

## THE FIRST ADDRESS

RAJ BHAVAN, BIHAR



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Built during the British period, Raj Bhavan, Bihar – like all other Raj Bhavans of the Sovereign Republic of India – serves as the official residence of the Governor, who is the constitutional head of the state. It traces its roots back to the separation of Bihar from Bengal – as proclaimed by King George V at Delhi Durbar in 1911, and the ensuing formation of the institution of office of Lt Governor in Council.

Today, after 100-plus years of its existence, it still stands tall and majestic, overseeing the vicissitudes of the current times with as much élan as it did of the last century.

This Coffee Table Book on Bihar Raj Bhavan, 'The First Address', is an endeavour to satiate the curiosity of the inquisitive reader about this architectural symbol of the Republic. It traces the journey of Raj Bhavan, Bihar, through its illustrious history and its dynamic present.



A TIMES GROUP PRESENTATION





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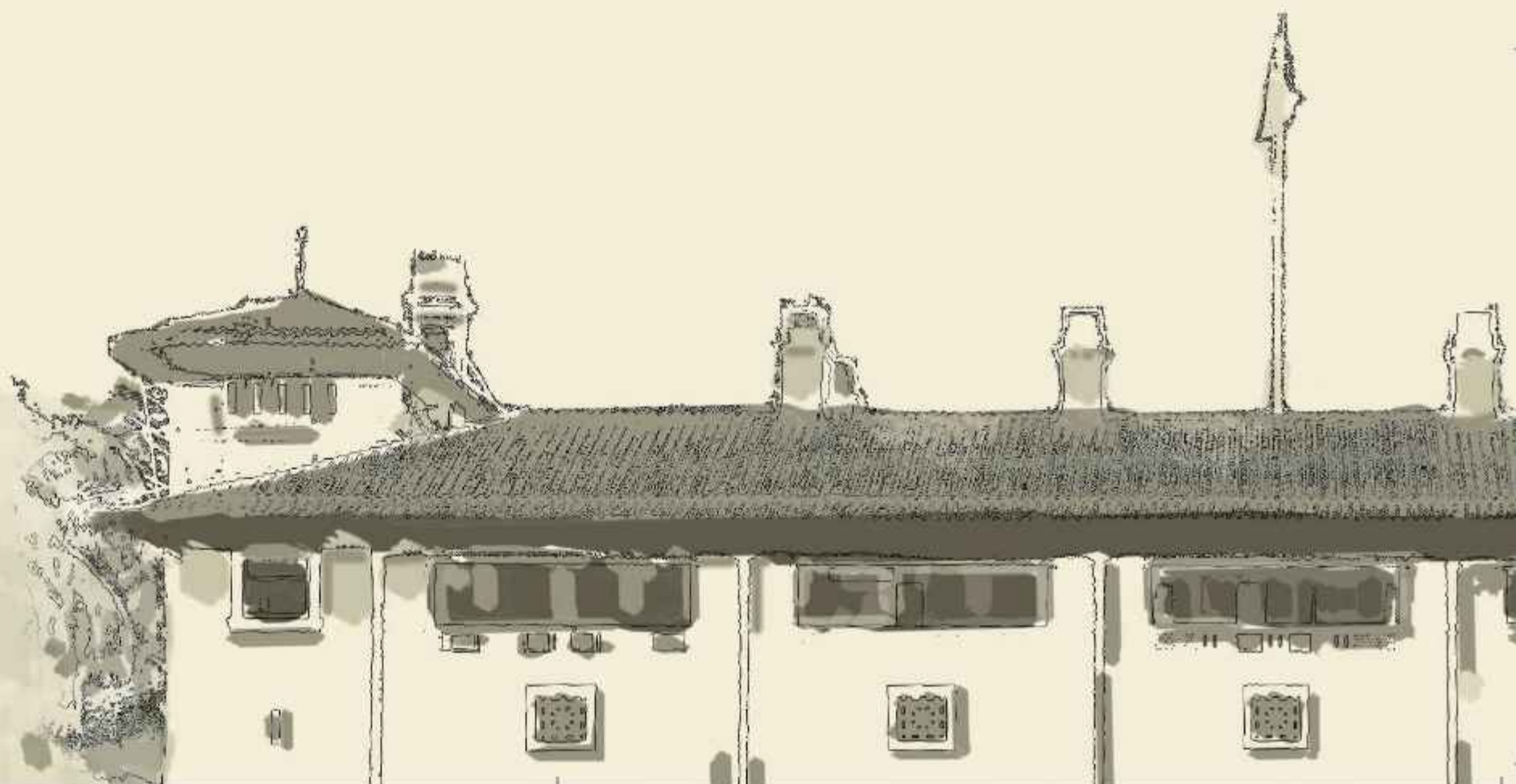
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# FOREWORD



Satya Pal Malik  
His Excellency  
Governor of Bihar

The Raj Bhavan, called the Government House in the pre-Independence period, was built in pursuance of the momentous announcements made by King George V at Delhi Durbar on December 11, 1911. His proclamation set in motion the transfer of the country's capital from Calcutta to Delhi, separated the new province of Bihar and Orissa from Greater Bengal, and placed Assam under a Commissioner.

The state of Bihar, thus, had the centenary celebration of its establishment as a separate province in March 2012. Four years later, the Raj Bhavan, Bihar, also completed the centenary of its existence. Much like the state, the Bihar Raj Bhavan encompasses a wealth of history, culture and legacy. The edifice commanded respect by onlookers even during the British era, during which it was constructed. Today, as the seat of the constitutional head of the state, Raj Bhavan is home to a collection of wonderful art and artefacts, sculptures and paintings that bear testimony to the splendour of the bygone times.

This book entitled 'The First Address' presents a synoptic view of the significance of the institution of the Raj Bhavan in the state's governance matrix. It also looks at its design and architecture, besides showcasing the treasures that adorn its walls and display shelves.

I welcome this worthy attempt to present the Raj Bhavan in its splendor, in a literary manner that's both informative and relevant to the general reader.



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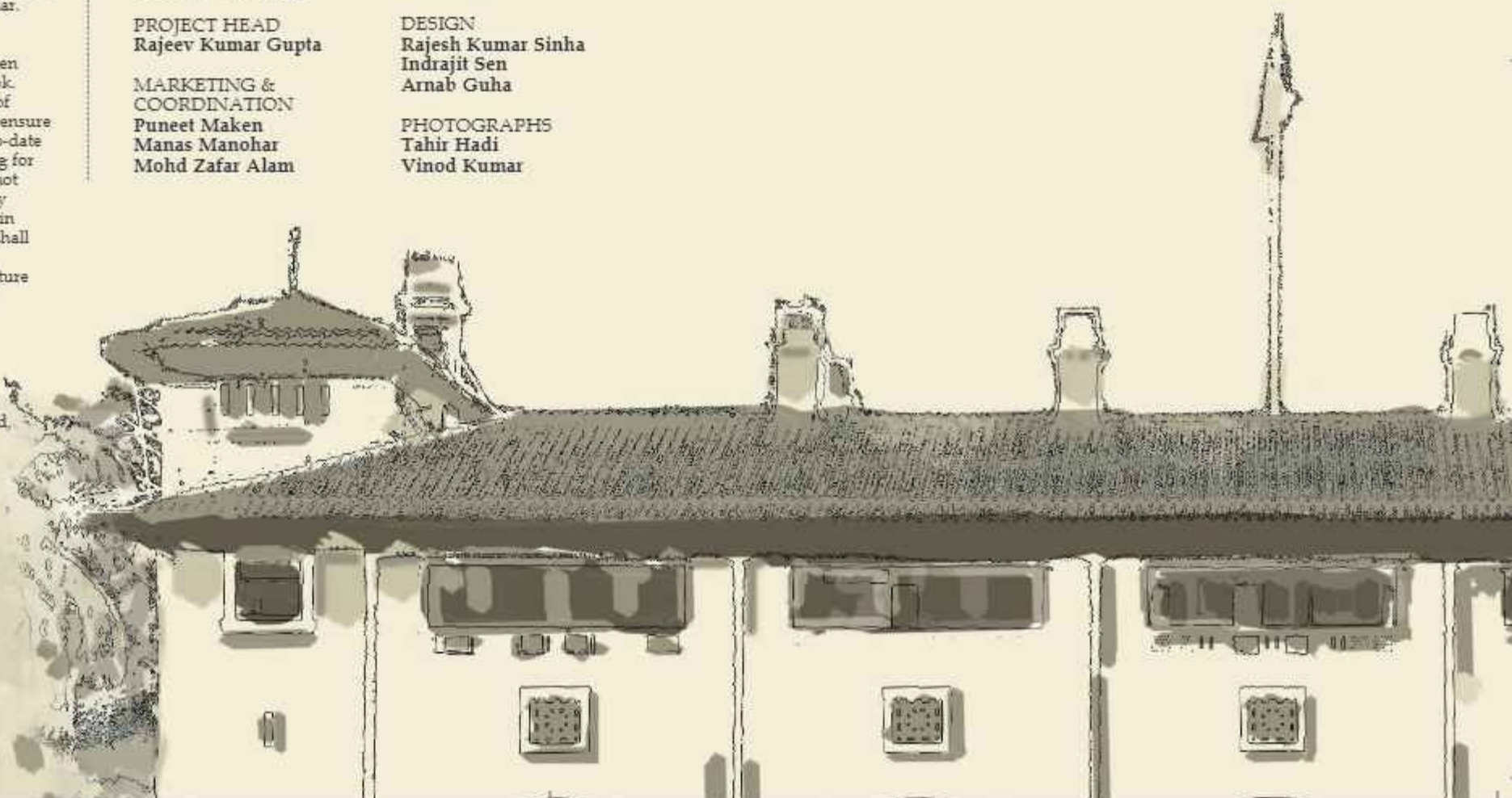
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# PREFACE



Vivek Kumar Singh, IAS  
Principal Secretary to  
Governor

India's rich culture, traditions and history are depicted in its architecture and heritage buildings that stand like sentinels through times. Among them are the Raj Bhavans or Governor Houses.

Raj Bhavan of Bihar is one such imposing edifice – one of the most conspicuous and elegant landmarks of capital city Patna. The then Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge, laid the foundation of the Bihar Raj Bhavan in December 1913, and the building was completed in 1916. The House was so aligned that the Governor residing there could get a direct view of the clock tower of the old secretariat, barely a kilometre away.

Over the years, numerous Governors of Bihar have resided there. The House has also played a key role in hosting leaders and events that have shaped the polity of Bihar.

'The First Address' is not just a celebration of the Bihar Raj Bhavan's heritage but a journey through its illustrious history and its dynamic present. The book highlights the architectural style and design of the Raj Bhavan, besides presenting an overview of the rich collections of paintings, artefacts, sculptures and installations housed within its walls.

I hope that as the reader flips over the pages of this book, he or she gets an unobstructed inside look at what makes and moves an institution such as the Raj Bhavan.

Happy reading





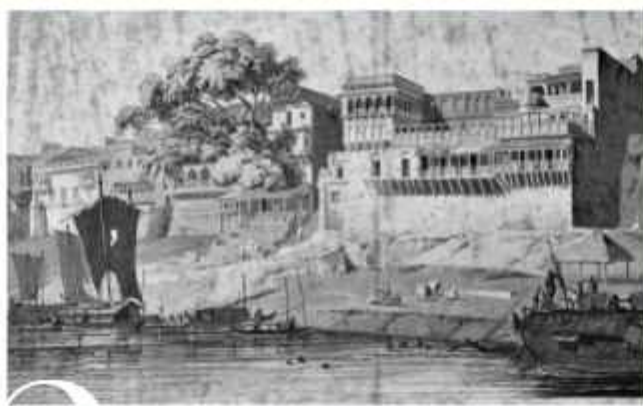
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2 Steeped In History



5 Designed To Delight





A World Within



A Homestay For Notable Guests



The Human Touch



A Day In The Life Of Raj Bhavan



*Raj Bhavan  
is not merely  
the official  
residence  
of the  
constitutional  
head of the  
state but also  
a source of  
pride for the  
democracy  
and the  
republic we  
live in*

# HIS EXCELLENCY AND HIS ABODE



**T**he three-storey Raj Bhavan building, constructed during the First World War and inaugurated by the then Viceroy cum Governor General Lord Hardinge in February 1916, is slightly over a century old.

The building serves as the official residence of the Governor – who is the constitutional head of the state – and the members of his family. The Governor, in official and popular parlance, is addressed as His Excellency (H.E.) or Mahamahim, as well as ‘*Sahab*’ by the lower rung staff, and his wife is addressed as the First Lady.

In the colonial period, the Governor, as executive head of the province, ruled it through various departmental heads at the state headquarters, commissioners in the divisions and collectors in the districts. He was also aided and advised by a council of advisors, but it would always be his order

that would be binding on the council, and he could also overrule the advice of the council. This system remained in force for 35 years, till the country became free from colonial rule.

In Independent India, the Governor, as head of the state, enjoys executive, legislative, financial and judicial powers, by and large on the same pattern as the President of the country, and performs his functions accordingly – but all as defined by Part VI of the country's Constitution. In all this, he is aided and advised by the Raj Bhavan Secretariat headed by the principal secretary.

Besides, there is a supporting body of secretariat and household staff. While the Raj Bhavan secretariat manages the official engagements of the Governor, the household staff assumes responsibility of housekeeping needs.





>> Front view of Raj Bhavan, Bihar



## *Powers of the Governor*

### **EXECUTIVE POWER**

As the executive head of the state, the Governor appoints the chief minister and other ministers and administers the oath of office. He also appoints the Advocate General, the State Election Commissioner, as well as the Chairman and members of the Bihar Public Service Commission. The Governor is the Chancellor of Universities in the state.

In accordance with the executive powers vested in him, the Governor can ask for information from the chief minister with regard to the administration of the state.

The Governor can recommend the imposition of President's rule in the state, but it has to be in extraordinary situations. Yet, the actual imposition of President's rule is

dependent on the will of the President. Once President's rule is imposed, the Governor immediately assumes the role of the representative of the President, and accordingly, his executive powers become extensive. This is because the legislative body stands either dissolved, or remains in suspension, awaiting the start of the due process for people's representation, like holding of fresh elections to the state assembly, or start of the consultative process among legislators and leaders of political parties, for the formation of the next elected government.

### *Governor as Chancellor of Universities*

The Governor, by virtue of his office, is the 'Chancellor of Universities', for public universities in the state. The domain of his power includes all the universities, their senate, syndicates, academic councils and colleges under the jurisdiction of the universities.

>> Governor of Bihar, Satya Pal Malik, meeting IAS probationers along with DG (BIPARD) and principal secretary to Governor.





>> Governor of Bihar Satya Pal Malik addressing a conference as Chancellor of Universities



The chancellor selects and appoints vice-chancellors and pro-vice-chancellors of the universities under due process of selection/ appointment involving the duly constituted search committee for each university, in consultation with the state government. He also makes other key appointments to facilitate the administration in the universities.

The state government takes care of the budgetary requirements of the universities and colleges, and accordingly, makes financial allocations for them. However, all their academic and administrative activities are conducted in the name of the chancellor.

This, in turn, accords them autonomy from the direct control of the government.

## LEGISLATIVE POWER

When the elected government headed by the chief minister is in office and the state legislature as duly constituted is also in place, the Governor becomes an integral part of the state legislature and enjoys his powers and functions as defined by the Constitution. In Bihar, besides the legislative assembly headed by speaker, there is also legislative council headed by chairman. It is on the pattern of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.



>> The then Governor of Bihar Ram Nath Kovind addressing the joint session of Bihar Legislature on February 23, 2017





» An arch framing the driveway to the Raj Bhavan.









>> A view of the rear end of the Raj Bhavan building

Earlier, the Governor could nominate one member to the state legislative assembly from the Anglo-Indian Community, but this provision has now been transferred to Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar as a separate state on November 15, 2000. He, however, nominates one-sixth members of the Bihar legislative council – precisely 12 in number – from among the community of persons having special or practical knowledge in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service. This is done in consultation with the State.

The Governor can summon or prorogue the state legislature, and he can also dissolve the state assembly. He, by way of the constitutional provisions, can address the state legislature when the House meets for the first session after each general election. Every year, he addresses the first joint session of the state legislature, which, normally, is the budget session.

Besides, if a Bill is pending in either House of state legislature for disposal, he can send messages to the House or Houses concerned to take it up.

For a Bill passed by the House to become a law, it is necessary to have the assent of the Governor. Yet, when a Bill is sent to the Governor after it has been passed by the state legislature, he can either give his assent to it, or withhold his assent to the Bill, or return it if it is not money Bill, for the reconsideration of the state legislature. However, he is duty bound to give his assent to the Bill concerned, if the state legislature passes it again and it's returned to the Governor, with or without amendments.

There are some special circumstances, however, in which the Governor may withhold his assent further. He has the right to reserve his assent to the Bill and send it for the consideration of the President in special circumstances, or due to nature of the Bill's content, like if the Bill passed by the state legislature militates against, endangers, or even undermines, the position of the High Court.

The Governor, given the peculiar nature of the Bill concerned in the backdrop of the aforesaid conditions, can reserve his assent to the Bill and send it to the President for his due consideration.

*The Governors and Lt Governors of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level*



As an exemplar of the Governor's most important legislative power, he may issue ordinances, but only if the state legislature is not in session. However, the ordinance, by rule, has to be approved by the state legislature within six months of its issuance.

### **FINANCIAL POWER**

The financial powers of the Governor ensure that the annual financial statement of the state, or its state budget, is laid in the state legislature. Also, for the introduction of any money Bill in the state legislature, his prior recommendation is mandatory and the government cannot make demand for grant without his recommendation. Besides, only with his prior reference, the government can draw advances from the Contingency Fund for any unanticipated expenditure. The Governor is authorised to constitute finance commission after five years to assess the financial position of panchayats and urban local bodies.

