some years.

Symptoms of PTSD often are grouped into four main categories, including:

- 1) Re-living - Child with PTSD almost re-live the same traumatic experience again and again through thoughts and memories of the trauma. Flashbacks, hallucinations, and nightmares may become a part of their daily lives.
- 2) Avoiding: The child will be avoiding people, places, thoughts, or situations that can remind him/her about the trauma. This results in being aloof and detached from family.
- 3) Increased arousal: may become excessive emotional, fails to show affection, suffers from insomnia or sleeplessness, gets irritated frequently, out bursts in anger, loses concentration, increased blood pressure or heart rate with rapid breathing and feeling of nausea or diarrhoea or both.
- 4) Negative cognitions and mood: Feelings of guilt and blaming own self for the event, gets trapped in the memories.

#### PTSD and Risk Factors

Everyone's reaction to trauma is different and everyone's ability to cope with fear, stress and threat is different. Hence, every child with trauma will not develop PTSD. The support received by family and friends during the post trauma period is a deciding factor in the development of PTSD and its severity. PTSD was first identified among war veterans but it can manifest into anybody due to trauma. Children who have been abused and children who have faced life threatening situations often develop PTSD symptoms.

the factors interested in their production or in the maintenance and development of a military system for financial or political—egotistic—reasons. I am firmly of the opinion that the educational effect of a first and genuine achievement in the realm of disarmament would prove highly efficacious, because the succeeding second and third steps would then be immeasurably simpler than the initial one; this for the obvious reason that the first results of an understanding would considerably weaken the familiar argument for national security with which parliamentarians of all countries now permit themselves to be intimidated. Armaments can never be viewed as an economic asset to a state. They must ever remain the unproductive exploitation of men and material and an encroachment on the economic reserves of a state through the temporary conscription of men in the active periods of their lives—not to mention the moral impairment resulting from a pre occupation with the profession of war and the moral processes of preparing a nation for it.

Children subjected to physical or sexual assault have a greater risk of developing PTSD. The people with prior mental illness are extremely prone to develop PTSD if they are exposed to any trauma.

#### PTSD Diagnosis

Although no lab test can show PTSD but the doctor may rule out all other possible medical illnesses on the basis of the report. In case of absence of any other illness the child may be referred to a psychiatrist, psychologist, or other mental health professional. They will diagnose the patient with the specifically designed interviews and questionnaire to determine the presence of PTSD.

#### PTSD Treatment

PTSD treatment aims to reduce the emotional and physical symptoms, to improve daily functioning and aims to help the child by psychotherapy, medication, or both.

#### Medication

Doctors use certain antidepressant medications to treat e.g., selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), Tricyclic antidepressants, Mood stabilizers, Atypical antipsychotics. Prazosin can be used for nightmares or Clonidine (Catapres) for sleep or Propranolol (Inderal) to help minimize the formation of traumatic memories

#### Psychotherapy

Psychotherapy for PTSD involves helping the child and family members to learn skills to manage symptoms and develop ways of coping. Therapy also aims to teach the family about the disorder, and help the child to work through the fears associated with the traumatic event.

#### PTSD Complications

PTSD can cause problems in every aspect of child's life; it may also lead to other mental health problems, such as Depression and anxiety, Eating disorders.

Recovery from PTSD is a gradual and on-going process. Symptoms of PTSD seldom disappear completely, but treatment can help child learn to manage it more effectively. Treatment can lead to fewer and less intense symptoms, as well as a greater ability to manage feelings related to the trauma.

Continued from page 2

## Society and Motherhood

mother and child are fully in accord with the overall tasks of the socialist movement. The evolution of social relations is clearly demonstrating that in this area the dominant trend is towards the transfer to the social collective (community) of those tasks and duties that hitherto were considered to be the inalienable functions of the members of individual families.

