
Appendix - III

PU VC greeted with "Go back"

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By A Staff Reporter

PATNA, July 25: The Commissioner of Patna Division, Mr G S Grewal, today took over the charge from the Vice-Chancellor of Patna University, Dr A K Dhan, amidst shouts of 'go back go back' by the students.

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It may be recalled that Dr Dhan has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the North Eastern Region Central University. Dr Dhan left for Delhi after handing over the charge of the University.

The students had been opposing the State Government decision to appoint administrators as vice-chancellors of the universities in place of academicians. Hundreds of students tried in vain to stop Mr Grewal at the gate of the University office. The students started slogans 'Grewal go back, Grewal go back. We don't want bureaucrats as vice-chancellors.'

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When the situation became tense police was called in and six students were taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the students of the University have decided to boycott their classes from tomorrow in protest against the Government decision to appoint Mr Grewal as Vice Chancellor.

One of the student leaders, Mr Balmukund Sharma, condemned the arrest of students and the Government decision. He appealed to the students to oppose the Government move to install bureaucrats as vice-chancellors.

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Khetri residents' not aware of 'mass rape'

By KIRIT BHAUMIK

KHETRINAGAR, March 22.

IT was like waking up to fame (or notoriety?) for the residents of this sleepy copper township when it hit the headlines in newspapers and, perhaps, for the first time, it was mentioned in foreign broadcasts.

When the Lok Sabha and the vidhan Sabha agitatedly debated the "sordid incident" that was supposed to have occurred here, it took quite some time for the people to realise, and believe, that it was this little township that had suddenly shot into the limelight.

The incident—whatever was known to have happened—had almost been forgotten.

It was not a matter of pleasure for Mr. Babulal Sharma, an employee of the copper complex. There were many things, he thought, in Khetri which could have caught the public eye.

POLICE REPORT

Similar sentiments were expressed by a cross-section of the residents, from panshop owners to officials of the copper complex. Mrs. Pushpa Tuli, ward panch of the area who lives in the neighbourhood of the site of the alleged incident—a cinema hall—claimed that she would surely have known if some such grave things had occurred there.

The allegation that something "shameful" involving women had occurred at Khetri on February 26 was the first made in a "letter to the editor" in a national Hindi daily on March 7.

Later, some other newspapers gave lurid details of the alleged incidents. "We do not know" or "these can-

not be true" was the reaction of all whom this correspondent interviewed in the township.

Yet the story has to be told, reconstructed from the bits and pieces of information this correspondent could gather.

According to the first information report prepared by the station house officer of the Khetri police station, Mr. Shambhu Singh, an agent of R. K. distributors in Cuttak, Mr. Gopal Joshi, had organised a "Junior Mahmood nite" in the compound of Deenbandhu cinema hall at the township on February 26.

There were seating arrangements for 3,400 people, but only some 2,500 tickets were actually sold. All the advertised film artistes—Junior Mahmood, Miss Kalpana and Miss Estika—except Miss Black Billi, had turned up to give performances.

Before the function began, a procession of striking workers went to the nearby power sub-station shouting slogans and asking the sub-station workers to join the strike. The processionists, however, dispersed after some time.

As the function started at 9 p.m. sharp, a crowd of about 300, which had come from different places in buses but were without tickets, tried to enter the shamiana. When they were pushed back by the police, they started throwing stones from a distance.

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CHAIRS CARRIED AWAY

At 9.27 p.m. lights went off. Power supply was restored soon, but lights failed again after two minutes. There was confusion, shouting and breaking of chairs. The policemen on duty escorted "the 30 or 40 women" among the audience to the front lobby of the cinema hall. Some candles were lit to provide light.

The crowd started melting away. Many of them carried away chairs. After about half an hour or so it was possible for the women to come out of the cinema hall. They were then sent home.

Mr. Shambhu Singh's statement differed somewhat from what two other persons in authority had to say. Mr. Ramjilal Verma, sub-divisional magistrate, who was present at the function, said that there were nearly 100 women in the audience, some quite fashionably dressed.

Col. Bhanot, chief of the industrial security force at the copper complex, said that since workers of the complex had gone on strike the previous day, he was busy deploying his men at different installations.

He had gone to a mine site and was returning around midnight when he found huge crowds in the streets. On inquiry, he was told that there was a film-star show at the cinema hall two and a half hours after the break-up.

At Jhunjhunu, the district headquarters, the collector, Mr. Samant, said the women among the audience must have been 100 to 150. He, however, hastened to add that according to reports he had received, there were 60 or 70 women.

LOCATION OF STAGE

The function was held on the "L" shaped ground outside the cinema hall. The dais was set up at the angle of the two arms of the improvised auditorium allowing only an angular view to the audience.

There is nothing to suggest that what was supposed to have followed after the film-star show fiasco was a night of orgy as alleged in some quarters. At any rate, there was no tell-tale evidence of broken bangles and women's garments strewn around.