### **JUDICIAL POWER**

As an extension of the three pillars of the system – executive, legislative and judiciary – the Governor also enjoys judicial powers and functions. He, if he so desires by way of judicious exercise of will, can grant pardons, reprieves,

respite and remissions of punishment, or can suspend, remit and commute the sentence served, of any convict in relation to a matter that falls under the jurisdiction of the executive. The President consults him in making appointment of the judges of the state High Court. Appointments, postings and promotions of district judges are made by the High Court in his name. Similarly, the High Court also appoints persons to judicial service of the state, other than district judges, in his name.

## *Appointment*

The chief justice of the High Court of the state concerned administers oath of office to the Governor, and in his absence, it is done by the available senior most judge of the High Court.

As to qualifications required and conditions to be fulfilled, the person selected for appointment as Governor should be an Indian citizen and should have completed the age of 35 years. Further, when the appointment of Governor is made, he should not be a member of either House of Parliament, nor of the state legislature. Besides, he should not hold any office of profit.





>> Chief Justice Rajendra Menon administering oath to Satya Pal Malik as Governor of Bihar on October 4, 2017.





>> Main gate of Raj Bhavan



## *Entitlements & Privileges*

The Governor is entitled to the use of the Raj Bhavan as his official residence. His emoluments, allowances and privileges are determined by The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982. They cannot be diminished during the term of his office. If the Governor of a state is in charge of two and more states, the states concerned share his emoluments and allowances in the proportion as decided by the President.

Like the President, the Governor is also entitled to a number of privileges and immunities. For his official acts, the Governor enjoys personal immunity from any legal liability.

## *Term of office*

Normally, the term of office of a Governor is five years from the date he enters office, but it is subject to the pleasure of the President.

However, the President, if he so desires, may transfer a Governor of a state to another state for the rest of the term. Also, after the expiry of the term of office of a Governor in one state, the President can appoint him to any other state. In no situation, the office of the Governor of a state can remain vacant. Therefore, a Governor can hold office beyond his term of five years, until his successor is appointed to assume charge. Yet, if any contingency arises, like on account of his death in his office, or on his transfer to any other state, or due to any

other reason, the chief justice of the High Court of the state concerned is appointed temporarily to fill the void and discharge the functions of the Governor of that state. The latter's position in that capacity is termed as 'Officiating Governor'.

## *Discretionary Power*

Since the Constitution of the country provides for a parliamentary form of government both at the Centre and in the states, the real executive power resides in the council of ministers headed by the chief minister. That is, the Governor enjoys his powers and performs functions on the aid and advice of the council of ministers headed by the chief minister.

Like the President, the Governor enjoys certain discretionary powers. These result from the exigencies of a political situation. If a political party is unable to present or muster a clear-cut majority, or when the chief minister dies and there is no successor to him, the Governor appoints the chief minister. Further, if the council of ministers cannot prove the confidence of the state legislative assembly, the Governor dismisses the council of ministers. Also, if the council of ministers has lost its majority in the state legislative assembly, the Governor orders dissolution of the state legislative assembly. The Governor, if he so desires, can also seek information from the chief minister in administrative and legislative matters. Besides, the Governor, being a nominee of the President, also has certain special responsibilities to discharge functions as directed by the President.



*The separation  
of Bihar from  
Bengal – as  
proclaimed by  
King George V  
at Delhi  
Durbar – and  
the ensuing  
formation of  
the institution  
of office of  
Lt Governor in  
Council, ensured  
fast-paced  
evolution of the  
new capital  
at Patna*

# STEEPED IN HISTORY

**A**t the time the four-year First Great War was to devastate humanity and the global economy by engulfing all the continents in a bloody war from 1914, Bihar embarked on a new phase of its founding into a modern state. It was a process that peaked by 1922, but had started with the Delhi Durbar announcement of King George V on December 12, 1911, that Bihar would be a separate state.

The formal separation of Bihar from Greater Bengal in April 1912 was a momentous event in the lives of the people of the state. Among the firsts, it led to the formation of the big, singular institutional entity – first the office of Lieutenant Governor in Council with its Secretariat in Government House (later-day Raj Bhavan) which lasted till 1920, and then the office of

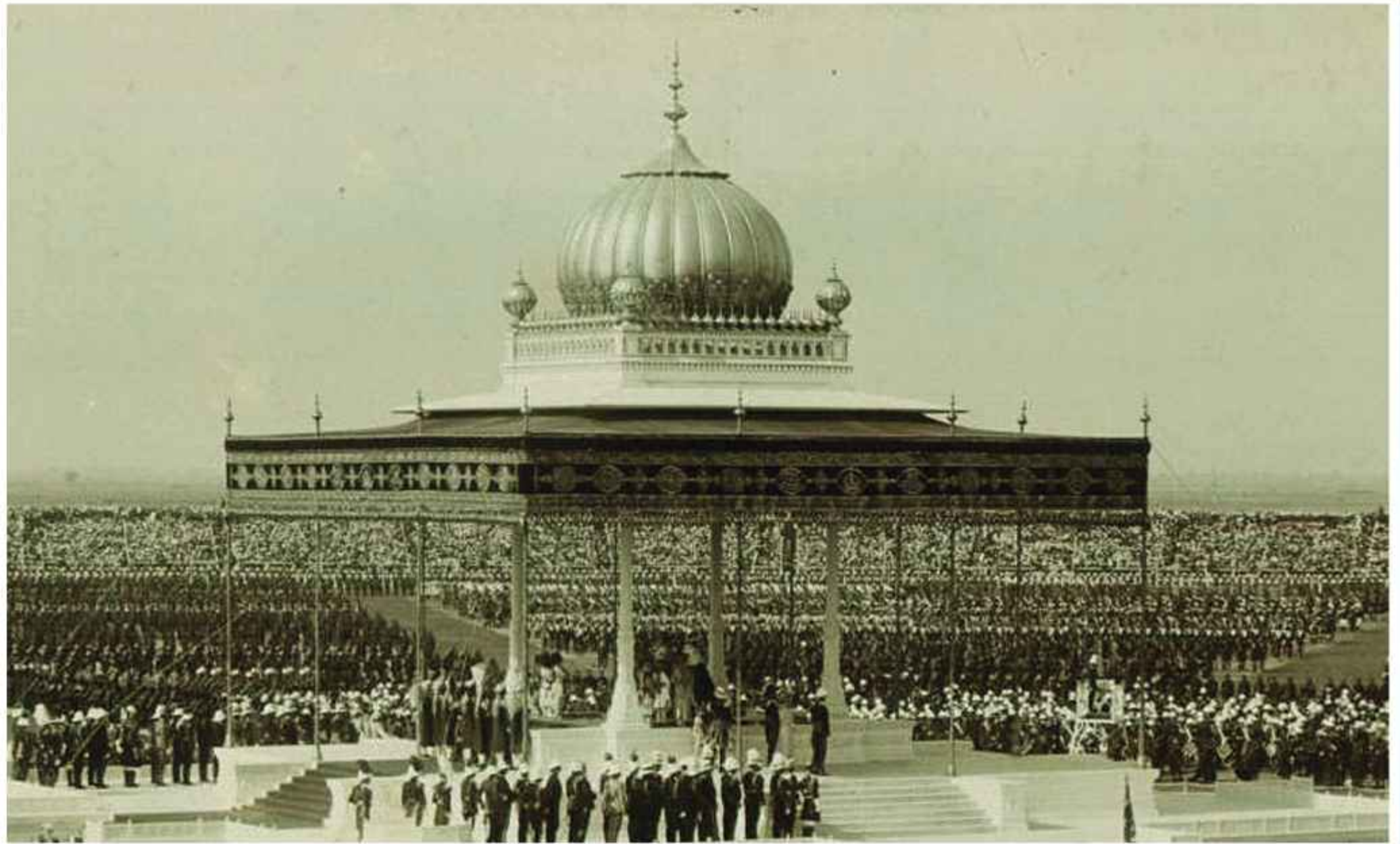
Governor in Council under which arrangement of the first provincial elections to the legislative assembly were held in the country in 1937. Finally, the office of Governor emerged in its present form in the post-Independence period.

The power, functions and constitutional position of the Governor were defined by the Constitution that the country adopted. It also announced itself to be a democratic republic having a parliamentary form of government on January 26, 1950, with the President as the head of the state at the Centre and Governor in the state/ province, even as real executive powers rest with the council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister at the Centre and the chief minister in the state. It has continued right up to the present.



>> King George V





>> Delhi Durbar of 1911, where King George V made the historic announcement of granting statehood to Bihar





>> The front portico of Raj Bhavan



As a marker of the importance of the office of Governor, two of them became President of the Republic of India – Zakir Hussain in 1967, and Ram Nath Kovind in 2017. The singular fact about both of them is that they had served Bihar as its Governor.

## *Modern state formation*

Prior to 1912, Bihar, as a part of Greater Bengal, was ruled by a Lt Governor and his secretariat at Calcutta, which was also the seat of the provincial government of Greater Bengal. For practical purposes, Bihar was ruled and managed by three divisional commissioners and district collectors. At Patna, the administrative headquarters used to be at Bankipore. The province had no state capital of its own.

All that changed when King George V, at the Delhi Durbar, disclosed the “top secret” decision of the imperial government regarding the separation of Bihar – and also of Assam – from Bengal. He also announced the decision with regard to the proposal to make Delhi the capital of India. He said: *“It is my desire that the planning and designing of the public buildings to be erected will be considered with greatest deliberations and care, so that the new creation*

*may be in every way worthy of this ancient and beautiful city* (‘An Imperial Vision’ by Thomas R Metcalf).” This blueprint was extended and adopted in the designing of capital city Patna as well.

Finally, the then Viceroy Lord Hardinge made the final formal proclamation regarding the creation of the province of Bihar and Orissa with its boundaries, through the Government of India Act, 1912. The proclamation was made on March 22, 1912.

With this and the ensuing formation of the institution of office of Lt Governor in Council, the fast-paced elaboration of the new state formation in Bihar also happened, which set it along the long journey of its educational, social and political modernisation.

Later, the province of Bihar, after separation from Orissa in 1936, consisted of four divisions – Bhagalpur, Patna, Tirhut and Chota Nagpur. Their respective districts were: Bhagalpur – Bhagalpur, Munger, Purnia, Santhal Parganas; Patna – Patna, Gaya and Shahabad; Tirhut – Champaran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Saran; and Chota Nagpur – Hazaribagh, Manbhum, Palamau, and Ranchi.





>> Viceroy and Governor-General of India, Lord Charles Hardinge

Indeed, things started moving fast. First Lt Governor Charles Stuart Bayley took charge on April 1, 1912. He chose the residence of the commissioner at Chhajjubag in Patna, earlier purchased from Darbhanga Raj. Otherwise, his stay was to be at Ranchi due to its salubrious climate.

Bayley was to be aided and assisted by a three-member executive council, whose membership could be increased to four by the Lt Governor. The three members of the executive council were: E A Gait, E V Levinge, and Rameshwar Singh, Maharaja of Darbhanga. Besides, there were 19 additional members, and 21 elected members, including five each elected by municipalities, district boards and landholders, as well as four by Muslim bodies, and one each by cane planters and mining communities.

>> An aquatint print by Thomas Daniell, titled 'Part of the city of Patna on the river Ganges', hung on the wall of Raj Bhavan, Bihar









COUNCIL

CHAMBER

PATNA

THIS FOUNDATION STONE  
WAS LAID BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
CHARLES BARON HARDINGE OF PENSHURST  
P.C. G.C.B. G.M.S.I. G.C.M.G. C.M.I.E. G.C.V.O. I.S.O.  
VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL  
OF INDIA

THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER 1913

>> The foundation stone of Bihar Raj Bhavan, laid by Lord Charles Baron Hardinge, Viceroy of India, on December 1, 1913

### *Making of the capital city*

A new structure of governance began to take shape. Bayley called for holding of Bankipore Durbar at his Chhajjubag residence on November 21, 1912. At the Durbar, the representatives of five official and social associations read out their memoranda. The bodies they represented were: Behar Landholders' Association, District Board of Patna, Municipality of Patna, Provincial Muslim League, Pradhan Bhumi-har Sabha, Kshatriya Prantic Sabha and Bengalee Settlers' Association. They, recalling the ancient history of Patna, wanted the new capital to reflect the ancient glory.

After they had gone through the motions of deliberation, Bayley addressed the audience. He said: *"I notice with pleasure your frequent reference to the past grandeur of Patna and to the position once held by the famous city of Patliputra as the capital of one of the greatest dynasties that have ruled India. You have every reason to be proud of its traditions and, though Patna has undergone many vicissitudes and has of late years lost much of its importance as trade centre, we may well hope that as the capital of a great province, it will regain some portion at least of its former prosperity. No efforts will be wanting to this end on the part of Government* ('The Making of a Province – Part II; select documents 1874-1917)."



He added, "The laying out of the Civil Station is a matter which has been under consideration ever since the site was selected. The plans are now being prepared and I believe that when they are complete they will leave no room for complaint either as to the suitability of the design or the dignity of the proposed buildings."

By curious coincidence, this was also the period of the making of India's capital at New Delhi and Australia's capital Canberra, while Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, was already established. Viceroy Lord Hardinge selected architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, who had designed Union Buildings of South Africa at Pretoria, to do urban planning and designing of the buildings of New Delhi.

The architect he selected to plan and design new city of Patna – or New Capital Area – was J F Munnings, a New Zealander who was familiar with the works of Lutyens and Baker and had also designed buildings in Dacca. Munnings was entrusted with the task of the designing of the Government Houses (later called the Governor House) of Ranchi and Patna, the secretariat (now popularly known as old secretariat) and Patna High Court buildings.

The site selected for New Capital Area of Patna was a huge rectangular space

comprising what today is Sanjay Gandhi Biological and Botanical Park, popularly called Patna Zoo, Patna Golf Club, and the area enclosed by Bayley Road, Gardiner Road and Hardinge Road up to Patna airport. The government quarters for the secretariat and other staff of the government were to be located on the south of the railway line in Gardanibagh. Already, as the provincial government had begun to function under the Lt Governor, the clerical staff and officers were brought from Dacca to man the Bihar secretariat. They lived in tents at Gardanibagh.

From 1913, the work on Government House at Ranchi had begun, and it was completed in two years, with Lt Governor Bayley promptly shifting there. Towards the end of the year, Viceroy Hardinge laid the foundation stone for the construction of Government House/ Raj Bhavan at Patna.

It took three years for Bihar's Government House, present day old secretariat and Patna High Court buildings to be completed. In between, the major roads – Bayley, Hardinge, Serpentine and Gardiner roads – were also constructed, and by 1916, the three prominent buildings – Raj Bhavan, old secretariat and Patna High Court – were ready for occupation. Lord Hardinge inaugurated them on February 3, 1916.



>> First Lt Governor of Bihar,  
Sir Charles Stuart Bayley

*Viceroy  
Hardinge laid  
the foundation  
stone for the  
construction of  
Raj Bhavan at  
Patna in 1913,  
by 1916, the  
three prominent  
buildings – Raj  
Bhavan, Old  
Secretariat and  
Patna High  
Court – were  
ready for  
occupation*



Before that happened, Bayley had issued yet another significant notification on January 28, 1916. The notification officially designated Patna as the capital city of the province of Bihar. It also notified the conversion of Patna Municipality, earlier constituted in 1864, to Patna City Municipality, and thereby, set the stage for a separate municipal body for the new city of Patna.

### *Functioning of modern state*

Bihar finally began to function as a modern state in the colonial period. The Patna High Court started functioning from March 1, 1916, whereby, the jurisdiction of Calcutta High Court over Bihar ceased and the control of the judicial administration was also delinked from it. In between, the government appointed a committee on May 19, 1913, to enable the establishment of a university either at Patna or near it. As a result, Patna University came into existence on October 1, 1917, setting the stage for the expansion of institutions of higher education in Bihar. In 1946, Bihar had 18 colleges for males and two for females. In 1949, it increased to 25 colleges for males and three for females, and the number of students comprised 17,756 males and 433 females.

As to the policing machinery, in 1937, Bihar had 12,698 officers and constables (officially called 'men'). However, around the time of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran 'Satyagrah' in 1917-18, the dynamics of national freedom struggle changed. Bihar became a participant and witness

to the Non-cooperation Movement, Gandhi's Dandi March, and the Civil Disobedience Movement, culminating in the Quit India Movement (1942).

### *Constitutional head of the state*

The state of Bihar, with its judicial administration, civil bureaucracy, police and jail administration, and revenue collection affairs, was presided over by the Lt Governor till 1920. Thereon, the era of the institution of Governor started with the administrative reforms under Government of India Act, 1919. Black and white portraits of Lt Governors and Governors – framed and hung on the two walls of the Raj Bhavan as one enters the building from its portico – serve as a signpost to this rich history.

Overall, Bihar and Orissa had four Lt Governors and 13 Governors in the colonial period till 1936, and after this, when Orissa was separated from Bihar, the latter had eight Governors till August 14, 1947. During the Second World War (1939-45), Bihar had Governors on four occasions – Thomas Alexander Stewart, Thomas George Rutherford, Robert Francis Mundie – with Rutherford holding the office twice. The last British Governor of the state was Sir Hugh Dow (May 13, 1946 to August 14, 1947). He, as noted by Philip Mason in his book 'Men Who Ruled India', had done exemplary job in performing the war-time services during the Second World War. In the post-Independence period, Bihar, by now, has had 38 Governors.





