

Name of Dep / Sub: History, P.G. Sem - II

Paper No.: 7: History of Bihar

Topic: Makers of Modern Bihar: Sachchidanand Sinha (Unit- IV)

Name of the Teacher: **Dr. Anjana**

Assistant Professor

Dept. of History

R.N. College, Hajipur (BIHAR)

History of Bihar

(1)

Unit - IV

Creation of Modern Bihar (1912)

Makers of Modern Bihar - Sachchidanand Sinha

Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha (10 November 1871 - 6 March 1950) was a liberal social revolutionary, a tenacious fighter, a zealous crusader fighting a battle against the challenging problems, an administrator, a legislator and a statesman. His political and constitutional struggle was a landmark in the history of Indian Nationalism.

Towards the end of the 19th century in the Bihar districts of Bengal arose a movement designed to gain provincial status for the area. At that period the Bihar districts were administratively a part of the Province of Bengal.

The Bihar area was viewed by the Calcutta based Bengalis and Britons (inhabitant of Britain) as the hinterland (a remote area) of the larger province, and neither the foreigners who ruled nor the Bengali who administered, was sensitive to the needs or claims of the Biharis who inhabited the region.

Movement for Modern Bihar -

Main grievances of the Biharee Hindus and

and Muslims was the ill behaviour and step-motherly treatment of Bengal towards Bihar. The Biharees felt quite unsafe and insecure under unjust rule of Bengal. They believed that Bihar could never get political justice, so long as it was governed from Calcutta where Bengalee influence was always predominant. So they pleaded for a full-fledged separate government and administration of Bihar. (2)

In the words of Sachchidanand Sinha, "the Biharees had faced much humiliation that they thought that they were a people without any province to claim as their own."

The growing consciousness in social and political life of Bihar in the present century led to a speedy movement for the creation of separate province. It was the Muslims who first raised the slogan, "Bihar for Biharees" which later on was popularly picked up by the Biharee Hindu.

The eminent Muslim leaders of the modern Bihar were Syed Sharfuddin, Sir Syed Ali Imam, Syed Hasan Imam, Mazharul Haque, Khuda Bakhsh Khan and others. Along with the Muslim leaders, a large number of Biharee Hindu leaders had played an important role in

(3)
making separate province of Bihar. Notable among them were Munshi Pyarelal, Harbans Sahay, Ganesh Dutta Singh, Mahesh Narayan and Sachchidanand Sinha.

In collaboration with Sachchidanand Sinha, Mahesh Narayan wrote a booklet entitled 'The Partition of Bengal or the Separation of Bihar,' which contained several articles in favour of separate province of Bihar.

And the dream came true in 1911 when Bihar and Orissa came into existence as a separate province at the famous Delhi Durbar on the 12 Dec. 1911, with a Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The year 1912 - 27th Session of the Indian National Congress at Bankepur:-

The year 1912 is memorable in the history of Bihar for two reasons. It saw the creation of a separate province of Bihar, and it was also the year when the Indian National Congress in its 27th session met for the first time in this historic land, with the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur R. V. Mudho-keas as its President and the General Secretary

of the session was Dr. Sachchidanand. He was ⁽⁴⁾ a member of the Indian National Congress from 1899 till 1920. He participated in the Home-Rule League Movement.

He was one of the Vice-Chancellor of Patna University and held the post from 1936 to 1944. He built the 'Sinha Library' in 1924 in memory of his wife, Radhika. He donated 10,000 books to this library.

He was a member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1910 to 1920 and the Indian Legislative Assembly. He was Deputy President of the Assembly in 1921. He also held the office of the President in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council. He was appointed Executive Councillor and Finance Member of the Govt. of Bihar and Orissa, and, thus, was the first Indian who was ever appointed as a Finance Member of a Province. He also was a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. In 1946, he was named the Interim President of the Constituent Assembly of India on 9th Dec. 1946. He was replaced by Dr. Rajendra Prasad after indirect election on 11 Dec. 1946.

⑤

Besides being a lawyer and a politician Dr. Sinha was also a leading journalist and a great educationist. He wrote rich biographical sketches of his eminent contemporaries from Bihar and rest of India.

References:

- K. K. Dutta, History of the Freedom Movement in Bihar, Vol. III
- books.google.co.in
- libraetel.lib.virginia.edu.
- com.cdn.amproject.org