Thus, it has come about that, approaching this issue from different points of view and basing themselves on different reasons, both the state authorities on the one hand and the socialist parties on the other have arrived at one and the same conclusion, namely the need for state protection and provision for motherhood. The difference of opinion that now exists concerns not the recognition of the principle of maternity insurance, as was the case until fairly recently, but rather the application of this socio-political measure, its scope and implementation. Even in those countries that have already taken the first steps towards providing maternity insurance, the state

## Society & Motherhood (Contd.)

authorities are seeking to limit themselves to the minimum, making concession after concession to a disapproving bourgeois world. The representatives of the working class, on the other hand, are demanding radical measures and are subjecting to merciless criticism the inadequate reforms introduced by the present governments, who are attempting to defend the mother and child with one arm, while upholding with the other the very system of exploited hired labour which leads to the destruction of both.

The question of protecting and providing for motherhood via state insurance is one that arose only recently. Moreover, one of the most characteristic features of this social measure is that, here, practice preceded theory. The first step to protect the mother by legislation was taken in Switzerland in 1878, when an eight-week maternity leave for the working mother was made compulsory. State maternity insurance first began in Germany when, in 1883, a special clause on assistance for nursing mothers was included in the law on health insurance. Neither of these measures was dictated primarily by humanitarian considerations or the interests of working mothers. They were both prompted by the same phenomena, which for the first time were causing concern among state authorities: the horrific level of infant mortality in industrial areas (it had reached 65 per cent in the industrial districts of Germany by the 1870s), and the growing shortage of army recruits.

However, while the state authorities were taking the first practical steps towards protection and provision for mother and child, they, together with the representatives of the bourgeois world, were drowning with their cries of disapproval the first apostles of the concept of comprehensive maternity insurance, such visionary philanthropists as Jules Simon, Felix Poussineau, the famous French gynaecologist Adolphe Pinard, the theoreticians Louis Frank in Belgium and Paulina Schiff in Italy, Ellen Key in Sweden and, later, Ruth Bre in Germany, all of whom advanced this idea in the name of 'humanity' and 'justice', in the name of the health and viability of the nation, in the name of the reassertion of the oldest of women's rights – the right to motherhood. While giving way to necessity, the state authorities attempted for some time to preserve outward decorum and to give the impression that the practical recognition of the principle of maternity insurance in no way contradicted the inviolability of the private family unit. Thus, governments constantly emphasised that provision for nursing mothers is not a maternity payment, but simply a payment made during enforced unemployment.

Despite their inconsistency, the state authorities are being compelled in practice to move further and further along the road of state protection and provision for mothers. Whereas, only some twenty years ago, the idea of state maternity insurance was looked upon as utopianism, now such insurance is a practical reality included among the urgent socio-political tasks facing any 'far-sighted' government.

All those measures to protect and provide for mother and child which are now being implemented by the authorities with extreme caution and circumspection are, of course, very far from adequate. They are, as yet, nothing more than the first uncertain steps on the long and difficult path that leads to the realisation of the ideal: the transfer of the task of caring for the new generation, so precious to mankind, from the shoulders of private, individual parents to the whole community. What has been done so far in this area is nothing more than the proclamation and recognition of the principle - but this itself is of major importance and brings with it many implications.

[Excerpt from the Preface to the Book 'Society and Motherhood' 1915]

Affiliated to C.B.S.E. New Delhi  
Phone : 06254-234085  
9835221774

**RAMKRISHNAVIVEKANAND VIDYAMANDIR**  
Class : Nur-X, Curriculum : C.B.S.E, New Delhi  
English Medium, Co-Education

Main Branch  
Bel Bag Bengali Colony, Bettiah, West Champaran

New Branch  
Majhariya, bairiya, west champaran  
email : rkwidyamandir@gmail.com

**Behar Herald Bank A/c details :-**  
BENGALLEE ASSOCIATION  
BIHAR-UNIT : BEHAR HERALD  
A/c No. 35819082022  
IFSC : SBIN0000152  
SBI, Patna Main Branch

**Co-operate to continue publication of this New Series of Behar Herald Kindly become :-**  
Advisor-cum-Patron-cum-Life Member - Rs. 10,000/-  
Patron-cum-Life Member - Rs. 5,000/-  
Life Member - Rs. 1,500/-  
Annual Member - Rs. 150/-

# Standard Industries

35, New Market, Patna - 800001

Telephone No. : 0612-2222343  
e-mail : amitmu1947@gmail.com;  
standard7864@gmail.com



High Quality Leather Accessories