

# Anandanagar News

(December, 2014)

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## **Picnic by Primary school students of Umanivas**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December Primary school students of Umanivas went for a picnic at Pogro



## **Provision of Drinking water at Umanivas Rarh Hostel (L) and Primary School (L)**

Drinking water facility was not available in the Rarh hostel and it used to be arranged by hiring person to bring water from distant places. This inconvenience is now over and a hand pump has been established here on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### Medical camp

There was medical camp at the village Jabar on 1<sup>st</sup> December. About 50 villagers got benefited. Another camp was held at the village Jamra on 29<sup>th</sup> December. About 108 villagers got benefited.



Medical camp at Jabar village



Medical camp at Jamra village

### Cloth distribution

There was a cloth distribution program by AMURT Sevadal at the two villages Samlatarh and Bhuchungdih near Asti Pahard on 18 December. 60 villagers got benefited.



### Cultural programme at Umanivas

The Annual cultural program was performed at Umanivas Primary School in the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. The local students enthusiastically participated. The villagers enjoyed.



### Annual Sports day observed at Bakul Vitan Primary School

The Annual sports Day was celebrated at Bakul Vitan primary school on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec morning. The students participated.



### Rector Master in the NSSS Youth convention, 2014 (27-29 Dec)

There was a program of National Service Scheme State Youth Convention 2014 organised by West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education at Jhalda Satyabhama Vidyapith started on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. In this convention three representatives from each of total 177 Higher Secondary Schools participated. Teacher-in-charge of Jhalda Satyabhama Vidyapith honors our Rector Master (Ananda Nagar) by inviting him who used this opportunity to inspire youngsters by delivering a lecture. Minister Shanti Ram Mahato, MLA of Bagmundi constituency, Block Development Officer and other dignitaries also attended the program.



### Education Training Camp (ETC)

The winter session of the Education Training Camp was organized in Ananda Nagar from 20-24 Dec 2014. Over 300 teachers and Principals of Ananda Marga Schools from various parts of India participated in this five-day-long training. Classes were conducted by experienced trainers on various aspects of Neo-Humanist Education (NHE) such as Specialties of NHE, Teaching English, Rhymes and Rhythms, School Management, School Accounts, First Aid in School, Foundations of NHE, Creative Games, Lesson Plan, Classroom management, Imaginative Play, Yoga for Kids etc. there was also Rhymes and Moral Story telling Competition where all participated with great enthusiasm expressing their talents and creativity. Didi Ananda Madhupurna came from Australia and Didi Ananda Gunamaya from Jamaica to train the teachers with practical techniques of Play-way methods. There was a colourful and very impressive cultural program on 23<sup>rd</sup> evening. Girls from Rarh hostel, Umanivas presented a dance drama "Vanshi" which was spectacular and heart touching to see the talents of the small kids. The teachers also presented several creative items. In the evaluation session all appreciated the ETC, the disciplined life and spiritual ambience created by collective kiirtan and meditation. Overall it was highly educative, practical and aimed at total development of the teacher and taught.





### Girls' Volunteers Camp held

From 26 to 30 Dec 2014 Girls' Volunteers Camp was held. On 29<sup>th</sup> social work was done by cleaning the village Sarjumahato and food and warm clothes were distributed to the poor villagers on 30.12.14



### Workers' Relief camp held

Workers' Relief Camp was held from 26 Dec to 30 Dec. About 300 participants from whole timers, Local full timers and Margiis attended this camp. Here practical training on parade, self security and security to others, how to do relief and social service work etc were done and theoretical classes on various important issues of the day were held.



### Baby naming ceremony

Baby Naming Ceremony was held at Khatanga village according to Ananda Marga system.



## Ānandanagar --- Geography and Geology

If we look at the political map we will find that Ānandanagar is situated in District Puruliya of West Bengal and is adjacent to West Bengal's border with the state of Jharkhand. There was no district called Puruliya before 1956. The area was within the district of Manbhúm. We know that there was a tendency among the ancient inhabitants of Rarh to suffix '*bhúm*' to the names of special regions. With the exceptions of a few old principalities, the names of all principalities there ended with '*bhúm*' e.g. Manbhúm, Singbhúm, Vyaghrabhúm, Dhalbhúm, Varahabhúm, Senbhúm, Mallabhúm, Samantabhúm, Gopabhúm, Shabarbhúm, Shikharbhúm etc.

Shortly after independence, there was a demand for reorganizing states on the basis of language. There was a strong movement for inclusion in West Bengal of the district of Manbhúm, then in Bihar. Basically, cent per cent of the people of Manbhúm were Bengali-speaking. This area is also culturally akin to Bengal. So this demand was fully justified. But the Central Government was then under influence of the Hindi belt. So they did not accept the demand readily. Therefore, a commission was set up. The chairman of the commission was not a Bengali-speaking person. So, after much hemming and hawing the commission agreed to append a truncated. Manbhúm to West Bengal. Dhanbad subdivision of Manbhúm was retained in Bihar on the plea that many non-Bengali labourers working in its collieries would be inconvenienced if it was appended to West Bengal. Many non-Bengalis resided in Dhanbad town. The fact that villages in the subdivision were peopled exclusively by Bengali-speaking persons was overlooked.

On the other side, three police stations of the Sadar Subdivision, viz, Patamda, Chandil and Ichagar were retained in Bihar. It was argued that if these areas were transferred to Bengal, there might be in future dispute between the two states in sharing the waster of the Subarnarekha river. On this plea, these Bengali-speaking areas were kept in Bihar. A new district called Puruliya was formed with the remaining parts of

Manbhúm District. The name Manbhúm was erased forever. It was not proper to thus obliterate a historical name.

Raja Mansing was a general under Emperor Akbar. The district had been named after him. Mansingh was noted for his prowess. So it was not proper to give the district a new name omitting his name. In the earlier days of the British rule, the headquarters of the district was at Manbazar. Subsequently, there was water scarcity in that town. The British dug a large tank in the village called Puruliya and transferred the district headquarters there. That tank is known locally as ‘Saheb Bandh’. Probably, Puruliya was then pronounced Purulya by the people of that village. During his stay at the royal palace of Kashipur, Michael Madhusudan had composed a sonnet on Puruliya. In that sonnet, he addressed the place as “Oh Purulye”.

Garjaipur is a police station in the district of Puruliya: Ánandanagar was first established in that area. Later, it spread to Jhalda police station. Recently, Jhalda police station has been divided and a new police station called Kotshila has been carved out of it. Ánandanagar is partly within this new police station. As one goes to the west from Mañikarñiká Ánandanagar, one reaches West Bengal’s border with Jharkhand after two kilometres. Again, as one proceeds towards north, one reaches Jharkhand border after three kilometres. Towards the south, Jharkhand is somewhat more distant. The border is about 39 Kilometres away. In the east there is only Rarh, with no trace of Jharkhand. Both Bengal and Jharkhand are parts of Western Rarh and the culture in both places is entirely Bengali. The entire western Rarh can be brought within a circle centred in Ánandanagar. Due to want of political far sight, the cultural life of some human groups is in its death throes. There is no escape from this situation. The only remedy is adaption of the socially oriented system of state advocated by the philosophy of Prout.

(to be continued)

**N.B.: All monthly Anandanagar news are available in website -:** <http://www.anandanagar.org>

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