Stephen Assails Centre's Policies

SALEM, June 10.

The bickerings in the Janata Party the indecision of the Central Government on various issues, open allegations of one Minister against another and the tendency to squander the foreign exchange built up by the economic policies of the Congress Government clearly showed that the Janata was not good enough to govern a vast country like India.

This was stated by Mr. C. M. Stephen, leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha while inaugurating the Salem district Congress (I) conference here to-day. He said atrocities on Harijans and other poor people were on the increase, labour and student unrest had created a serious situation in many Janata-ruled States, prices were soaring and the strong industrial base nurtured by the previous Government was being undermined by halfbaked economic policies.

At the same time the Janata Party leader Mr. Chandra Shekar, was being insulted by various Ministers both at the Centre and in the States. Even the Prime Minister cut a sorry figure in the face of the political bickerings and pressure tactics adopted by his Ministerial colleagues.

The recent election results in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

and of the by-elections in several Janata-ruled States showed that the common man had realised the mistake of electing the Janata to power.

The Janata leaders were trying to cover up their pitfalls and deficiencies by blaming the Congress (I) for all the ills of the country. But the people had seen through their game. Mr. Stephen added.

The millions of poor and down-trodden were once again considering Mrs. Indira Gandhi as their champion. The propaganda by all organised government agencies had only made the common man angry.

Mr. Stephen said it was the fear that Mrs. Indira Gandhi had the massive backing of the poor that made the Janata leaders talk of arresting her. By arresting her, the Janata Government would only further alienate itself from the masses.

He appealed to the Congress to stand united and face the "alarming and dangerous situation" when the country would again slip into "the old colonial type of rule by landlords, blackmarketeers and smugglers".

Mr. N. Ramaswamy Udayar, chairman of the Reception Committee and Treasurer of the Tamil Nadu Congress (I) Committee welcomed the gathering. Mr. R. Narayanan, MLA and DCC (I) President was in the chair. Mr. M. Marimuthu, leader of the party in the Assembly hoisted the flag.

—Our Staff Reporter.

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PM wants Big-2 to come closer

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 31: The Prime Minister said today that in the interest of world peace it was necessary for the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to become friends and give up their suspicions of each other.

Mr. Morarji Desai told a group of American clergymen that he had been pleading with both the super-powers to become friends and India could act as a buffer, if they liked.

The Prime Minister expressed full satisfaction with the outcome of his recent visit to the U.S. He said he did not go with any expectations and there was, therefore, no dissatisfaction.

Referring to Indo-U.S. co-operation on world issues, Mr. Desai said that both countries believed in the same values. The U.S. could do more because it was more powerful; India could only co-operate in the process.

MAIN ISSUE

Mr. Desai said the main issue facing India as saving democracy and removal of fear. The Janata party had reversed the divisive trend in Indian politics. Five parties with different backgrounds had merged. The merger was not yet complete. There were eruptions here and there, but they would not last long and the party would progress.

Replying to a question whether democratic methods would solve India's problems, Mr. Desai asked the clergymen not to have any doubt on this score. He said it was wrong to think that democracy was a luxury for a developing country.

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Mrs. Gandhi's Condition for Congress Unity

CALCUTTA, June 10.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Congress(I) President, said here on Thursday that she was not opposed to the unity move between the two Congress parties. But it must be based on the party programme, she said. FIS

She told pressmen that it was not a matter of acceptance of the party programme on paper only. IS

Those who want to join our party must be prepared for hardship and danger which are being faced by our partymen. She complained that in many States, hundreds of Congress (I) workers were subjected to violence on false pretext. In West Bengal, for instance, many of our party members had been killed during the last few months, she alleged. DS

Replying to a question Mrs. Gandhi said 'our party is the real Congress and we did not split the Congress Party. It is they (Congress-Reddy group) who are responsible for the split'. IS

On the proposal to hold an AICC session of the united Congress. Mrs. Gandhi said 'I do not oppose any such move. I have left it to my senior party colleagues'. FIS

Asked about the possibility of Mr. S. S. Ray, former Chief Minister of West Bengal joining her party. Mrs. Gandhi said 'it will be for the State unit to decide the matter'. DS

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, former Union Minister, who was present, at the press conference, however, said the PCC members had very serious reservations over Mr. Ray's admission into the Congress (I). IS

When her attention was drawn to a remark of the CPM leader, Mr. E. M. S. Nambudiripad that there was a possibility of military take-over in the country because of political instability. Mrs. Gandhi said it was the CPM which was supporting the Janata Government and thereby adding to the confusion. IS

Referring to the sale of gold by the Government, Mrs. Gandhi said 'I don't find any point in selling the country's gold'. She said the Janata Government claimed the country's economy was sound but DS

while we left the economy sound they were ruining it. They claimed that prices had come down, but she did not find a single man to confirm it, she added.—PTI. IS

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