>> Portraits of former Governors hung on the walls of the ground floor in Bihar Raj Bhavan



*Jairam Das Daulatram was the first Governor after Independence. Among the first decisions taken in his name were the orders regarding constructing a memorial in the name of the seven students who were martyred in police firing while trying to unfurl the national flag near the Vidhan Sabha on August 9 during the Quit India Movement in 1942, and the renaming of the sprawling 'maidan' (also called Race Course Maidan) in the colonial period as Gandhi Maidan. Mahatma Gandhi, in an appeal to quell the violence during Partition, had sat on fast in the corner of the Maidan, where his statue is now installed*

Besides, in the colonial period, Bihar and Orissa together had four officiating Governors. After Independence, Bihar had eight officiating Governors. Also, by now, on three occasions, two West Bengal Governors – Gopalkrishna Gandhi and Keshari Nath Tripathi – have held the office of Bihar Governor in dual charge, with Tripathi in charge twice.

All through, no woman has been in the office of Lt Governor or Governor of Bihar in either pre-Independence period or post-Independence era. Edward Albert Gait became Lt Governor twice. Similarly, when the institution of Governor came into existence in 1920, Satyendra Prasanna Sinha from Raipur in Orissa, also known as Lord Baron Sinha, was the first Governor of Indian origin.

Hugh Lansdown Stephenson and David Sifton held the office of Governor thrice, while Maurice Garnier Hallet, Thomas George Rutherford and Thomas Alexander Stewart twice each. After Independence, none of the Governors held the office twice, except Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai. When Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, three Governors

– R R Diwakar, Zakir Husain and M A S Ayyangar – served their full term of five years. Kidwai served for six years, and in the second term for five years.

On five occasions, Chief Justices of the Patna High Court – U N Sinha, K B N Singh, Dipak Kumar Sen, G G Sohoni, and B M Lal – served as Officiating Governors.

The boundary of Bihar and Orissa was redefined as Orissa separated from Bihar, when James David Sifton (1932-37) was the Governor. Also, Jharkhand, comprising the districts of the then Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana administrative divisions, became separate in November 2000, when Vinod Chandra Pande held the post.

During the tenures of second and third Governor, Madhav Srihari Aney and R R Diwakar, respectively, Bihar saw notable leaps. University and college education saw new expansion as Patna University was bifurcated into two – Patna University and Bihar University – on January 2, 1952, paving the way for spread of higher education.



The First Five Year Plan was also introduced during this period, which also saw reforms in administration, work on Kosi Barrage Project, and expansion of primary, middle and secondary education as Bihar School Examination Board was established in 1952. The launch of the library movement with central assistance and institution building for the promotion of cultural research activities was also initiated during this period. The institutions opened included: Nalanda Institute of Post-Graduate Studies Research in Pali and Prakrit and Buddhist Teaching at Nalanda, Mithila Institute of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Sanskrit at Darbhanga, Bihar Rashtrabhasha Parishad, K P Jayaswal Research Institute, both at Patna, and Institute of Prakrit Studies, Vaishali.

The devastating 1934 earthquake had put the state under strain during Governor David Sifton's tenure. The 1967 famine did the same under the tenures of M A S Ayyangar and Nityanand Kanungo. In fact, there ensued a long era of social and economic churning. Raj Bhavan experienced the effects of political instability with frequent changes and short tenures of Governors.

## *President's rule*

The state was put under President's rule on eight occasions for various reasons. On the first three occasions – June 29, 1968 to February 26, 1969; July 4, 1969 to February 16, 1970; and January 9, 1972 to March 19, 1972 – it was due to political instability caused by defections of legislators. The fourth and fifth times were from April 30, 1977 to June 24, 1977; and February 17, 1980 to June 8, 1980.

President's rule was imposed for the sixth time from March 28, 1995 to April 5, 1995 to facilitate vote on account by Parliament, as the results of assembly elections were awaited. On the seventh occasion – from February 12, 1999 to March 9, 1999 – deterioration of law and order situation led to the imposition of President's Rule.

Finally, the Centre imposed President's rule for the eighth time – from March 7, 2005 to November 24, 2005 – as the results of the assembly elections were indecisive and did not give majority to any political party or combine to form government.

*President's Rule was imposed in the state eight times: under Nityanand Kanungo twice, in 1968 and 1969; under Dev Kant Baruah in 1972; under Jagannath Kaushal in 1977; under A R Kidwai twice in 1980 and 1995; under Ram Sundar Bhandari in 1999; and under Buta Singh in 2005*



# Roll of Honour

*A list of Lt Governors of Bihar & Orissa from 1912 to 1920; Governors of Bihar & Orissa, and later, Bihar, from 1920 to 1947; Governors of Bihar from 1947 to 2000; and Governors of Bihar (post-bifurcation of Bihar and Jharkhand) from 2000 till now*

## LT GOVERNORS Bihar & Orissa



Sir Charles Stuart Bayley  
KCSI, ISO, Bar-at-Law,  
1912 to 1915



Sir Edward Albert Gait  
KCSI, CIE, Ph.D., ICS  
19 November  
1915 to 1920

## GOVERNORS Bihar & Orissa



Sir Satyendra Prasanna  
Sinha (Baron Sinha of Raipur)  
PKCC  
1920 to 1922



Sir Henry Wheeler  
KCSI, KCIE, ICS  
1922 to 1927



Sir Hugh Landsdown  
Stephenson  
KCSI, KCIE, ICS  
1927 to 1932



James David Sifton  
KCIE, ICS  
1932 to 1937



## GOVERNOR Bihar



Sir Maurice Garnier  
Hallett  
*KCSI, CIE, ICS*  
11 March, 1937 to  
15 May, 1938



Sir Thomas Alexander  
Stewart *KCIE, CSI, ICS*  
16 May, 1938 to  
16 September, 1938



Sir Maurice Garnier  
Hallett *KCSI, CIE, ICS*  
17 September, 1938 to  
5 August 1939



Sir Thomas Alexander  
Stewart  
*KCIE, CSI, ICS*  
6 August 1939 to  
2 February 1943



Sir Thomas George Rutherford  
*KCSI, CIE, ICS*  
3 February 1943 to  
6 September 1943



Robert Francis Mudie  
*CSI, CIE, OBE, ICS*  
7 September 1943 to  
23 April 1944



Sir Thomas George  
Rutherford  
*KCSI, CIE, ICS*  
24 April 1944 to  
12 May 1946



Sir Hugh Dow  
*KCSI, CIE, ICS*  
13 May 1946 to  
14 August 1947



# Post-Independence Period

## GOVERNORS

### Bihar



**Jairamdas Daulatram**  
15 Aug 1947 - 11 Jan 1948

He was an Indian political leader in the Indian Independence movement and the first Indian Governor of Bihar – a post he held until 1948, when he was appointed the Union Minister for Food Supply. From 1950 to 1956, Daulatram served as the Governor of Assam.



**Madhav Shrihari Aney**  
12 January 1948 - 14 June 1952

He was also a member of the 3rd Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1967. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan in 1968. In 1973, he was posthumously honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for Sanskrit for his *Shritilakayashornava* (1971), a Sanskrit biography of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Aney Marg in Patna is named after him.



**Ranganath Ramchandra Diwakar**  
15 June 1952 - 5 July 1957

He was the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting from 1949 to 1952. Diwakar was elected as member of the Rajya Sabha from Bombay State on 3 April 1952 but resigned on 13 June 1952, within a few months, when he was appointed the Governor of Bihar. He also authored a number of books in English, Kannada and Hindi.



**Dr Zakir Husain**  
06 July 1957-10 May 1962

Dr Zakir Husain – popularly addressed as 'Zakir Saheb' and conferred with the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 1963 for his illustrious role in nation building – is the first Governor of Bihar who became the country's President. He first held the office of the Vice-President (1962-67), though, and then was elevated to the post of President (1967-69).

Born at Hyderabad (Telangana) on February 8, 1897, he was orphaned early. Zakir completed his primary education at Hyderabad, and later graduated from Muhammadan Anglo-Indian Oriental College, AMU. He completed his doctorate from Berlin University (1926), where he also brought out an anthology on one of the greatest Urdu poets Mirza Ghalib.

Greatly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, he had participated in the national freedom struggle. He was among the founder members of Jamia Milia Islamia, and remained its vice-chancellor for 21 years from 1927, during which he groomed and nurtured it and built it into a national institution of repute.

Later, in 1948, Zakir Husain, already a renowned academician and Islamic scholar, became vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim National University (AMU) during its most critical phase. He played an exemplary role in re-shaping and re-orienting AMU as a great centre of learning and research during his eight years as vice-chancellor.

In 1956, Husain was nominated to Rajya Sabha, and was made Bihar Governor the following year – an office that he held for five years, until he became the country's second Vice-President.

A widely travelled man, he, as President, went on state visits to Hungary, Yugoslavia, USSR and Nepal.





**Madabhushi  
Ananthasayanam  
Ayyangar**

*11 May 1962 - 06  
December 1967*

He was elected as member of Central Legislative Assembly in 1934, and to the first Lok Sabha from Tirupathi and to the second Lok Sabha from Chittoor constituencies in 1952 and 1956 respectively. He was elected as Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha in 1948, and later, as Speaker of Lok Sabha.



**Nityanand Kanungo**  
*7 Dec 1967 - 19 Jan 1971*

He was an Indian politician from Odisha, who served as a member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly multiple times. He also served as state minister for Revenue and Public Works Departments, Home, Law, Industries and Agriculture, as well as the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Aviation, among others. Kanungo also served as the Governor of Gujarat.



**Dev Kant Barooah**  
*1 Feb 1971 - 4 Feb 1973*

He was an Indian politician from Assam, who served as the President of the Indian National Congress during the Emergency (1975-77). Barooah was a noted poet as well. His collection of Assamese poems is still very popular.



**Ram Chandra Dhondiba  
Bhandare**  
*4 Feb 1973 - 15 Jun 1976*

He was an Advocate and Professor of Law, and a member of the 4th and 5th Lok Sabha. He was a Member of Bombay Legislative Assembly during 1960-1962 and also acted as the Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during 1960-62.



**Jagannath Kaushal**  
*16 June 1976 - 31  
January 1979*

He was elected to the 1st Rajya Sabha in 1952, and was designated as the Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court in 1954. Post retirement, Kaushal was appointed the Advocate-General of Punjab. In 1980, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chandigarh and remained the Union Law Minister from 1982 to 1985.



**Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai**  
*20 Sep 1979 - 15 Mar  
1985*

He was a renowned educationist and politician, who served as Governor of the states of Bihar, West Bengal, and Haryana. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2000 to 2004. Kidwai served as the UPSC chairman from 1974 to 1977. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award. The award was for his contribution to public affairs.



# Post-Independence Period

## GOVERNORS

### Bihar



Pendekanti  
Venkatasubbaiah  
15 March 1985 - 25  
February 1988

He was elected to the Lok Sabha and was the Union Minister of State for Home and Parliamentary Affairs in both Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi cabinet. He was also the Governor of Karnataka from 1988 to 1990.



Gobind Narain Singh  
26 February 1988 - 24  
January 1989

He was elected to the Vindhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 1951 from Rampur-Baghelan constituency. Later, he was elected to the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 1957 and 1962. He formed a new political party and became the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from 30 July 1967 to 12 March 1969.



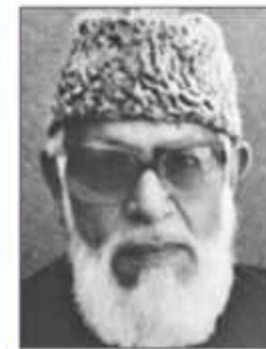
Ram D Pradhan  
29 January 1989 - 02  
February 1989

He is a retired IAS officer, who served as Union Home Secretary and Governor of Arunachal Pradesh during the Rajiv Gandhi government. Pradhan played a major role in the signing of the Assam Accord and the Mizo Accord. He has held secretary-level positions at the international and national levels in the areas of commerce, defence and home.



Jagannath Pahadia  
03 March 1989 - 02  
February 1990

He was Chief Minister of Rajasthan state from 1980 to 1981. A minister in government of India for many years, he was a member of the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 7th Lok Sabha. He also served as the Governor of Haryana.



Mohammad Yunus  
Saleem  
16 February 1990 - 13  
February 1991

He was an Indian politician, scholar and lawyer, who was active in both religious and political fields. The Mohammad Yunus Saleem Memorial Education Trust had been established in his honour. He was also a poet who struggled to make Urdu the second official language.





**Mohammad Shafi Qureshi**  
*19 March 1991 - 13 August 1993*

He was a prominent politician from Kashmir. He was the Union Deputy Minister of Commerce, Union Deputy Minister for Steel & Heavy Engineering, Union Deputy Minister for Railways, and Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation. He was also appointed the Governor of Madhya Pradesh in 1993, and the Governor of Uttar Pradesh in 1996.



**Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai**  
*14 August 1993 - 26 April 1998*

He was a renowned educationist and politician, who served as Governor of the states of Bihar, West Bengal, and Haryana. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2000 to 2004. Kidwai served as the UPSC chairman from 1974 to 1977. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award. The award was for his contribution to public affairs.



**Sundar Singh Bhandari**  
*27 April 1998 - 15 March 1999*

He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan during 1966-1972 and from Uttar Pradesh in 1976 and also in 1992. He also served as the Governor of Gujarat from 1999 to 2003.



**Vinod Chandra Pande**  
*23 November 1999 - 14 November 2000*

He was an Indian Civil Servant of the Rajasthan Cadre, and was, notably, Cabinet Secretary in 1989-1990. He also served as Governor of Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh. He was a scholar of Hindi, Pali, and Sanskrit, and a prolific writer in Hindi.



# Governors of Bihar

(Post-bifurcation of Bihar & Jharkhand)



**Vinod Chandra Pande**

*15 November 2000 - 12 June 2003*

He was an Indian Civil Servant of the Rajasthan cadre, and a cabinet secretary in 1989-1990. He also served as Governor of Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh. He was a scholar of Hindi, Pali, and Sanskrit, and a prolific writer in Hindi.



**Mandagadde Rama Jois**

*12 June 2003 - 31 October 2004*

He was a member of Rajya Sabha, a former Governor of Jharkhand, and a former Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He was also a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India.



**Buta Singh**

*05 November 2004 - 29 January 2006*

Buta Singh is an Indian politician, who was the Union Home Minister of India, and more recently, chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes from 2007-2010.



**Ramkrishnan Suryabhan Gavai**

*22 June 2006 - 10 July 2008*

He was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha from Amravati. He was member of Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra, and the acting Governor of Sikkim. In 2008, Gavai was appointed as Governor of Kerala. He was a recipient of the Kusta Mitra award, as well as the National Integration award for peace and harmony.



**Raghunandan Lal Bhatia**  
*10 July 2008 - 28 June 2009*

He was the Governor of Kerala from 2004 to 2008. Bhatia was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1972, and was re-elected from the same constituency in the 1980, 1985, 1992, 1996 and 1999 elections. He was the Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India from 1992 until 1993.



**Devanand Konwar**  
*29 June 2009 - 21 March 2013*

He has been a cabinet minister in the state government of Assam in Hiteswar Saikia government in 1991, and in Tarun Gogoi Govt in 2001. He was also the Governor of Tripura.



**Dnyandeo Yashwantrao Patil**  
*22 Mar 2013 - 26 Nov 2014*

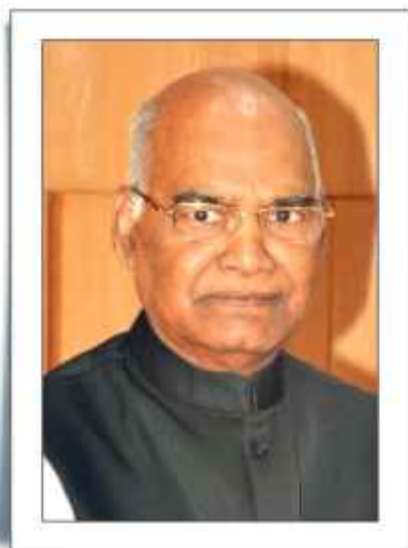
He is an educator from Maharashtra. Patil was a member of the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha from 1967-78. In both the 1967 and 1972 elections, he was elected from Panhala Vidhan Sabha constituency. He was also appointed the Governor of Tripura state in 2009.



**Keshari Nath Tripathi**  
*27 November 2014 - 15 August 2015*

He is an Indian politician, and the present Governor of West Bengal. He was sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram in 2015. Earlier, he was the speaker of Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly. He is also an author and a poet and has published several books. His chief literary works are two anthologies called 'Manonukriti' and 'Aayu Pankh'. His commentary on 'The Representation of the People Act, 1951' is still widely esteemed.





**Ram Nath Kovind**  
16 August 2015 - 20 June 2017

Ram Nath Kovind was administered oath of office as Governor of Bihar on August 16, 2015. Two years later, he was elected to the post of President of India on July 25, 2017. He is the first Governor of Bihar who has been elected to become the country's President while still in office. Prior to him, Zakir Husain had first become the country's Vice-President, and then President.

Kovind, in several ways, has proved to be destiny's chosen man. Born in a poor Dalit family at Paraukh village in Kanpur Rural District, Uttar Pradesh, on October 1, 1945, he is the youngest of five brothers and two sisters, though he was orphaned early. He had elementary education in the village, and for college studies, he stayed with his elder sister at Kanpur. In due course, he graduated in Commerce and pursued Law from DAV College, Kanpur University.

In 1971, he registered with the Bar Council in Delhi. He became personal assistant to the then PM Morarji Desai seven years later, and remained standing counsel of Government of India (1980-93). While at the Supreme Court, he also provided legal aid to weaker sections of society under Free Legal Aid Society, Delhi.

In between, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, and became Rajya Sabha member for two consecutive terms (1994-2006).

While in Rajya Sabha, he was part of various Parliamentary Standing Committees, and went on study tours to several countries – Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the UK and the US. He was also on the board of management of Dr Ambedkar University and on the Board of Governor of IIM Calcutta, until appointed as the Bihar Governor.



