

## POST-SCRIPT

Since the printing of the aforesaid matter, some important events have occurred in the district which are outlined below :—

### *International Events.*

*Shanti Stupa.*—The inaugural ceremony of the *Shanti Stupa* atop Ratnagiri Hills at Rajgir was performed by Shri V. V. Giri, President of India on 25th October, 1969. The *Stupa* enshrines the relic of Lord Buddha and holds a large size image of his to public view. It is an unique piece of Buddhist architecture in this district and its dome is visible even from some distance. The initial worship was performed by Fusi Guruji, the high priest of Japan, together with a large number of Buddhists from all over the world. In fact this shrine has come into existence solely through his efforts. The ceremony was an unique historical event inasmuch as it revived the memory of Rajgir of Lord Buddha's times when he used to sojourn there and preach sermons. This monument stands as a cultural link between India and Japan and also the rest of the Buddhist world.

*Indo-Pakistan Davis Cup Tournament.*—The New Patna Club was the venue of 1970 Davis Cup Lawn Tennis Tournament (Eastern Zone) between India and Pakistan. The tournament was played from 28th March to 30th March, 1970 and India won the rubber by 3—1 matches against Pakistan while the 5th match remained inconclusive as the prescribed time had run out\*.

### *National Events.*

In wake of the general elections of 1967, the Congress Party was displaced from absolute power in Bihar, though it was returned as the largest single party to the Vidhan Sabha, securing only 128 seats out of a total of 318. The non-Congress parties secured 178 seats† and the remaining 12 seats went to independents.

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\*For details, see the chapter on Sports, sub-section Tennis, in the *Image of Patna*, a Supplement to this volume.

†Some of the political parties were not recognised as such by the Election Commission for the general elections of 1967 and their candidates were counted as independents. Among them, Jankranti Dal secured 24 seats, Jharkhand 9 and the Revolutionary Socialist Party of India 1. Thus the total number of all kinds of independents was 24+9+1+12=46.

The subsequent political diary of the events is as follows :—

- (i) The first non-Congress Ministry of Bihar, composed of various constituents and known as "United Front" was installed in office on 5th March, 1967.
  
- (ii) A motion of no-confidence against the aforesaid United Front Ministry was admitted on 19th January, 1968 and passed by the Vidhan Sabha on 25th January, 1968 when the Government was voted out of power after a tenure of 10 months and 20 days.
  
- (iii) A splinter group of Samyukta Socialist Party formed itself into "Shoshit Dal" and with the support of Congress Party formed Government on 28th January, 1968. It was voted out of power on 18th March on a no-confidence motion after remaining in office for 47 days only.
  
- (iv) On 22nd March, 1968, the Lokatantrik Congress, consisting of members who had left the parent Congress on the issue of support to Shoshit Dal, formed Government in Bihar with the help of various constituents. After remaining in power for 95 days, this Government fell on 26th June, 1968 when the leader of the Government submitted his resignation and recommended the dissolution of the Vidhan Sabha and a mid-term election in the State.
  
- (v) The President's rule was imposed on Bihar on 29th June, 1968 and the State was administered by the Governor with the help of two Advisers, one a retired I.C.S. Officer, formerly on Bihar Cadre and the other a retired Chief Engineer from the Punjab.
  
- (vi) A mid-term election was held on 9th February, 1969 and no single party could secure an absolute majority. The Congress with its own strength of 118 formed a coalition with other constituents which was installed in power on 7th March, 1969 when the President's rule was revoked.

The party position in Bihar Vidhan Sabha in respect of Patna district after this election was as follows :—

Name of party.	No. of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled.
Congress .. ..	20	9	3,12,993	27.31
C. P. I. .. ..	10	2	1,36,060	11.88
C. P. I. (M) .. ..	3	..	20,863	1.82
Jan Sangh .. ..	20	4	2,10,920	21.7
S. S. P. .. ..	11	2	1,03,018	8.99
P. S. P. .. ..	3	1	39,836	3.48
Janata .. ..	9	1	44,731	3.9
Soshit Dal .. ..	12	..	48,364	4.22
B. K. D. .. ..	14	1	67,550	5.9
L. T. C. .. ..	8	..	30,414	2.65
Proutist .. ..	9	..	6,165	0.54
Backward Federation .. ..	12	..	9,603	0.85
Republican Party .. ..	7	..	19,350	1.69
Swatantra .. ..	5	..	3,736	0.32
Hindu Mahasabha .. ..	1	..	1,187	0.1
R. S. P. .. ..	1	..	1,186	0.09
Forward Bloc .. ..	1	..	1,883	0.16
Independent .. ..	30	..	88,247	7.7
<b>TOTAL</b> .. ..	<b>176 •</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11,46,056</b>	

The total electorate in the district was 20,30,847 and the number of votes polled was 11,46,056, i.e., 56.43 per cent. The number of candidates in the General Election of 1967 was 122 which rose to 176. The Lokatantrik Congress (founded in 1968 on the eve of the fall of Soshit Dal Ministry), Bhartiya Kranti Dal and Proutist were the new entrants.

- (vii) The aforesaid Congress-led coalition fell on 20 June, 1969 on the budget demand of the Animal Husbandry Department.
- (viii) On 25 June, 1969 Samyukta Vidhayak Dal led by the leader of Lokatantrik Congress formed government but it collapsed on 1 July, 1969.
- (ix) The President's rule was again imposed on Bihar on 4 July 1969 and the Governor with the help of two Advisers (who are senior civil servants on Bihar Cadre but currently serving at the Centre) administered the State till 16 February, 1970 when the Ruling\* Congress formed the Ministry in Bihar with the help of certain constituents.

#### Local Events.

(a) A major portion of the Raj Bhavan Estate was converted into a public Botanical Garden from 26 January, 1970. This is the only Botanical Garden of its kind in Bihar and has different species of trees, plants and creepers. It has a deer park also attached to it\*\*.

(b) The aerial ropeway at Rajgir was opened simultaneously with the inauguration of *Shanti Stupa* there. It is a means of recreation for visitors to Rajgir, who usually avail of it to go to *Shanti Stupa*.

(c) A Deer Park has been appended to *Venu Van* at Rajgir†.

(d) A ferry under the name of the Ganga Landing Craft Tanker Service has started operation from 10 February, 1970 between Mainpura-ghat near Sadakat Ashram on Patna-Danapur road and Cheghatghat on

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\*In August, 1969 the Congress Party at the Centre split into two factions, viz. Ruling and Organisation Wings and this pattern was subsequently followed in Bihar as indeed elsewhere in India.

\*\*See, *The Image of Patna* a Supplement to this Gazetteer.

†The journey both way costs Re. one only

‡It is learnt that of the three deer left in this park, one was devoured by a leopard who is said to have dragged its prey through barbed barricades, the other is said to have jumped across the fence of over 10 feet high and the third died of exposure to cold.

the other side of the river Ganga, connected with the Sonapur-Chapra road. It has requisitioned the services of two tankers, MV Rajmahal and MV Khajuria, each having a capacity to carry 10 loaded trucks. Initially there were only three services up and down, but a fourth one has been introduced to keep pace with the growing traffic. The management charges Rs. 60 for each loaded truck and Rs. 30 for each unloaded one. This service has cut the distance for up-country road traffic from Sonapur westward by some 240 kms. which had to be negotiated via Rajendra Bridge at Mokameh and along the National highway to Muzaffarpur and then to Sonapur via Hajipur. It has also considerably cut the distance between Patna and Muzaffarpur which are now about 70 kms. apart through this way.

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