



PREFACE

The first District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur by J. Byrne, I.C.S. was published in 1911 as one of the series of Bengal District Gazetteers. The old series of District Gazetteers although replete with facts and brilliantly written had a very limited objective. They are now quite out of date.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of re-writing and publishing the entire series of Bihar Gazetteers. In the last few decades there had been very many basic changes in the district and the country. With the independence of the country the very character of the State Government has changed. The old District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur even, if available, is of little help now.

This re-written District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur is my 9th publication in the new series. The re-written District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr and Palamau have already been published.

The work of re-writing of the District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur has its own difficulties. There have been no recent Survey and Settlement Operations. No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district has been undertaken. Officers in key position have their own problems and even if interested in this type of work, they have very little leisure to give any active collaboration. The District Gazetteers of the border districts in other States have not yet been published.

I was, however, fortunate in receiving help from various sources. I was first posted to Bhagalpur in 1931 followed by a second posting in 1945. I have had frequent occasions to visit Bhagalpur in other official capacity from the State level. I have had the privilege of studying the district during the fateful years of 1946-47 and after.

Regarding old documents and almost unavailable published literature, I am indebted to institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society of Bengal. These institutions have ungrudgingly placed their books at my disposal. The authorities of the National Archives

have gone out of their way to trace old documents to help my study. I have also looked into the old English correspondence in Bhagalpur Collectorate. For the later events, I have obtained help from various Census Reports, manuscripts and data collected from the collaborators and personal investigation. I am particularly indebted to Dr. K.K. Basu, Ph. D., for his collaboration in the compilation of the text on History. Some of the old residents of Bhagalpur like Sri Amulya Krishna Roy, Khitish Chandra Mukherjee, etc. have helped me considerably in various manner. Sri P. C. Singh, Senior Deputy Collector posted at Bhagalpur has supplied all the photos for this Gazetteer. A keen student of Ancient Indian History and Architecture, Sri P. C. Singh took a much larger number of photos and wanted to give them all to me but it was not possible to include all the photos.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi have taken up the work of co-ordinating the new District Gazetteers of the States and publishing four volumes of Central Gazetteers for India. In consultation with the States the Ministry has drawn a general plan to be followed by the States for their District Gazetteers as far as possible. The general pattern laid down by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has been generally followed. My thanks are due to the Central Gazetteers Unit for some valuable suggestions.

I am grateful for the guidance and encouragement that I have continued receiving from the Chief Minister Pandit Binodanand Jha, Revenue Minister Sri Mahesh Prasad Sinha, and the Chief Secretary, Sri S. J. Mazumdar, I.C.S. They have always taken a very keen interest in this work.

I have tried to provide an objective book for a wide range of readers—politicians, writers, scholars, administrators, tourists and by no means, the least, the interested man in the street. Personally I have enjoyed writing this book and it will be a privilege if the book is of some help to the readers of the present and coming generation.

PATNA :

1st October, 1962.

P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY

CONTENTS

CHAPTERS	PAGES
I—General	1—34
II—History	35—80
III—People	81—160
IV—Agriculture and Irrigation	161—224
V—Industries	225—250
VI—Banking, Trade and Commerce	251—304
VII—Communications	305—332
VIII—Economic Trends	333—372
IX—General Administration	373—407
X—Law, Order and Justice	408—437
XI—Local Self-Government	438—473
XII—Education and Culture	474—506
XIII—Medical and Public Health	507—538
XIV—Other Social Services	539—556
XV—Public Life, etc.	557—575
XVI—Places of Interest	576—651
XVII—Land Revenue Administration	652—693
XVIII—Miscellaneous Occupations	694—706
Appendix—I	707-708
Appendix—II	709—712
Appendix—III	713—718
Appendix—IV	719—722
Glossary	723—737
Index	I—XVI
EnclosuresXVII—XX
Plates—	

LIST OF PLATES

1. The Mausoleum of Ibrahim Hussain Khan.
2. Cleveland Monument.
3. Mandar Hill.
4. Mother Goddess.
5. Jain temple.
6. *Nara-Singh Avatar* (Man-lion incarnation of Vishnu).
7. The temple of Ajgaibinath.
8. Haigriva.
9. Vishnu riding on Garura.
10. The Mosque at Moughalpura.
11. Cleveland House.
12. Gold ear-ring.
13. The Shah Jungi Mosque.
14. Gold chain.
15. Ornament.
16. Ornament.
17. Female figure.
18. The Christ Church.
19. Rock sculpture at Sultanganj.
20. Mahishasuramardini.