**Keshari Nath Tripathi**  
20 June 2017 -  
29 September 2017

He is an Indian politician, and the present Governor of West Bengal. He was sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram in 2015. Earlier, he was the speaker of Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly. He is also an author and a poet and has published several books. His chief literary works are two anthologies called 'Manonukriti' and 'Agya Pankh'. His commentary on 'The Representation of the People Act, 1951' is still widely esteemed.



**Satya Pal Malik**  
30 September 2017 -  
till now

He has served as the Union minister of state, parliamentary affairs and tourism, and has held many important positions in Central and state governments. He was a Rajya Sabha MP for two terms from 1980 to 1986 and 1986 to 1989, and a Lok Sabha MP from 1989 to 1990. Malik was also a member of Uttar Pradesh assembly from 1974 to 1977. In his political career, he has also been the chairman and member of many parliamentary committees.

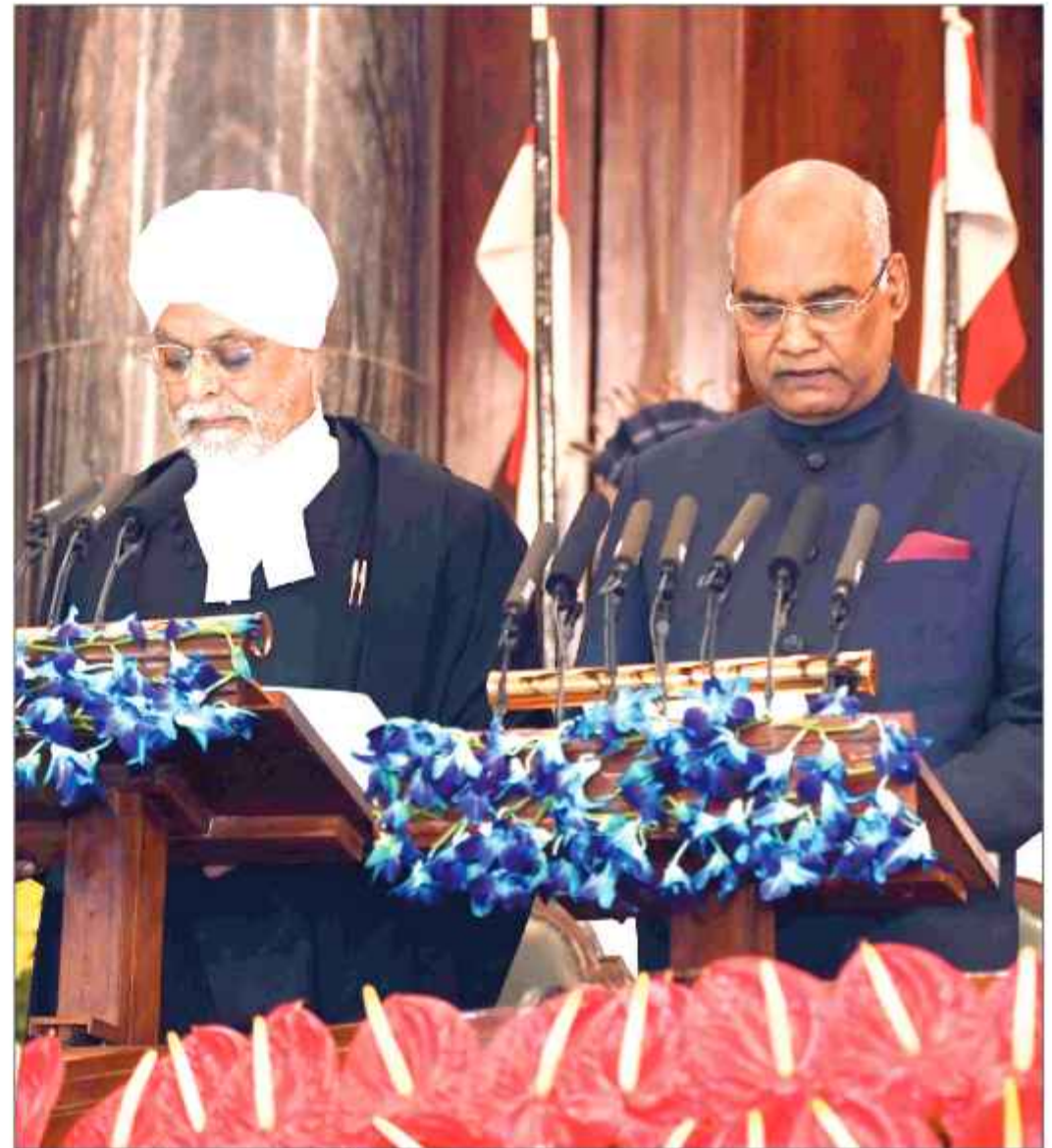


## From Governor House to President House

*Dr Zakir Husain first became the country's Vice-President in 1962, and then also assumed the office of the President for two years, earlier vacated by Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, popularly called the country's 'Philosophical President'. Ram Nath Kovind, however, was selected as the presidential candidate while he was still in office of Governor of the state, and subsequently went on to become the 14th President of India*



>> Dr Zakir Husain taking oath of office as the Vice President of India in the presence of President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Husain went on to become the 3rd President of India



>> Ram Nath Kovind being administered the oath of office as the 14th President of India by Chief Justice of India, Justice JS Khehar



*Munnings used  
a fusion of  
classical and  
Renaissance  
forms with  
Oriental  
simplicity and  
elegance in his  
Raj Bhavan  
design,  
while also  
incorporating  
elements of  
'Green City  
Movement' in  
the larger New  
Capital Area*

# MAKING OF A MARVEL

**I**F Munnings, designated as architect of the empire, had become consulting architect for Bihar and Orissa government under Lt Governor Bayley in the early summer of 1912. His overriding concern was that the designing, planning and the construction of new Patna had to be done accommodating international architectural styles. This was also the time of the 'green city movement'. It was yet another international trend which influenced the planning and layout of cities around the time the world over.

Among the first things done was the site selection for preparing the layout of new Patna. The site selection was completed by August, 1912. Munnings used the flat

high ground above the flood levels on both the sides of the bed of the dead river Sone, which runs in an arch form and lies near old secretariat, on its west. Today, this dead river bed has been further remodelled. It has been developed and converted into Eco Park/ Rajdhani Vatika.

New Patna encompassed the three km area to the east of Raj Bhavan. For its exclusive campus, 100 acres of land was allotted and reserved. This three km oval area was further subdivided into parts with the grid of four main roads – KG Avenue (axial line that links the Raj Bhavan and old secretariat), Hardinge Road, Gardiner Road and Bayley Road.

>> Front elevation of  
Raj Bhavan, Bihar











>> Old photograph of erstwhile Government House (now Raj Bhavan, Bihar)

Besides, three other roads that ensued from Bayley Road were to run in arch form through the axial KG Avenue. The bungalows for the senior officers were constructed in the blocs formed by the intersections along the roads. The residential quarters for junior officials and clerical staff were constructed in Gardanibagh locality on the south of the railway line. The empty space of the entire stretch was provided with a green cover. It is still the most envied area in the capital city of Patna.

For the construction of new Patna, 1,714.54 acres of land was acquired. Later, 6.46 acres of land lying near the Buddha Smriti Park (erstwhile Bankipore Jail) and Patna railway station was also acquired. New Market was constructed on this newly acquired chunk of land. It was a supplement to the Bakarganj market that catered to the needs of the privileged. The shops in the New Market area served the needs of the clerical staff living in

the government quarters at Gardanibagh. Further, this market enabled the emergence of Mithapur locality into a separate market and urban residential area.

### *Imperial mould*

Viceroy Lord Hardinge laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Raj Bhavan on December 1, 1913. The outbreak of the First World War eight months later impeded the construction work. Despite the constraints, Munnings succeeded in amalgamating the then imperial styles and trends, along with tenets of the green city movement, in building the new Patna that had become the state's capital. The New Capital Area also seemed to replicate what King George V, Viceroy Lord Hardinge and Lt Governor Bayley had envisioned – a city that would befit the tag and look of an imperial capital, and a continuation of the Patliputra of the ancient Mauryan and Gupta dynasties.

*The Raj Bhavan building is in 'Oriental Classic' mould – that is, simple and elegant, a mixture of the Western classical and Renaissance architectural styles, suitably designed to suit the tropical wind and heat and Eastern taste for simplicity, as Viceroy Lord Hardinge envisioned it to be*



The imperial style and vision that Munnings amalgamated were evolved by Lutyens and Baker. It consisted in the mixing of Renaissance style Palladian, classical columns and high ceiling for architectural purposes, and the green city movement to give an appropriate landscape to new Patna. They have continued to exist for the last one century without shedding any of their effects, be it the greenery, or their cultural geography. Also, he built New Patna well in time, despite the impediments of the First World War.

Aside of planning the New Capital Area, Munnings designed the Raj Bhavan/Government House, old secretariat, Patna High Court and general post office. He picked up elements from Pretoria Union Buildings designed by Baker to design the old secretariat building. The Patna High Court was modelled on the Allahabad High Court building. The general post office building has Neo Palladian foundation and flat roof, but is without classical columns in the portico or on the verandah. Its arches protect it from hot wind and slanting rays of the sun.

However, the real imperial vision and imperial style is visible in the Raj Bhavan and the old secretariat building, the latter also having a Clock Tower. Raj Bhavan, by virtue of being the building meant for

the office and home of the Governor, takes precedence over the old secretariat building. They reflect and radiate both imperial power and architectural elegance. Both stand facing each other at the two ends of the one kilometer, 180-foot wide King George Avenue – popularly called KG Avenue. The avenue serves as the axial line, in perfect symmetry between the Raj Bhavan and the old secretariat building.

The symmetry is so perfect that the portico of the Raj Bhavan is also called 'viewing corridor', because even while standing in its middle, one can clearly see the tall clock tower of the old secretariat, and the Doric and paired Tuscan columns of its portico. One can also notice even little signs of movement of life on its flight of stairs, or in its verandah. It is the facade of the two sprawling buildings that enthralls viewers. Their exteriors – high Palladian, thick walls, Doric and Tuscan columns, high ceilings, arches and sloping roof of red tiles – present the same effect.

The alignment of the Raj Bhavan, along with an annexe building each at its two ends, is in the north-south direction. Its facade faces the east, and opens on a large garden, taking into account the local weather conditions as well as the wind movement.

>> A view of Old Secretariat, from atop Raj Bhavan, Bihar











>> KG Avenue leading up to Old Secretariat with the clock tower in clear sight





>> *The clock tower of the Old Secretariat building*

There is a ten-feet-wide gallery between the outer wall of the building and the inner rooms. Besides, there is also space between the sloping red tiled roof and the ceiling. These two elements keep the rooms and the central corridors on the ground and two other floors cool. Plus, the second floor has ventilators and arches

There are six gates along the boundary wall – three on the left flank and three on the right. Each gate leads to a path that runs through the well-tended garden right up to the central section of the Raj Bhavan.

Munnings also created two small structures at the

two ends of the boundary wall. The left one serves as the living quarters for the police personnel deployed for security. The right one is the reception room managed by the police personnel, who follow the protocol for entry commensurate with the decorum and sanctity of the Raj Bhavan, the official home of the executive head of the state.

The cream toned whitewash of the building contrasts with the dark greenery of the trees behind it and on its flanks, and also with the greenery of the lawn. The combined effect is soothing to the eyes and senses. In itself, the sight of the wide KG Avenue, lined by trees on the two flanks, is an aesthetic treat to feast on.





>> The Raj Bhavan lawn





## Green city movement

The visual serenity of natural greenery around Raj Bhavan – and, in fact, in the entire New Capital Area – serves as both model and inspiration. If anyone takes a broad aerial view of Patna from Raj Bhavan, the singular thing that strikes is the city's green cover. For, the three km oval stretch of land on the east of Raj Bhavan has lush green carpets in the lawns of the Raj Bhavan itself, as well as in old secretariat, state legislature, Patna High Court, general post office campus and Hardinge Park behind the general post office building. There are also tall trees of various varieties along such roads as KG Avenue, Hardinge Road, Gardiner Road, Bayley Road and along other major roads that link the Bayley and Hardinge roads, as well as in Gardanibagh. Consequently, till recently, Patna enjoyed the reputation of being called a "green city".

However, the green cover is not spread uniformly across the length and breadth of the city. Instead, the green cover is dense in western Patna, on the southern side of Bayley road up to Buddha Marg. It then forms a narrow north-eastern strip taking along with it localities that lie along Buddha Marg (Patna-Gaya Road of the past), and also Chhajjubag, Golghar, Gandhi Maidan and Bankipore. Finally, it tapers into a narrow strip of green cover that exists between the southern bank of the Ganga and the northern flank of Ashok Raj Path. It takes along with it, the campus of Patna Medical College and Patna University, right up to what today is National Institute of Technology

NIT. The green cover existing in other localities, like Kankarbagh and Patliputra Colony, emerged in the 1970s.

From a utilitarian point of view, Raj Bhavan serves as the residence of the state's Governor, as also for the stay of the country's President and Prime Minister, as well as other honoured guests of the Governor. It is also the place from where the Governor transacts his official functions and duties. Yet, the relevance and value of Raj Bhavan often transcend its utilitarian objectives. They also lie in the aesthetic beauty of the Raj Bhavan, both as a standalone edifice as well as a part of the entire geographical frame encompassing KG Avenue and the old secretariat, amidst the vast landscape and the lush greenery.

Munnings implanted in New Capital Area of Patna the styles which could be easily called colonial modernity. Also, the architecture form of Raj Bhavan could also be called a "melding" or "marriage" of the classical and Renaissance forms with the 'Oriental' simplicity and elegance.

Munnings left a legacy of the architectural form of Raj Bhavan that bears his exclusive stamp. Although the Raj Bhavan has an imperial history, it is not overbearing, for the simple reason that the architectural style is plain and simple, bereft of decorative designs as marked the Indo-Saracenic style or Indic forms. Its scale, too, is not as extravagant as the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill, New Delhi.

*Munnings had planned the layout of New Capital Area, keeping Raj Bhavan as the nodal point, incorporating the ethos of the 'Green City Movement', popular in metropolitan Europe and elsewhere like in South Africa and Australia*



# DESIGNED TO DELIGHT



*The  
architecture as  
well as the  
interior décor  
of Raj Bhavan  
caters to both  
aesthetics and  
functionality  
with equal  
elan*

**T**he fundamental principle of architecture is that it should address the needs of functionality with the pleasure of aesthetics. Also, in case of official or public buildings, it should be in keeping with the dignity of office and the importance of its public representation.

The attributes of architecture, which Munnings applied even to the interiors of the Raj Bhavan, do full justice to it. For, the basic fact about the Raj Bhavan is that it is the 'home' of the Governor in office, who is also the head of the state. Apart from performing official functions, he lives there with members of his family. They together make the state's First Family, with Governor as the First Citizen and his wife as the First Lady of the state. The Governor, by extension, also embodies the cultural and artistic life lived and aspired for, by the citizens. The interiors of the Raj Bhavan showcase these aesthetic aspects in profusion.

## *Functional structure*

The central section of the Raj Bhavan is a three-storey building. At its northern and southern end are two annexes, each with a ground and first floor. The three, in alignment, cast an impressive look, with high ceilings and sturdy walls. A central corridor runs through every floor. The three corridors, one on each floor of the central building and in the two double-storey annexes, are symmetrical. The rooms stand on either side of the corridor, flanking them. The annexes are linked to the first floor of the central building by a wide horizontal span. The corridors on the ground and the other two floors of the central building are carpeted. Both the annexes have flights of stairs that lead to their first floor.



>> Billiard Room  
on the first floor  
of Bihar Raj  
Bhavan



The essential functional aspects of the interiors can be found in the living rooms that are meant for use by the Governor and his family, for the visiting President and Prime Minister of the country, as well as for his honoured guests – all on the second floor. Along with them stand the sitting room, visitors' room and a dining hall.

At the southern end of the ground floor of the central building is the office chamber of the Governor, which he accesses by a lift.

The room for visitors is at the front. Along it also lie the offices for his two aides-de-camp (AsDC) – one from the

Indian Police Services (IPS) and the other from the armed forces.

The bureaucratic structure that is in place at the Raj Bhavan to aid, advise, inform and serve the Governor is headed by the principal secretary of the Raj Bhavan Secretariat, which also functions from the ground floor of the central section of the building. The chamber of the principal secretary, along with the waiting room for his visitors, is at the northern end of the ground floor. The principal secretary's chamber is in the same row as of the Governor. There is also a large, spacious conference room in front of the principal secretary's chamber.

*Among the distinctive elements of Raj Bhavan is the Durbar Hall on the ground floor, along with a large sitting room and an equally large banquet hall – coupled with a traditional dining room for the Governor and his family, besides a billiards room and library – on the first floor*



**>> Pre-Independence furnishings at Raj Bhavan, including intricately carved wood furniture, chair and foot rest with silver sheet cladding (at Durbar Hall), ornate crystal chandeliers, English cabinet, elaborate fireplaces**



**>> Old crystal chandelier**



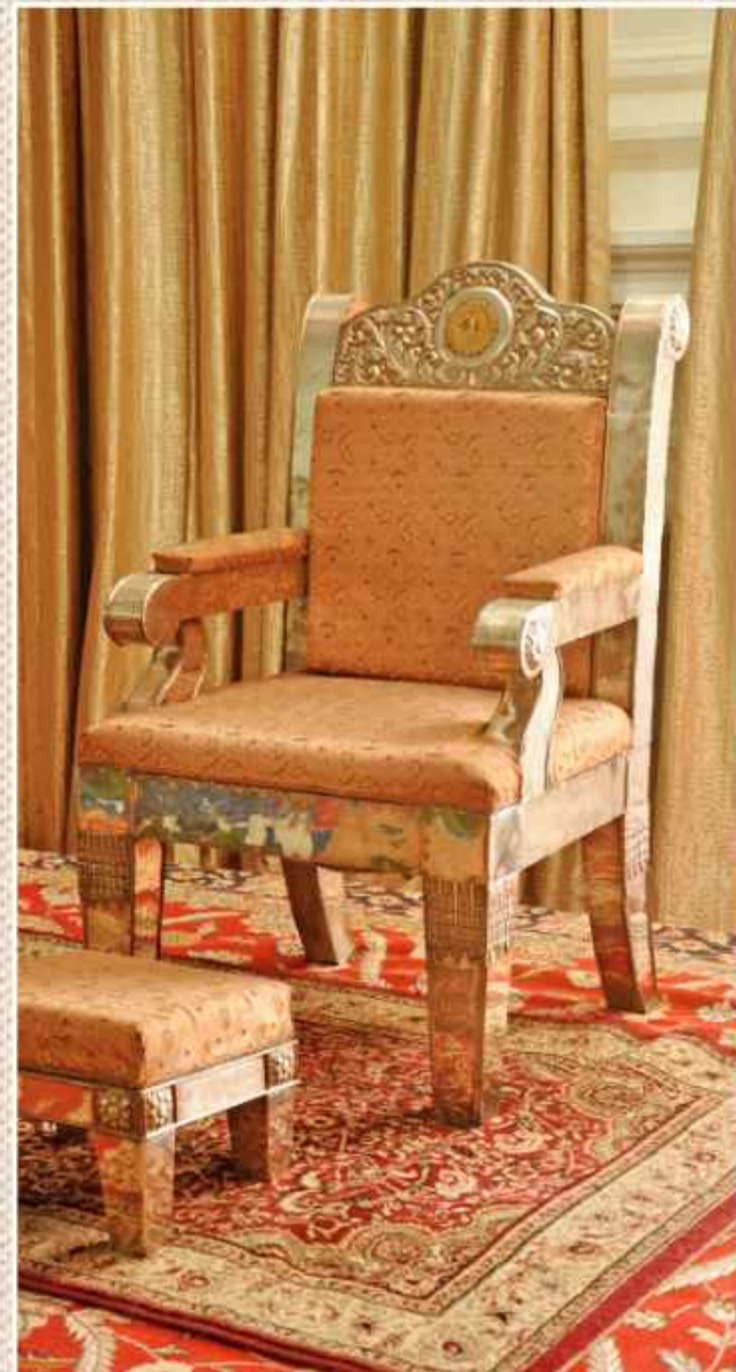
**>> Ornate chair with Occidental design in Durbar Hall**



**>> A fine specimen of British design – a heavy wooden cabinet in the Banquet Hall**



**>> Wood crafted chair with Mauryan design in the Billiard Room**



**>> Ceremonial silver gilded ornate chair and foot rest of the Head of the State in Durbar Hall**





The Raj Bhavan staff and officials, who function from the rooms which lie in the northern annexe, report to the principal secretary.

Earlier, the kitchen of the Governor used to function from the first floor of the northern annexe. Later, the kitchen was shifted to the second floor on the western end of the central section of the building. The present-day kitchen also has a large, spacious courtyard, surrounded by small columns and arches. At one time, the courtyard used to have a badminton court that was used by the Governor, or by the members of his family.

## *Durbar hall and other distinctive features*

In terms of assimilation of architectural attributes, the Durbar Hall on the ground floor, together with the Banquet Hall (Dining Room) and the Sitting Room (also called Reception Room) on the first floor, have been rated among the most attractive features of the Raj Bhavan. They immediately bring to memory the romance of the 'British Raj'.

>> The courtyard on the second floor of Raj Bhavan



*State functions like oath taking ceremony, of the Governor himself, the chief justice of Patna high court, and the chief minister and his council of ministers – or any other big function as desired by the Governor – are held in Durbar Hall on the ground floor of Raj Bhavan*

LSS O'Malley, the administrative historian cum gazetteer of the colonial period, admiringly noted in his book 'Patna', published in 1924: "On the ground floor are the offices and the darbar hall, and on the first floor are the reception rooms, the chief of which are the drawing and dining rooms, each measuring 43 feet by 33 feet."

He also recalled the beauty of Munnings' design. He specially mentioned the ceiling of the Durbar Hall, which is arguably among the highest compared to any building of repute in the state. He wrote: "The darbar hall and the ball room lies on the west of the main block, measuring 65.5 feet by 43 feet, and rising through two floors of the building, overlooked by the colonnaded balconies of the first floor." As to the salient feature of the flooring of the Durbar Hall, he noted: "The floor is of teak planking supported on springs, which give it excellent resilience." His test ends there. Nonetheless, the grandeur and antiquity of the Durbar Hall, Sitting/ Reception Room and Banquet/ Dining Hall have continued to enthrall the imagination of visitors.

## **Governor's oath taking ceremony**

The most important ceremonial occasion for the Raj Bhavan occurs when the Governor himself is administered the oath of office by the chief justice of the Patna High Court. On ceremonial occasions, the Durbar Hall is reached straight from the portico on the eastern face of the building, and alternatively, from the arched openings on the northern and eastern end of the central corridor.

The Durbar Hall's spacious interiors is supported by tall and sturdy white columns. In the front is a red-carpeted small dais, in the middle of which is kept the ornately

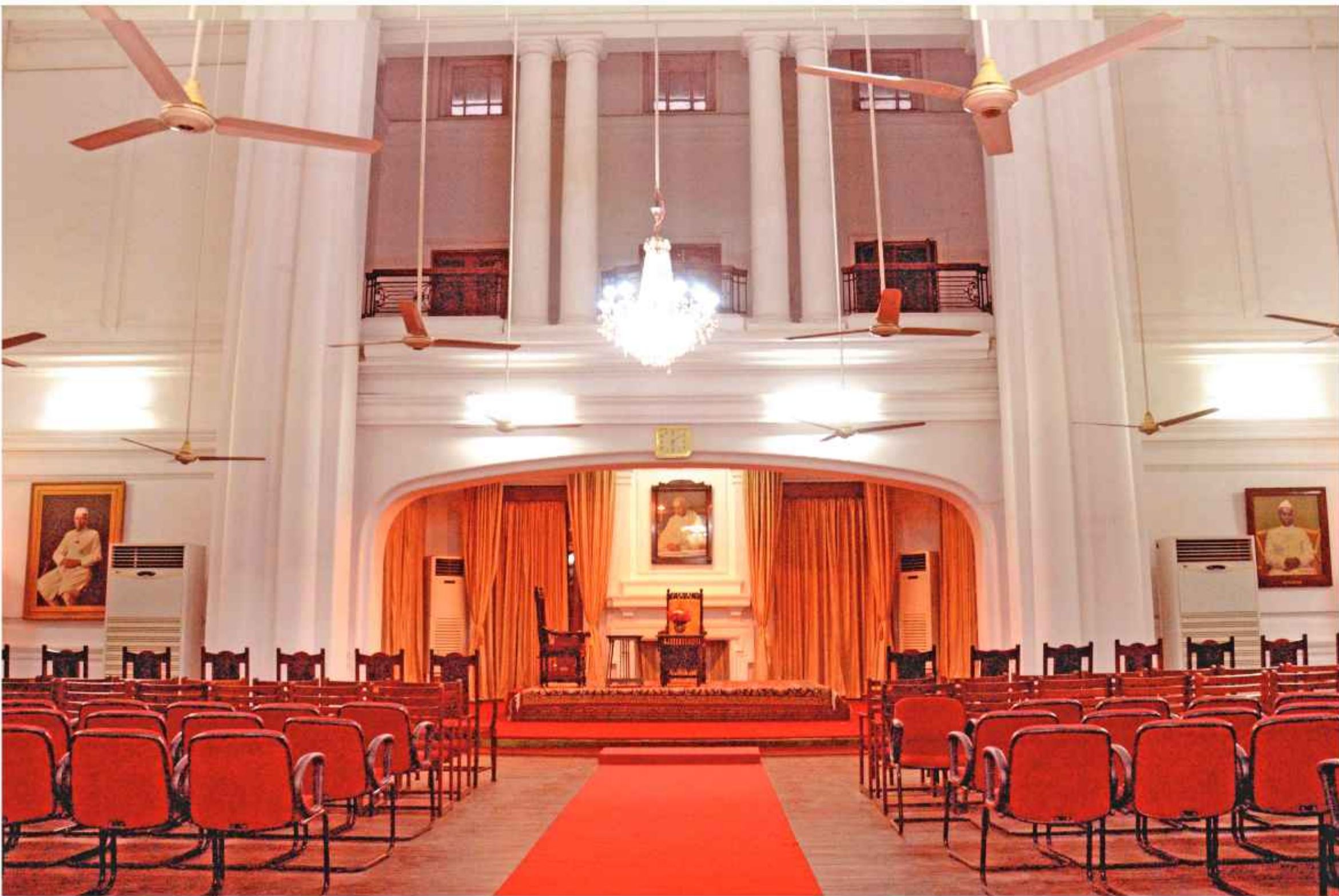
designed silver chair which the Governor occupies on ceremonial occasions. The entire floor is covered with baize carpet.

A 10-feet-wide red carpet is laid to create two blocks of space, with the red carpet running straight to the dais. The other end of the red carpet extends right up to the portico. Sofas are arranged in the Durbar Hall for state dignitaries, while chairs seat around 150-200 guests.

During the gubernatorial oath taking ceremony, the state assembly speaker, chairman of the legislative council, chief minister, council of ministers, departmental heads and other invitees take their respective seats in advance, before the arrival of the Governor. At the appointed time, the Governor walks up to the dais in a small procession. At his front are two guards called 'chobdars', followed by two AsDC. Behind the Governor is the principal secretary, followed by the chief justice and the judges of the High Court. The Governor climbs the dais and occupies the seat, after which the chief secretary begins the function.

The chief justice administers the oath of office to the Governor. After its completion, the Governor puts his signature in the official register. It indicates that he has formally taken charge. The Governor, usually, speaks a few words. The ceremony comes to an end with the playing of the National Anthem by the brass band, after which the Governor leaves in procession, and the invitees retire to the Reception Room or Banquet Hall in accordance with the arrangement made for high tea. Some among them might just also decide to enjoy the visual treat provided by the art objects – sculptures, paintings, portraits and décor – suitably placed for display in the corridors, as well as in the rooms on the second floor.





>> Durbar Hall at Raj Bhavan, Bihar





>> An old statue of Maitreya in the foyer of Durbar Hall

## Art and antiquity

On display at the Raj Bhavan are sculptures, paintings and gifts that the respective Governors received or collected over time. The sculptures have been displayed mainly in the open space on the ground floor in front of Durbar Hall. Paintings, gifted or procured, have been displayed in the Durbar Hall and various rooms meant for use by the Governor, the President and the Prime Minister, as well as in the Sitting Room. They have also been hung on the walls as one climbs up the flight of steps

from the Durbar Hall on the ground floor to the Sitting Room or the Banquet Hall on the first floor, as well as on the walls of the rooms on the second floor.

### Ground Floor

The entry into the ground floor is provided through the portico located at the centre of the building. The facing walls on both sides of the foyer contain framed portraits of all the Lt Governors and Governors, of both pre- and post-independence eras.





>> Metal statue of Nataraj in the first floor foyer



>> 7th century stone sculpture of 'Kartikeya' seated on a peacock, in the foyer of Durbar Hall on the ground floor



>> An idol of the Buddha, unveiled in 2007 on the occasion of 2550 years of Mahaparinirvana



>> 12th century Navagrah panel carved in phyllite stone



*Thomas and William Daniell drew extensive sketches of ancient cities of Raj Mahal, Gaya, Patna and Monghyr, which are part of the collection of Raj Bhavan, Bihar. These scenic depiction of various landmarks of Bihar are part of the series 'Oriental Scenery' published in London during 1795-1808*



>> 'A view of the Gate of the Caravan Serai, at Raj Mahal'

The sculpture, paintings and portraits on the ground floor catch one's attention immediately. In the corridor on the ground floor, facing the portico, idols of the sitting Buddha, Kartikeya and Maitreya are displayed.

Paintings and portraits are displayed mainly on the walls of the ground and first floor. Quite a few paintings done by artists of the Romantic Period in England also find place on the walls of the corridor near the office chamber of the prin-

cipal secretary. In this category are old prints of engravings on Bihar by William Hodges and the Daniell brothers, Thomas and William. Hodges toured various parts of the state in the early 1780s, while the Daniell brothers, inspired by his paintings, followed him a decade later in the early 1790s. They painted various subjects, including banyan trees, stark dry trees, ghats of the Ganga, Rajmahal Masjid, Munger fort, Manersharif, Patna, Bodh Gaya, Deo in Aurangabad, and Rohtasgarh fort.





>> 'The mausoleum of Mucdoom Shah Dowlet at Maneah (Maner) on the River Sone', engraved by Thomas Daniell



>> 'Raje Gaut, the principal road up to Rotas (Rohtas) Ghur, Bahar', drawn and engraved by Thomas Daniell (1795)



>> 'Ruins of the Palace of Sultan Shujah at Rajemahal'



>> 'A view within the Fort of Mongheer'



>> 'The Fakeer's Rock near Monghyr'



>> 'View of Gyah (Gaya) Town, an Hindoo town in Bahar', an engraving done by Thomas and William Daniell in 1802, on display in the visitor's room



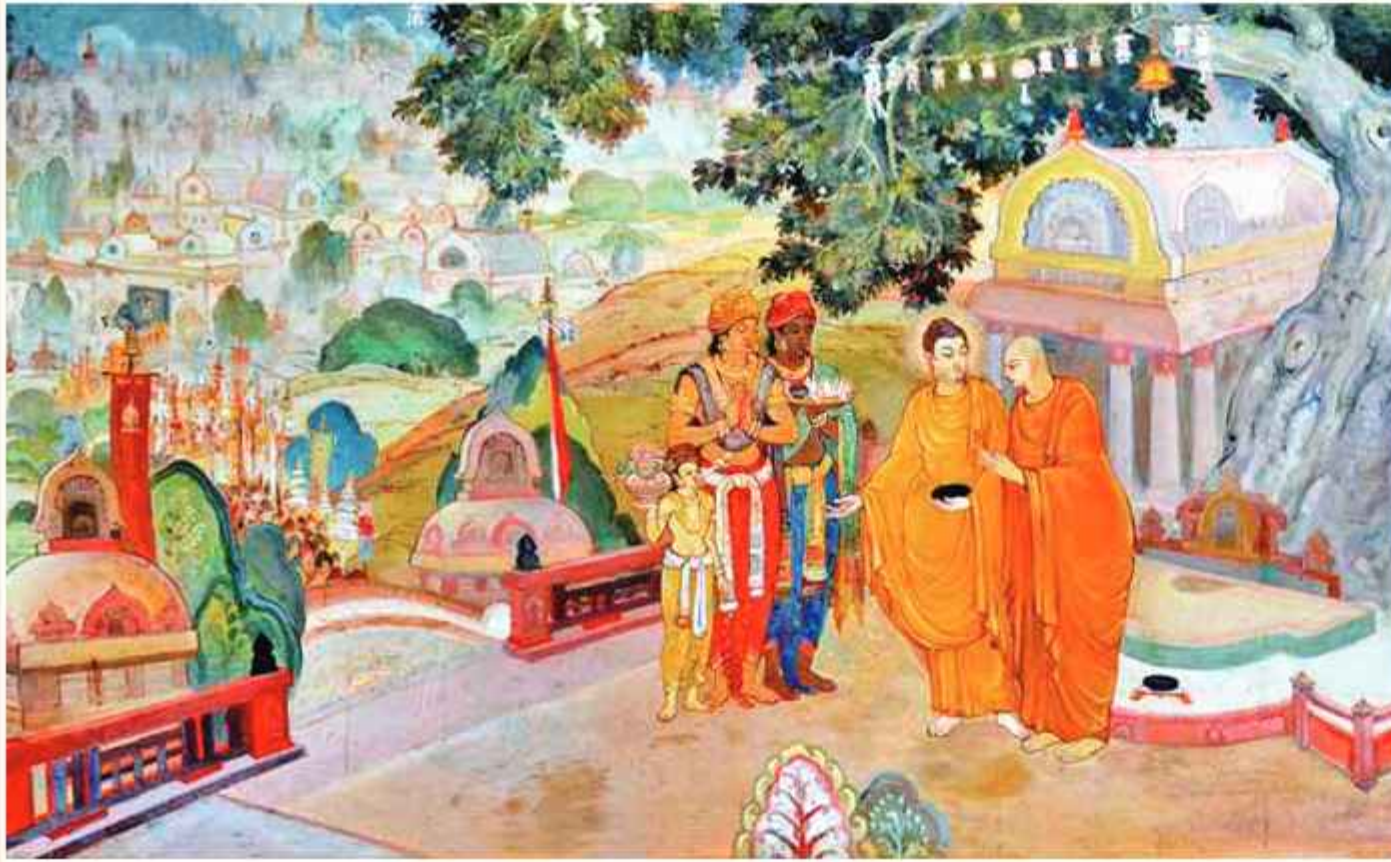
>> 'A view of the Pagodas at Deogur'



>> 'A view of a Mosque, at Rajemahal', an aquatint print of the engraving done by British traveller and artist William Hodges (1744-1797)

>> 'A view of the Fort of Mongheer upon the banks of the River Ganges'





>> Paintings by renowned painter of Bihar, Upendra Maharathi: (Left) Painting depicting the meeting of the Buddha with people of Vaishali, hung near the staircase that leads to the Banquet Hall; (Right) Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, hung on the elevated stage of Durbar Hall, under which all oath-taking ceremonies take place

The Durbar Hall has its own share of paintings. A portrait of Mahatma Gandhi hangs at the centre of the dias, while at its two corners are placed portraits of the country's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad and the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Two photographs of Bhim Rao Ambedkar – handing over the Book of Constitution to Prasad in one, and taking oath as Union law minister, with Nehru standing beside him and Sardar Patel looking on, in the other – are also on display there.

Besides, there is a painting of Veer Kuer Singh, the Bihar hero from the 1857 War of Indian Independence. There are also photographs of religious and historical shrines of the state. At the outer wall of Durbar Hall is hung the portrait of Ram Manohar Lohia, freedom fighter and progenitor of Indian Socialism.

Near the staircase that leads to the Banquet Hall is placed a painting by the legendary artist from Bihar, Upendra Maharathi. The painting depicts the meeting of the Buddha with people of Vaishali.





>> 'Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru' - oil portrait of the first Prime Minister of India by N S Subha Krishna



>> Oil painting of Babu Kunwar Singh by Anil Kumar



>> Portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by Anil Kumar



>> Rabindranath Tagore oil painting by Bhagwan



>> Dr. B.R. Ambedkar handing the Constitution of India to President Dr. Rajendra Prasad - A print of the original oil painting



>> Oil painting of  
First President  
Dr Rajendra  
Prasad greeting  
people on  
Independence  
Day



Life size Madhubani paintings by the pioneering artist, Jagdamba Devi, are also on display at the wall where the two staircases, rising from the ground floor near the Durbar Hall, meet on the first floor.

#### *First Floor*

The idols of the sitting Buddha and Nataraj are exhibited on the first floor. Paintings and portraits also find a place on the first floor. The portraits of the President and the Prime Minister have been prominently displayed on the walls of the Banquet Hall.

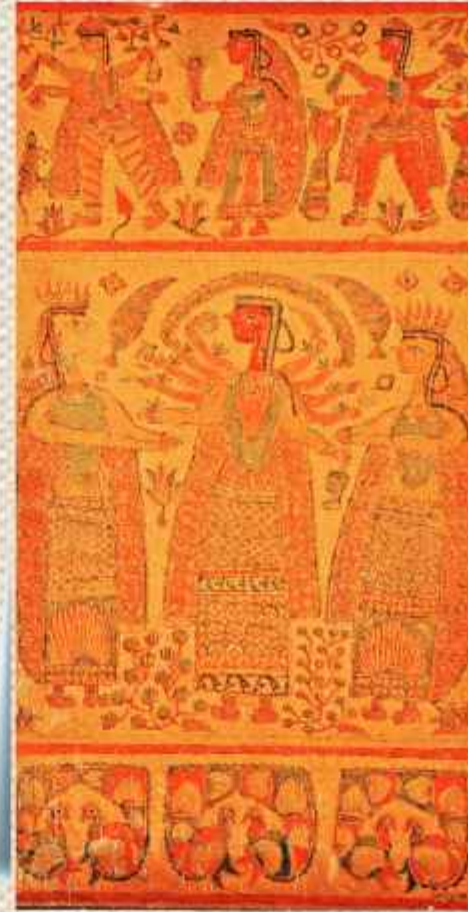
#### *Second Floor*

A painting of the country's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad, sitting in a ceremonial buggy, headed for the first Republic Day celebration in Delhi, has been displayed near the lift that the Governor uses to reach the ground floor.

A black and white photograph of a smiling Mahatma Gandhi in conversation with Jawaharlal Nehru during the national freedom struggle is also on display on the second floor. Besides, a portrait photograph of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also been displayed in the corridor.



**Rare life-size Madhubani paintings on Masonite board by renowned first-generation Mithila artist, Jagadamba Devi. Depicted in these are the forms of a dancing girl, Krishna with Gopis, Durga, and the royal procession, respectively**



**>> Panels depicting mud wall paintings of Mithila region of Bihar, hung on the walls of the staircase leading to the first floor**



**>> Handcrafted porcelain and crystal vases from the days of the British Raj, displayed in the private dining room of the Governor on the second floor. These have been made by famous manufacturers such as Waring & Gillow, Alfred Meakin, Keeling & Co Ltd of England**







>> A chimney breast in the Billiard Room

## Interior decor

The interior decor also catches the imagination of the visitor. All the halls and rooms share some common features, i.e. their doors and windows are stately, and they have fire places to provide heat in winter. However, due to advancement in airconditioning technology, the fire places are no longer in use. Accordingly, they have been blocked and their chimney breasts converted into decorative facades.

The gifts and mementos received by the successive Governors have been displayed in sideboards fixed to the

walls of the sitting rooms and the visitors' rooms on the second floor.

Similarly, offshore glassware and bone china crockery that the Lt Governors and Governors used in the colonial period have also been preserved and put on display in the Dining Room on the first floor.

The Banquet Hall and Sitting Rooms have three round brass-framed mirrors fixed on three walls. On the top of each is the emblematic image of an eagle just about to swoop down.

The dazzle of the chandeliers fixed to the ceiling of the Durbar Hall, Banquet Hall and Sitting Rooms (both on the first and second floor) catch the eye immediately.

Every room on the second floor has been provided with silk upholstered bed, designer furniture, an attached dressing room, a dressing table and mirror, dining table and an ante-room, while some also have a book case. The residents of the rooms can always have a panoramic view of the greenery outside through the glass windows, as the Raj Bhavan is surrounded by a vast open space with green cover and trees on all its sides.



>> One of the three round brass-framed mirrors hung on the walls of the Banquet Hall



>> The main living room on the second floor of Raj Bhavan, Bihar



## Local connect

Governor M R Jois, during his tenure, imparted local connect to the stately suites and rooms on the second floor of the Raj Bhavan. He gave a culturally appropriate name, Rajgrih – the name of the ancient Indian town in Bihar that engendered the Mauryan and Gupta empires – to the suites meant for the Governor, the President and the Prime Minister, as they are in close proximity of each other. Similarly, three other guest rooms were renamed – Saket, Vikramshila and Mithila.

On a larger scale, the process of decolonisation impacted the cultural geography of the New Capital Area. It began with the replacement of the statue of King George V, earlier installed on a high pedestal at the centre of the roundabout in front of the Raj Bhavan, by that of the country's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad.

Further, the KG Avenue itself was rechristened Deshratna Marg, in the memory of Prasad who was bestowed with the honorific 'Deshratna' for his enormous contribution to nation-building.



>> Statue of Deshratna Dr Rajendra Prasad  
in the middle of the Raj Bhavan Square





# A WORLD WITHIN



*The campus of the  
Raj Bhavan is a  
compact world  
replete with public  
utility, medical,  
staff housing and  
recreational  
facilities*

**P**olitically, Bihar Raj Bhavan, along with the all-important institution of the office of Lt Governor/ Governor, was given shape and form in the era of European imperialism. The traditional European imperial powers – the English, the French, the Dutch and the Portuguese – had established the colonial order in Asia, Africa and South America. The emergent imperial powers, Germany and Italy, competed with them to have their own share in markets and resources, which led to the globally destructive four-year-long First World War.

Culturally, around the same time, there emerged the practice of liberalism in arts; social, economic and physical/ natural sciences; innovation in physical and chemical science; new modes of transport such as steamships and aeroplanes, and modes of communication like wireless, as well as the establishment of educational and technical institutions. It had led to the growth and spread of modernisation. The popular interest in health, hygiene, physical exercise and body

care also surfaced. All this saw the overall growth of urban culture.

## *Seeds of modernity*

Around the time Bihar found its independent political identity as a separate state, with its own state capital and accompanying polity modelled to serve the colonial order, the liberal European modernism of the last four decades was witness to the big burst of 'high' modernism in literature, other arts, and sports. It had also seen the emergence of 'high' modernist architecture everywhere in Europe that marked the practice of art and craft pioneered by Lutyens and Baker. In tune with it, any 'good' building had to be architecturally impressive and eye-catching, and also endowed with large, spacious, lush green surroundings. In Bihar's case, the Raj Bhavan, along with the old secretariat, the Patna High Court and the GPO buildings constituted the epicentre for the spread of governance and communication network.





>> The corridor  
leading up to  
Durbar Hall

By then, the state had already had its share of the expansion of railway and road network. Its people, on their own volition, had taken to standardising the Hindi language, even as the official language was English. The first recorded novel in Hindi language had already been written in the last decade of the 19th century, and more were to follow. It was tied to the reading and writing public in the available and emerging middle class sections. The Raj Bhavan – for that matter, the institution of the office of Governor, totally identified with it – and acquired a pivotal position in planting the seeds of modernism for its spread in the state. It was to be

gradual, because society was still predominantly rural, even as there were around 58 towns that had municipalities by the end of the second decade of the 20th century.

Just how significant a role the office of the Governor played, could be gauged from the information regarding the availability of tennis courts on the campus of the Raj Bhavan. Probably, O'Malley had the same feeling. He wrote in his book 'Patna', *"The compound of one hundred acres has been well laid out; and it contains a number of excellent lawn tennis courts which lie between the two main approach drives."*





>> A banyan tree, one of the oldest, in the Raj Bhavan premises.



In the post-Independence period, Governor Quereshi enjoyed playing billiards in the Billiards Room on the first floor of the central section of the Raj Bhavan, while the library catered to the reading pleasure of those Governors and their family members and guests, who happened to be voracious readers.

By extension, persons who held the office of Lt Governor and Governor in the colonial period, and of the Governor after Independence, brought into play their own personal tastes, hobbies, interest in sports, gardening and horticulture, as well as commitment to the growth of higher education, health and innovations in agriculture and allied activities. The succession of Governors left their individual imprints on the campus of the Raj Bhavan.

## *Lush green surroundings*

According to the Patna District Gazetteer (1970), written by N Kumar, the “sprawling” campus of Raj Bhavan has 110 acres of lush green surroundings. It consists of a 25-acre plot of flower garden, both at its front and behind it, a 22-acre plot for vegetable garden and farming activities, as well as 12 acres of orchard of mangoes, guava and other fruits. The flower gardens, both in the front of the Raj Bhavan and behind it, have artistically laid out pedestrian tracks to facilitate walking, all the while enjoying the treat of colours.



>> Vegetable garden (left) and mango orchard (right) in the Raj Bhavan campus





*The rows of majestic bottle palms, standing in alignment in the front garden of the Raj Bhavan, and the tall banyan tree on the northern edge of the garden, add depth and dimension to the greens around*





>> Roses and other flowers in the Raj Bhavan garden

## Rose Garden

Even as all the Governors had a love for the garden and the lawn, and would take leisurely walks in and around it, two Governors in particular, Dr Zakir Husain and A R Kidwai, are especially remembered for their love for gardens. Dr Zakir Husain, in fact, had a fountain constructed in the front lawn. The fountain, along with the variety of roses around it, was called 'Zakir Kiara'.

Subsequently, Kidwai, who served for six years at the Raj Bhavan, including for five years in the 1990s, exhibited multi-faceted interest in the greens. He showed an exceptional fondness for lawns, gardens,

agriculture practices, fishery and poultry farming. Walking in the lawn was a daily activity that he cherished. If any new variety of rose was developed anywhere in the country, he would bring it to the Bihar Raj Bhavan garden. He also loved breeding new varieties of roses. On account of his abiding interest, the Raj Bhavan garden, at one time, had around 650 varieties of roses!

He got the rose plants and flowers properly tended, at times lending personal care, and also issued instructions to the garden supervisor on the specifics that needed to be done. What is also avidly recalled about him is that he pinned a rose bud on the lapel of his coat daily.



## *One with nature...*



>> **Clockwise from top left:** New additions to the Raj Bhavan premises – Polyhouse, greenhouse, solar panels, and sprinkler system for watering the lawns.





## Horticulture & fishery

Kidwai, in tune with his interest in gardens and horticulture, had a nursery built for cacti, called Cactus House, along the southern end of the Raj Bhavan, beyond the lawn. He also oversaw the planting of new bottle palms in rows in the front lawn, as the existing ones – then a 100 years old – had started aging and showed signs of wilting. New varieties of mango, developed in any of the state's agriculture universities, would be promptly planted in the orchard of the Raj Bhavan.

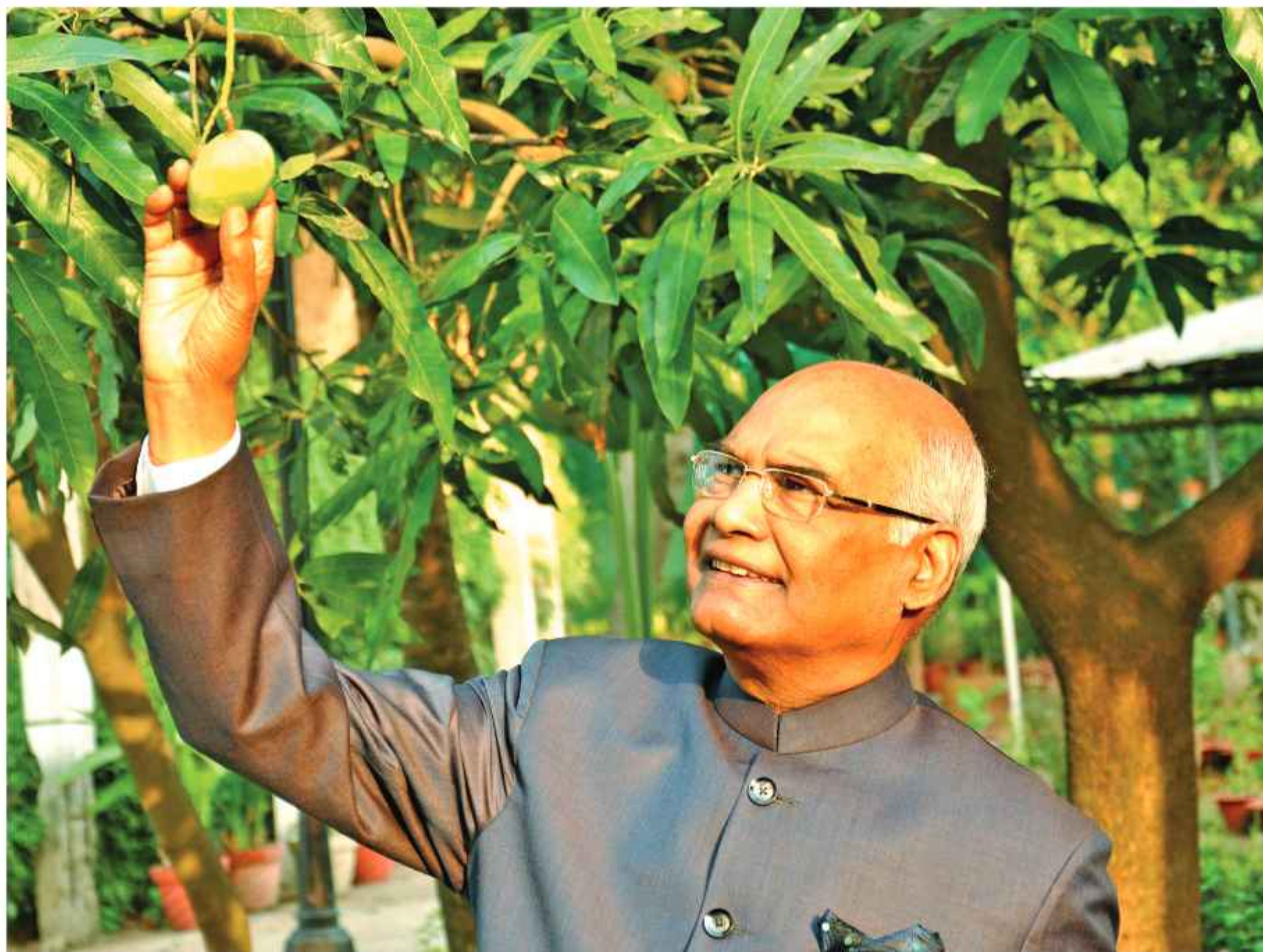
The farm land at the rear of the Raj Bhavan had a pond from earlier times. Kidwai had two more smaller ponds dug, in which he experimented with pisciculture. It was picked up by the state government for inclusion in its policy framework and implementation as a scheme. Similarly, he experimented with poultry farming, especially in the rearing of quail (*bater*) and turkey. Birds bred at the Raj Bhavan were open to purchase by people in the city back then. Later, the poultry farming was discontinued.



>> An example of pisciculture at one of the small ponds within the Raj Bhavan campus

>> Cacti House, the nursery for cacti





>> Former Governor and now the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, enjoying a moment of leisure at the mango orchard in the Raj Bhavan campus in August 2017.



Along with new practices in horticulture and fishery, A R Kidwai also introduced the practice of ringing a bell to alert the staff and officials about the start of the day's official schedule of the Governor



>> Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, inaugurating the Rajendra Mandap in the Raj Bhavan campus on October 3, 2012

## Healthy routine

The sound of the reveille is also the hour around which the Governor wakes up. He is served tea by his personal staff. The kitchen staff begin the day's duty at 6.30 am. By that time, the Governor, if he is so inclined, is in the front lawn of the Raj Bhavan, or in the one behind it, for his morning walk. Some of the Governors, such as A R Kidwai, Venkatasubbaiah, Pahadia, Quereshi, Rama Jois, Buta Singh, Devanand Konwar and Ram Nath Kovind, were known to take brisk morning walks. A few of them such as Ram Nath Kovind also practised *yoga* and *vipassana* for holistic health.

## Other facilities

In the middle, on the northern side of the drive originating from the Reception Room, stands Rajendra Mandap. Former President Pranab Mukherjee, during his visit and stay at the Raj Bhavan, had addressed the audience consisting of chief justice of the Patna High Court and other High Court judges, Speaker of the state assembly, chairman of the legislative council, chief minister, members of his council of ministers, legislators, heads of departments and other officials and dignitaries, at Rajendra Mandap.





>> Rajendra Mandap in the Raj Bhavan campus





>> Clockwise from top left: SBI ATM, dispensary, government girls' middle school and post office – all within the Raj Bhavan campus



>> Training institute run by Mahila Udaan Committee, which is under the patronage of the First Lady of the state



Cultural programmes involving eminent artists are hosted by the Governor at the Rajendra Mandap. Recently, former Governor Ram Nath Kovind hosted the theatre performance of drama 'Chanakya' by a Mumbai based theatre and cultural group.

The Raj Bhavan Archives contain and preserve files, documents and other official papers having the stamp and official noting of the Lt Governor and Governors, or as originate from the Raj Bhavan Secretariat. Documents can be found here dating to the days of the inception of the Raj Bhavan.

## Compact world

Given the nature of the office of Governor, the Raj Bhavan makes a compact world in itself. Fish ponds, farmland, plot allotted for vegetable gardens and orchards, which have pathways around them, serve the requirement of the state's First Family. The Raj Bhavan has its swimming pool constructed behind the main building, on the south-west corner, next to the tennis court.

Within the campus of the Raj Bhavan is the official quarter of the principal secretary.

*The Raj Bhavan has its own printing press, which prints the day's engagements of the Governor. Expectedly, the top middle slot of the Governor's printed engagement sheets has 'His Excellency's Engagement' superscribed on it*



Besides, there is a separate colony for the officials and staff. It exists on the northern end of the premises, outside its boundary wall, with a gate to facilitate entry.

On the campus of the Raj Bhavan colony stands a separate branch of State Bank of India, which, at one time, was called Imperial Bank of India. There is a post office as well, and a government hospital, manned by an assistant surgeon and other health staff and doctors, that attends to the minor health needs of the Governor.

In the early period of the Raj Bhavan, a stable was located in a section of the Raj Bhavan staff colony. It housed and reared horses, for use by the mounted police on ceremonial occasions.

The staff colony also had a section with platforms and water outlets, meant for use by the laundry staff to wash, clean, dry and iron the clothes of the residents of the Raj Bhavan, as well as of its staff.

A part of the Raj Bhavan with forest cover was transferred to Sanjay Gandhi Zoological and Biological Park (popularly called Patna Zoo), which stands adjacent to it. Yet, Patna Zoo, along with the adjoining Patna Golf Club, in practical environmental terms, has not shrunk the green cover surrounding the Raj Bhavan, because they, being adjacent to it, merge with it, even if they have their own distinct presence, separate from the Raj Bhavan campus.



>> Ducks at the large pond in the Raj Bhavan campus





The statue of the Sitting Buddha in the outer garden of Raj Bhavan



# THE HUMAN TOUCH



*In sync with the practice and convention of the past, the Governor maintains public interface through various institutions and humanitarian concerns*

Over the decades, the Governors promoted formation of institutions, which also facilitated their public interface. The institutions were related to such arenas of public life as research, service in medical colleges, formation of clubs, museums, and sports bodies. They also took active part in humanitarian activities, apart from maintaining and renewing their contacts with the gentry of the state which included zamindars, legal luminaries and private collectors of antiquities. This, in due course, radiated the ideas to divisional towns, where such activities were started with private initiative of the informed sections of society, cutting across community and religious lines.

On the other hand, in Patna, the First Ladies, especially in the first three decades of the formation of the institution of Lt Governor/ Governor, took an active part in promoting ideas of social reforms for women such as eradication of *Purdah* system, and

promotion of theatre activities. In the process of the eradication of the *Purdah* system, the First Ladies made the Governors agree to open the lawns of the Raj Bhavan for women, who had given up the *Purdah* system. This was done to familiarise them with the beauty of the Raj Bhavan premises and to introduce them to the joys of their newfound personal freedom.

## *Myriad roles & responsibilities*

In the altered situation today, the institution of the office of the Governor is bound by the Articles of the Constitution, in which the Governor performs an advisory role, although the government headed by the chief minister takes all decisions in his name within constitutional propriety.



>> Bihar Raj Bhavan being readied for a public function



The Governor is uniquely associated with the state's universities as their Chancellor, and also with half a dozen organisations/ institutes. He is Chairman of Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, and holds the same post for Bihar Chapter of Indian Red Cross Society. He is chairman of the State Welfare Fund to deal with relief and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen.

The Governor is also president of Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda – a deemed university, earlier established and inaugurated by the country's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, in 1951. Its initial name was Institute of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Pali and Buddhist studies, Nalanda. Similarly, the Governor is also chairman of Institute of Prakrit Studies, Vaishali, established by President Dr Prasad the

same year. The Governor is also the chairman of Bihar Research Society.

## Public interactions

On the all-important occasions of Republic Day and Independence Day, cultural programmes are also organised in the Raj Bhavan premises, in which children from select schools present their performances.

The First Lady is associated with various humanitarian causes. This includes chairing a school to impart training in sewing and stitching, which is located in the Raj Bhavan Colony itself. She is also chairperson of All India Women's Council for Child Welfare. It runs a home for the 'divyang' (differently abled) children.

*From among the Lt Governors and Governors, two of them, E W Gait and R R Diwakar, showed active interest in history writing and the need to promote historical research and establishment of public libraries. Gait had written a book on Assam, and helped establish Bihar Research Society. He also established Gait Public Library at Gardanibagh, where the government quarters for the clerical staff had been constructed. Diwakar, on the other hand, wrote the book 'Bihar Through the Ages' that made the state's history accessible for the larger public*



## Lore & legends

The legends around Lt Governors and Governors continued to burgeon, as they were “seasoned administrators”. Arguably, however, “this was not the only role they had to play”, probably because the national freedom struggle had taken new dimensions under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. To quote Nirmal Kumar at length from his book ‘Image of Patna’: *“It is recorded that they paid as much attention to social functions and considered it to be necessary to keep in touch with all important personalities of the state.”*

He added: *“The Rajas and Nawabs, in turn, vied with each other to attract their attention and be in their good books. There are numerous anecdotes which recall the lavishness which was associated with the parties in those days.”* Furthermore: *“There are descriptions of Shikar parties resplendent with instances that speak of a gaiety and splendour that could have been possible only in that era.”*

The Lt Governors/ Governors used to visit the houses of privileged Muslim gentry and others like Radha Krishna Jalan. Jalans had become famous as collectors of antique items from across the continents, which were displayed in their private Jalan Museum in Patna City area. The Lt Governors/ Governors used to travel to those locations riding their horse-driven carriages.

In one case, the Governor had, on invitation, visited the scion of the ‘Darbhanga Raj’ who was famous as the most spirited of donors to popular causes supported by the Raj Bhavan.

The Raj Bhavan involved itself actively in a humanitarian role in the aftermath of the massive earthquake that hit north Bihar on January 15, 1934. It had occurred at 2.15 pm, when most people were outdoors, which prevented the loss of human lives on a more major scale. But the damage caused to houses in Munger, Muzaffarpur, Motihari and Darbhanga, among other towns, were extensive. The tremors of the quake also hit Patna, damaging bungalows and houses near the riverfront of the Ganga, touching the buildings up to what today is called Gandhi Maidan. At Patna, the bungalows of the chief justice of the Patna High Court, divisional commissioner and senior SP (now that of district judge), apart from the buildings of Patna Medical College Hospital, were affected. The top of the tower of the old secretariat building also developed cracks. In fact, in the course of its dismantling, the top portion had collapsed.

The news of the extensive damage and devastation did not reach Patna until the second day. In fact, the aeroplane belonging to Captain Barnacle's Circus brought the first news of the natural disaster.

The Viceroy's office in Delhi and the Bihar and Orissa Government House showed alacrity and responded with humanitarian aid for the relief, rescue and rehabilitation.

The Viceroy's Relief Fund raised Rs 62 lakh, while Bihar Central Relief Committee led by Dr Prasad raised another Rs 28 lakh. Mahatma Gandhi visited the state to provide help and assistance, as well as to heal the wounds, while Congress stalwart Jawaharlal Nehru arrived to survey and assess the damage.





>> President Ram Nath Kovind and his family interacting with children at the Independence Day function at Raj Bhavan, during his gubernatorial tenure



>> Bal Diwas celebration at Raj Bhavan



>> Painting competition of school children, as a part of Bal Diwas celebration at Raj Bhavan





>> Lady Stephenson Hall, constructed in 1928, named in honour of Lady Governor Stephenson, wife of the third Governor Sir Hugh Lansdown Stephenson



## *Promotion of cottage industry*

By 1917-18, the Cottage Industries Institute had been set up at Gulzarbag to revive and enrich the cottage industries of Bihar. On the initiative of the industries department and with active patronage of the Raj Bhavan, the art and handicraft items, including hand-woven textiles, were sent for display at the British Empire's Exhibition organised in 1924 and 1925. Later, due to demands from foreign countries, Miss McLeish was engaged by the department as a designer, who, in six months, designed around 60 new patterns. The Bihar items, in turn, were put on display at Cottage Industries Stall at Olympia. All this created a demand for hand-woven fabrics and 'durrees' (mats) from Bihar in the US, England and other parts of India.

## *First Ladies of grit*

### *Lady Wheeler against Purdah system*

Lady Wheeler, wife of Governor Sir Henry Wheeler, who was the Governor on two occasions, initiated the Raj Bhavan's contribution to the eradication of the *Purdah* system, then rampant in Bihar. This happened after P K Sen, the eminent lawyer from Calcutta, settled at Patna to practise law at the Patna High Court and built a mansion. His wife Sushma Sen, who was in London, also joined him. Later, the scion of Sahay Family purchased this mansion – that stands opposite Patna Planetarium – in 1953, and gave it the name 'Sahay Sadan'.

Lady Wheeler summoned Sushma Sen to the Raj Bhavan, given the exposure she had enjoyed while living in London, and asked her to organise the '*Purdah* parties' at the Raj Bhavan. Soon, the First Lady started inviting women every month to the Raj Bhavan lawns. High tea was followed by conversations on relevant issues. Another eminent lawyer from Patna, Sir Ali Imam, also asked Sushma Sen to introduce his newly wedded wife Lady Anisa Ali to Lady Wheeler. Lady Anisa also became an active member of the '*Purdah* parties'.

Lady Wheeler was also associated with Bihar Council of Women under whose care a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre – called Lady Wheeler Centre – was opened at Gulzarbag.

### *Lady Stephenson for women's reforms*

Lady Stephenson, wife of Governor Sir Hugh Lansdown Stephenson, who served the office on three occasions, ending in 1932, took the campaign for women's cause and rights to newer heights. Women who participated in the '*Purdah* parties' formed an expansive group. Lady Stephenson, in-charge of All India Women's Council to which Bihar Council of Women was affiliated, also involved the women in art, literature and theatre activities. By 1928, Lady Stephenson Hall was established near Patna Museum, later inaugurated by Governor Stephenson in 1929 to give credit to her work.





>> Former Governor, President Ram Nath Kovind, and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurating the stage performance of historical drama 'Chanakya' at Rajendra Mandap in the Raj Bhavan premises

A queer situation developed in January 1929, when All India Women's Conference decided to hold its third national conference at Patna, after the first at Pune and the second in Delhi. While the national organising secretary of the conference was Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay, the president of the reception committee of the conference was the wife of Mazharul Haque, the first Bihar Congress president, and its secretary was Sushma Sen. The theme of the conference was educational reforms. When Lady Stephenson was approached to inaugurate it, she expressed reluctance, suggesting that the women's body concerned was political.

However, the First Lady was informed that Lady Irwin, wife of Viceroy Irwin, had earlier inaugurated the national conference in Delhi. Only after this information did she agree to inaugurate the Patna conference of the women's body.

Given the emancipatory environment created by Lady Wheeler and Lady Stephenson, along with their acolytes, including Sushma Sen, Lady Anisa and Mrs Haque, among others, Mahatma Gandhi noted the remarkable improvement that had come about at Patna as far as women's participation in public events was concerned.



With regard to one such event held on the premises of Radhika Sinha Institute on Sinha Library Road, the Mahatma wrote in his 'Young India' on June 28, 1928: "A unique spectacle was witnessed at the mixed gathering of ladies and gentlemen held at Radhika Sinha Institute." He added, "The gathering was unspeakably large... crowded with ladies, three-fourth of whom were such as had been observing 'purdah' a day before. It really presented an impressive scene."

## Sports club and recreation

In early 1916, the formal occupation of the Raj Bhavan and the old secretariat, as well as the start of the functioning of the Patna High Court, along with the transfer of judges from Calcutta, gave a new impetus to the social and public life at Patna - and, for that matter, in Bihar. As early as 1916, the then Governor Sir Edward Albert Gait was among the high profile people comprising High Court judges, among others, who made a move for land acquisition, first for the New Patna Club on the then Gardiner Road, and then for Golf Club on Bayley Road. Golf Club was allotted 165 acres of land in 1916, and New Patna Club 4.13 acres in 1918.

The Raj Bhavan also took an active interest in the promotion of modern sports such as football,

hockey, tennis, cricket and badminton. The tournament trophies were started in the name of the Governors, while fixture matches in cricket, like between the High Court's XI and Governor's XI, were also held. Lawn tennis was played on the tennis courts in the bungalows of senior officials in New Capital Area, but the opening of New Patna Club encouraged greater public participation. Soon, eminent players, who had earned names in football, cricket and tennis, started playing at Patna. Raj Bhavan played host to eminent coaches, who would stay in the allotted guest rooms on its premises.

## Cultural performances

That eminent artists performed at the Raj Bhavan is known by the legend that has passed from generation to generation. It was noted by writer Nirmal Kumar in his book, 'Image of Patna'. He wrote: "Many famous artists have given their performance here in the presence of select distinguished gathering."

More recently, in keeping with this tradition, former Governor Ram Nath Kovind personally invited a select group of the city's gentry - around 250 of them - to view the historical drama 'Chanakya' at the Rajendra Mandap on the Raj Bhavan campus on May 2, 2017.

*In the post-Independence period, the Raj Bhavan became a part of popular legend in another way. The then Governor Dev Kant Barooah inaugurated the Coffee House run by India Coffee Board on New Dak Bungalow Road in 1971. The Coffee House was started at the initiative of the then Union minister Lalit Narayan Mishra, who headed the foreign trade ministry. Coffee House remained the major haunt of the intelligentsia, authors, artists and cognoscenti for 15 years, until it was closed down in July 1986*





>> At Home function  
on January 26, 2018,  
in Raj Bhavan, Bihar

## *Two national celebrations*

As in the case of the President and the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi, the Governor and the Raj Bhavan at Patna are the singular embodiments of the most significant aspect of the Indian Union – the Republic. The most important event that the Raj Bhavan observes every year is the Republic Day celebration on January 26, held to uphold the glory of the day when the country became a Republic, back in 1950.

Similarly, the Independence Day celebration is also organised on August 15 to relive the joy of that remarkable moment when the country became free from colonial rule on the midnight of August 14 and entered its new era of freedom and liberty, with the ringing ‘Tryst with Destiny’ speech by the country’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



>> Participants of cultural performances, cadets and other invitees at the 'At Home' ceremony



## Republic Day

Every year, on the morning of Republic Day, the Governor first lays a wreath at the Martyr's Memorial, Kargil Chowk. Then, at the nearby Gandhi Maidan, amid a festive atmosphere and a spectacle of people with tricolours in their hands and balloons soaring in the sky, he unfurls the national tricolor, after which the brass band plays the national anthem. He then inspects the parade and takes the salute of the marching units of Bihar Military Police, Gurkha battalion, police, state rapid action force, and other such units, as well as of the NCC wings of boys and girls.

Finally, after announcing the policies and achievements of his government run by the state's chief minister, he takes the primary seat meant for him in the front row among the eminent invited dignitaries. From there, they watch the parade of tableaux that present the social, economic, developmental and cultural aspirations of the people of the state, as represented

by the select key government departments.

In the evening, invited dignitaries and heads of departments are treated to high tea and cultural programmes presented by school children at Rajendra Mandap.

The Raj Bhavan organises a similar cultural programme on the occasion of the Independence Day.

## 'At Home'

However, every Governor also has a separate function lined up for the afternoon. It is the much-awaited function that is associated with the institution of the Lt Governor/ Governor and the Raj Bhavan. The special function is called 'At Home' – a tradition coming from the days of the British Lt Governors and Governors when they mingled with the bureaucratic heads of the government departments.





>> Glimpses of the 'At Home' ceremony at the Raj Bhavan on January 26, 2018





>> Governor Satya Pal Malik hosting officers of the Armed Forces, academicians, bureaucrats, social workers and others during 'At Home'

After independence, this function was given a wider social base and representation, as would befit the institution of the office of the Governor as the head of the state. It is organised on the front lawn of the Raj Bhavan.

By 3 pm, all the invited guests – chief justice of the Patna High Court, High Court judges, state assembly speaker, legislative council chairman, chief minister, council of ministers, legislators, heads of departments and officials, university vice-chancellors and other officials, senior university and college teachers, doctors from medical colleges, representatives of the Danapur

Military Cantt, sportspersons, notable artists, poets, writers and playwrights, among other invitees – take their seats in the lawn.

The Governor arrives accompanied by two 'chobdars', two AsDC and the principal secretary. The two personal security guards, each carrying a golden mace with the seal of Government of India on its top, lead him to the venue. The Governor goes straight to the stage when the national anthem is played, after which he meets the invitees and mingles with them over snacks. The national anthem is once again played when the Governor retires at the close of the function.



*Among the distinguished visitors to Bihar who chose to stay at the Raj Bhavan were those associated with British Royalty and two Viceroys of India during the colonial period, as well as several Presidents and Prime Ministers in independent India*

# A HOMESTAY FOR NOTABLE GUESTS

## *King George V*

The association of British Royalty with Bihar started with the announcement of King George V at his Delhi Durbar meet on December 12, 1912, regarding the separation of Bihar and Orissa from Greater Bengal. In the same deliberation, he also expressed his desire to establish a suitable capital city in Patna. The construction of the Raj Bhavan started in December 1913, and it was completed by early 1916.

King George V was the first from the British Royalty who visited Bihar. He merely passed by Bihar while on his way to Nepal from Delhi. On his visit, O'Malley wrote in his book 'Patna': "On

*December the 12, 1911, the King-Emperor at Delhi announced the constitution of the new province of Bihar and Orissa, with Patna as its capital."*

*Further, "From Delhi, he went to Nepal; and as he passed through Patna, he went down the river (Ganga) by boat to see the new capital, where thousands had gathered near the Adalat Ghat to welcome him."*

*Also, "Since that time the face of Patna has been changed by the creation of a new city to the west of Old Municipal Area... The father of King George V had visited Patna in 1876, in memory of which visit stands the Bihar School of Engineering (later changed to Bihar College of Engineering, and finally to National Institute of Technology)."*





>> Statue of King George V, earlier installed at Raj Bhavan Square, now on display in the Patna Museum premises

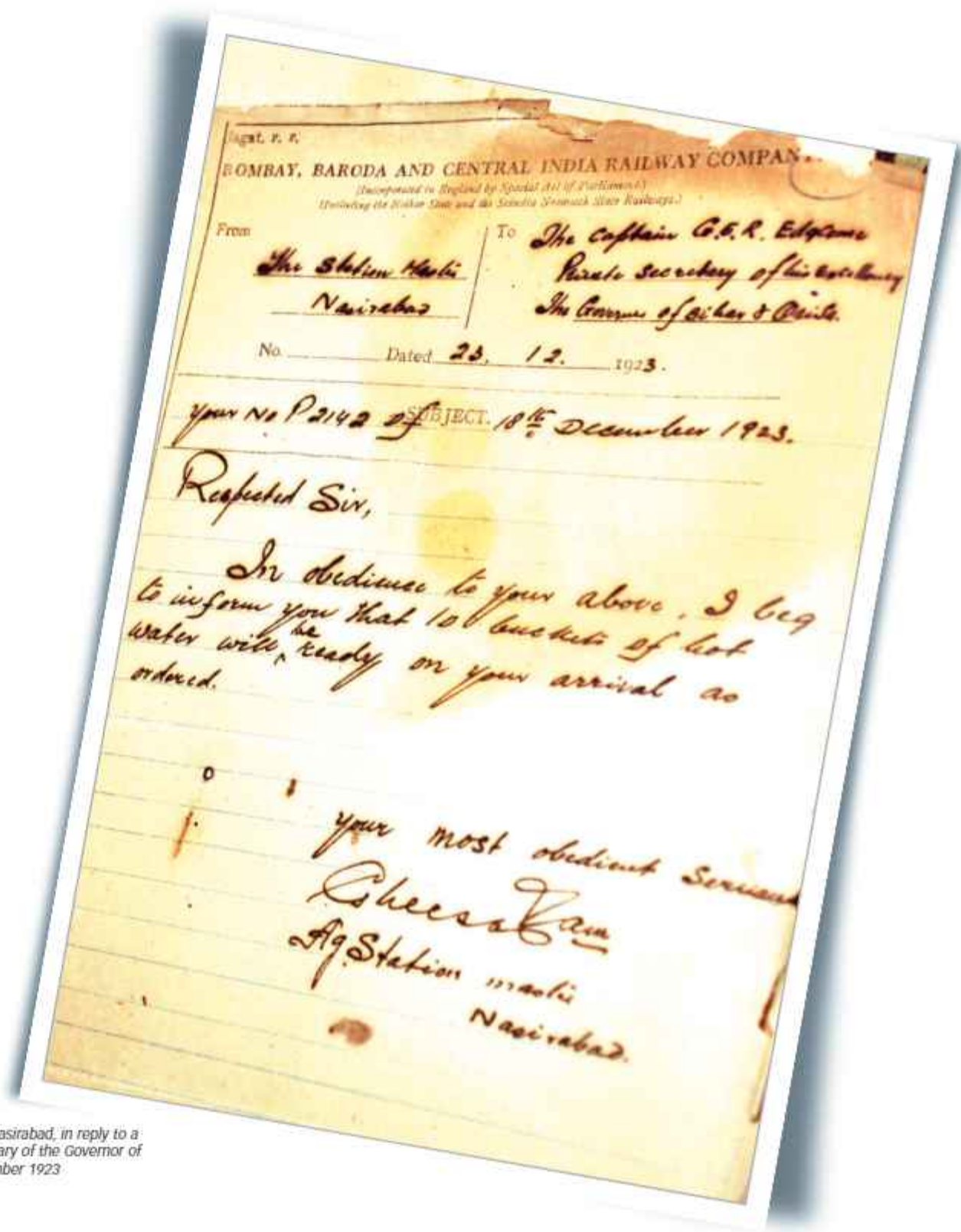


Yet, owing to the gift he had given to Bihar from the Delhi Durbar, people of the state had special reverence for him, which was amply shown by the gathering of people along the 'ghats' and the bank of the Ganga at Patna when he was returning from Nepal. King George V remained the monarch of Great Britain for slightly over 25 years. The silver jubilee celebration of his 25-year reign was also celebrated in 1935 in Bihar. Naturally, the Government House, too, was involved in it. The Silver Jubilee parades were held at Patna, the capital of the province of Bihar and Orissa, and also at Ranchi, the summer capital. The silver jubilee films were also shown in all the talkies. Unfortunately, the King died a few months later in January 1936.

## Prince of Wales

The second from the British Royalty to visit Bihar and stay at the Raj Bhavan was Prince of Wales in 1921. He stayed here for two days, and also addressed a Durbar at Bankipore Lawn (later christened Gandhi Maidan). Writes O'Malley about his visit: "Another Prince of Wales came to Patna in December of 1921, when he held a darbar in a pandal erected on the Bankipore Maidan, and spent two days in the new capital."

>> A letter by the Station Master, Nasirabad, in reply to a request made by the private secretary of the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, dated 23rd December 1923.





His visit was fondly recalled, because despite the countrywide Khilafat Movement, and also the Non-cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi, his visit to Bihar and stay at Patna had passed off peacefully. The credit for organising the peaceful visit went to Henry St John Morrison, who was SP, CID Branch, at Patna. The then Governor Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha recommended Morrison's name for the conferment of MBE ('Most Excellent Order of the British Empire') award to him.

### *Viceroy Lord Linlithgow*

A decision was taken at the level of the Viceroy to commemorate the two-day visit of Prince of Wales to Bihar. The idea was discussed and it was decided to establish a medical college, and name it after him. The commemoration of the visit of Prince of Wales required funds which were to be raised through donations to the Prince of Wales Medical College Fund. The money pooled in through voluntary donations was Rs 9.25 lakh. The Maharaja of Darbhanga alone contributed Rs 5 lakh.

Given the popular response to the idea, coupled with the successful pooling in of the fund through donations, the Government of India sanctioned the opening of medical colleges both at Patna and Darbhanga. The Maharaja of Darbhanga also donated 200 acres of land for the opening of the medical college at Darbhanga. The then Governor Sir Henry Wheeler inaugurated the medical college at Patna on February 2, 1927, and it was officially named Prince of Wales Medical College on July 25. Hathwa and Gujri Wards were also opened in the name of the respective donors.

However, the construction and expansion of the college was an ongoing process. Viceroy Linlithgow (1930-1943) visited Patna in 1930 to oversee the progress of work and stayed at the Raj Bhavan. During his visit, the decision was taken to shift the Radium Therapy Ward from Ranchi to Patna. The Maharaja of Darbhanga donated Rs 1 lakh and his younger brother Kumar Vishveswar Singh donated Rs 50,000 for the purchase of radium. The same year the Hospital for Women was also opened, and named Lady Stephenson Hospital for Women, because it had been started at her initiative.

*Upon the death of King George V, it was decided to install his statue at the centre of the round square in front of the Raj Bhavan in Patna. Accordingly, a Memorial Fund was raised through donations, and the Maharaja of Darbhanga donated Rs 1 lakh to it. Finally, a giant size statue of King George V was installed on a high pedestal there*





In between, the Second World War had already broken. Viceroy Linlithgow visited Patna again in 1941 and saw the progress of work on Children's Hospital whose construction had started in 1938-39, and was half complete at the time of his visit. As the War had created several impediments, the Viceroy ordered that the work be completed at any cost, the constraints notwithstanding.

### *Viceroy Lord Hardinge*

However, before the visits of Prince of Wales and Viceroy Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy Lord Hardinge (1910-1916) had already visited Patna twice.

The first time, it was for laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Raj Bhavan and other prominent buildings. He laid the foundation stone of the Raj Bhavan on December 1, 1913. During his second visit in February 1916, he inaugurated these buildings. Wrote O'Malley in 'Patna': *"In February of 1916 Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Viceroy and Governor General, opened the new High Court with due ceremonial."*

>> Statue of Lord Charles Hardinge, Viceroy and Governor-General of India from 1910-16, in the Patna Museum premises

As in the case of King George V later, a statue of Viceroy Lord Hardinge was installed at the park developed behind the GPO building. It was named Hardinge Park after him. Later, its name was changed to Veer Kuer Singh Park. Today, the statues of both King George V and Lord Hardinge have been placed in the premises of Patna Museum.

### *Presidents & Prime Ministers*

Among the country's Presidents, who stayed at the Bihar Raj Bhavan, are Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, Dr Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee. The portraits of Presidents adorn the walls of the Raj Bhavan, as do the pictures of Prime Ministers – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi. After vacating the office of the President, Dr Prasad chose to live in the premises of Bihar Vidyapeeth near the state Congress headquarters Sadaquat Ashram.



## *Other notable guests*

A string of other notable guests have chosen to either stay at the Raj Bhavan or visited it during their Patna sojourn. In any case, Bihar Raj Bhavan has the privilege and pleasure of hosting a long list of dignitaries including Vice Presidents, Governors of other states, chairman and deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha, speaker and deputy speaker of Lok Sabha, Union ministers, chairman and deputy chairman of legislative councils, speaker and deputy speaker of legislative assemblies of various states, chief ministers, top ranking officials of the armed forces, ambassadors from other countries, chairpersons and heads of government bodies, national commissions and committees. Besides, persons known for their contribution to art, craft, culture, music – and to society at large – including artists and social reformers, have also been hosted at the Raj Bhavan.

>> *Former President APJ Abdul Kalam enjoying a leisurely walk on the driveway inside the Raj Bhavan*







>> Former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam being welcomed by former Governor Devanand Konwar



>> Former President of India Dr Pratibha Devisingh Patil accepting a memento from former Governor R S Gavai



>> Former President Pranab Mukherjee accepting a souvenir from former Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi



>> Former Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari being presented a memento by former Governor Dnyandeo Yashwantrao Patil





>> **Former Governor Ram Nath Kovind welcoming Governor of Jharkhand Draupadi Murmu**



>> **Former Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar accepting a memento from former First Lady of the state in the presence of former Governor Dnyandeo Yashwantrao Patil**



>> **Former Prime Minister of Nepal Girija Prasad Koirala during his visit to the Bihar Raj Bhavan**



>> **Former US Ambassador to India, Richard Verma, meeting the then Governor Ram Nath Kovind during his Bihar visit in February 2016**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF RAJ BHAVAN



*Life inside the  
Raj Bhavan is  
governed by  
strict protocol  
and norms,  
which are  
adhered to  
without any  
exception*

**T**he internal syntax of Raj Bhavan is in the form of codes, rituals, and strict norms of protocol. If the Governor is at the Raj Bhavan or in any part of the state, the national tricolour is unfurled atop the Raj Bhavan at sunrise with the sound of the bugle. The flag is lowered in the evening at sunset – again, at the sound of the bugle. When the Governor is within the state, a blue light is switched on and shines atop the Raj Bhavan at night.

The Governor, even while away, is always kept informed about events happening in the state in his absence. His prior sanction is taken before issuing even an obituary reference on his behalf from the Raj Bhavan to any person, or congrat-

ulatory communication to any prominent person, or even to wish the public on festive occasions or otherwise.

## *Sound of the reveille*

At the Raj Bhavan, the day begins with the sound of the reveille at the stroke of daybreak. The sound of the reveille coincides with the rising sun. It is as much to herald the start of the routine as it is to serve as the sound of alert for everyone, including those living in the Raj Bhavan Colony, that they have to be ready to attend to their duties at the Raj Bhavan at the appointed hour.





>> President Ram Nath Kovind and the First Lady at Governor House of Bihar on November 9, 2017, along with Governor Satya Pal Malik, members of the Raj Bhavan secretariat and the staff



(Confidential)



Sunrise 06.35 A.M.

Sunset 05.28 P.M.

A. D. C. on duty

1. Maj. Himanshu Tewari, RA

2. Shri Anand Kumar, IPS

**Engagements  
of  
His Excellency Shri Satya Pal Malik  
Governor of Bihar**

*Friday, 26th January, 2018*

- 8-30 A.M. Dep. Raj Bhavan for Shaheed-e- Kargil Smriti Sthal, Gandhi Maidan Patna.
- 8-40 A.M. Arr. Shaheed-e- Kargil Smriti Sthal, Gandhi Maidan, Patna to pay tribute to the Martyrs and attend the Republic Day function at Gandhi Maidan, Patna.
- 10-21 A.M. Dep. Gandhi Maidan, Patna for Raj Bhavan, Patna.
- 10-31 A.M. Arr. Raj Bhavan, Patna.
- 2-00 P.M. Attends the Function of Republic Day "Swagat Samaroh" at Darbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Patna.
- 3-30 P.M. Attends the "AT Home" function at Raj Bhavan, Patna.
- 4-45 P.M. Dep. for Rajendra Mandap at Raj Bhavan premises to attend the Cultural Function.
- 5-45 P.M. Dep. from Rajendra Mandap for Main building.

*Raj Bhavan Press, Patna*

26th January, 2018

*ADC to Governor*

*Bihar*

## *The day's schedule*

Before the arrival of the Governor in his Office Chamber, all items are kept in their appointed place. Among the first things that happen at the Raj Bhavan on any single day is the ritual placing of the printed timeline of the 'Daily Engagement of His Excellency' on the table of every senior official and chiefs of the various wings that are required to assist the Governor in performing his general official duties.

The 'Daily Engagement' is printed at the Raj Bhavan. Even if there is no such duty in the schedule meant for the day, the 'Daily Engagement' chart is put at the identified places, but with the notation 'Reserved', meaning the Governor reserves his right to be on the call of duty at any moment of the day, even if it has remained unannounced.

On any day, a few minutes before the Governor is just about to leave Rajgrih, his personal suite on the second floor of the Raj Bhavan, to attend to his official engagements, either in the Office Chamber located on the ground floor or anywhere in Patna or outside, a bell rings very briefly – for a few seconds. The bells are fixed at the central points of the ground and first floors. The tinkling sound, quite audible for anyone across the length and breadth of the building, immediately alerts all the officials and staff present to a pin-drop silence. All eyes and ears remain transfixed to the appointed moment of his arrival.

>>> A copy of the Governor's daily engagement sheet



## *Dignified protocol*

Adherence to a dignified protocol is a must for a meeting with the Governor at the Raj Bhavan. A protocol officer manages the schedule of the Governor as per the rule book. On one occasion, a former Governor of Bihar, who belonged to another state, was on a private visit to Patna. Over the telephone, he expressed his desire to sit with the incumbent over tea. The incumbent was effusive enough to express his desire to call on him at his host's residence. However, the visiting ex-Governor of the state knew that the gesture of the incumbent, even though very touching, would have violated the strict norms adhered to at the Raj Bhavan. Accordingly, he called on the incumbent and met with him at the Raj Bhavan.

Similarly, in the early 1920s, the first Governor of Bihar and Orissa, Lord S P Sinha, had ordered his visitor-relative to be turned away from the reception room, because he had arrived and appeared at the Raj Bhavan/ Government House unannounced, without following the norms regarding the strict protocol that is followed.

## *Raj Bhavan secretariat & household staff*

The Governor, being the representative of the President, enjoys relative autonomy from the state government. Neither the central government nor the state government can post officials directly to the Raj Bhavan. The Union ministry of home affairs and ministry of defence ministry send panel of

names from which the Governor selects his two AsDC. From the panel sent by the Union ministry of home, the Governor selects one for the appointment of IPS ADC, and from the panel sent by the Ministry of Defence, he selects the Military ADC. Similarly, from the panel of names of IAS officers sent by the state government, he selects one for the post of principal secretary who heads the Raj Bhavan secretariat.

The Raj Bhavan's official functions to assist the Governor are conducted by its eight wings – administrative, university section, establishment, accounts, protocol, public relations, personal security guard, and security cell. The administrative wing, headed by the principal secretary, has an additional secretary, two joint secretaries, two officers on special duty, two under-secretaries, a university inspector, and a house superintendent.

The administrative wing oversees all the work, including the Raj Bhavan Library and Raj Bhavan Archives, both of which are being renovated. The precious books in the library and documents preserved are in the process of being conserved. The library has around 950 books, including 450 novels which were either purchased or collected by various Governors during the pre-Independence period, and after it. Many of them have also been gifted by authors and publishers.

On any single day, all the wings function to take up matters related to university administration, or as are on the agenda for the day. Besides, junior engineers, gardeners, the kitchen staff, and others concerned can be seen attending to their assigned duties.





### *A legacy in continuum*

There is an unstated feeling that the Raj Bhavan and the institution of the office of Governor is a part of a national legacy, as ordained by the Constitution that's a living continuity in history. Or as former principal secretary to the Governor,

Dr E L S N Bala Prasad, remarked, "Every day here is a work in progress." Everyone appears to be at home here, always looking cheerful, calm and satisfied. Seemingly, they end the work schedule at the Raj Bhavan with the pragmatic statement from Margaret Mitchell's 'Gone with the Wind' – *"Tomorrow is another day"*.



