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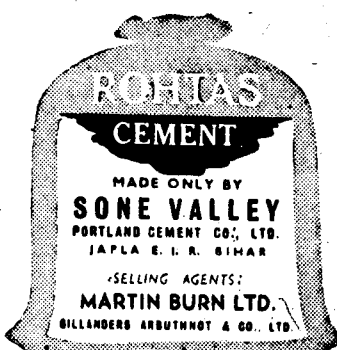
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TWO ANNAS



REPUBLIC OF INDIA PROCLAIMED

Solemn Delhi Ceremony FIRST PRESIDENT TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

NEW DELHI, JAN 26.—INDIA BECAME A SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AT 10-18 A.M. TODAY WITH THE INAUGURATION OF HER NEW CONSTITUTION.

At a solemn ceremony in the Durbar Hall of Government House, India's last Governor-General, Mr Rajagopalachari, read the proclamation announcing the birth of the new republic and by the very act laid down his office as the King's representative.

Dr Rajendra Prasad was then sworn in as the first President by the Chief Justice, Sir Harilal J. Kania, who administered the oath in Hindi.

Simultaneously 31 guns boomed in salute while the Governor-General's flag was lowered and the President's flag went up to the strains of the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana."

The ceremony was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Constituent Assembly, high dignitaries and prominent guests.

The Governor-General read the following proclamation:

"Whereas the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign democratic republic, adopted, enacted and gave to themselves on the 26th day of November, 1949, in their Constituent Assembly the Constitution of India;

"And whereas, it has been declared by the said Constitution that India, that is, Bharat, shall be a Union of States, comprising within the Union the territories which were hitherto the Governors' Provinces, the Indian States and the Chief Commissioners' provinces;

"And whereas this, the 26th day of January, 1950, has been fixed for the commencement of the said Constitution;

"Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed that on and from this, the 26th day of January, 1950, India, that is, Bharat, shall be a sovereign democratic republic, and the Union and its component units, the States, shall exercise all powers and functions of government and administration in accordance with the provisions of the said Constitution."

After the proclamation, Dr Rajendra Prasad took the oath in the name of God, pledging that he would faithfully execute the office of President of India and "will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and wellbeing of the people of India."

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The President then made a short speech, first in Hindi and then in English.

"This is a memorable day in our annals," he said. "Let us begin with offering our thanks to the Almighty Power, to the Father of the Nation who showed us and the world at large his infallible method of satyagraha and led us on along it to freedom, and to the numberless men and women who by suffering and sacrifice have rendered the attainment of independence and the establishment of this sovereign democratic Republic of India possible."

"Today, for the first time in our long and chequered history, we find the whole of this vast land from Kashmir in the north to Cape Comorin in the south, from Kathiawar and Cutch in the west to Cochin and Kanyakumari in the east, brought together under the jurisdiction of one constitution and one union, which takes over the responsibility for the welfare of more than 320 million men and women that inhabit it. Its administration will now be carried on by its people and for its people."

"This country has great natural resources and now has come to it the great opportunity to make its vast population happy and prosperous and to make its own contribution to the establishment of peace in the world."

The Home Secretary, Mr H. V. R. Jengra, asked the President's permission for the announcement of the proclamation in the Gazettes of the Government of India and the provincial, States and States Unions' Governments, and by the three Services.

Following the assent of the President the ceremony concluded.

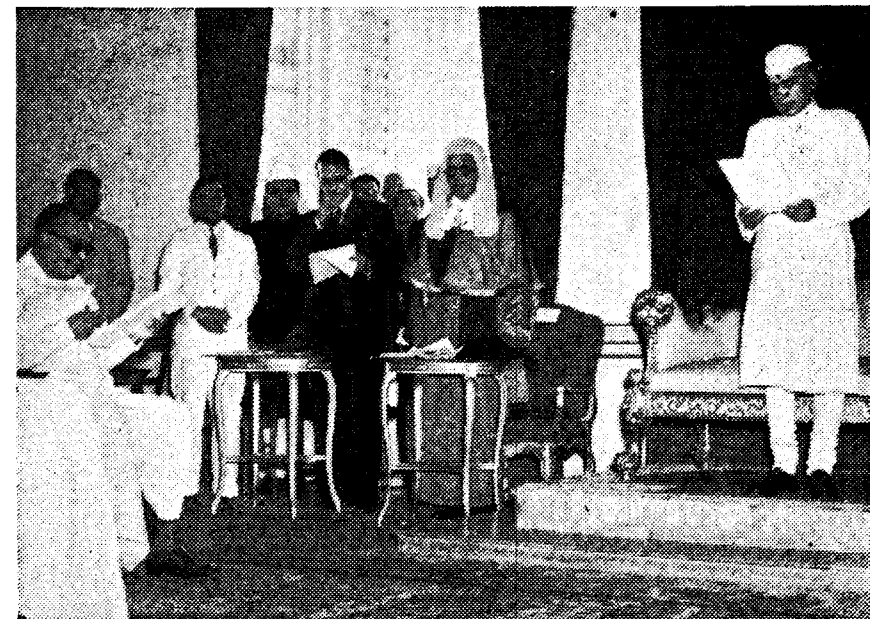
The President was then conducted to an anteroom, where he administered the oath of office to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, the Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, Judges of the Supreme Court and the Auditor-General.

The Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers were not sworn in, but an ordinance for their continuation in office was ordered to be issued today.—PTI.

M. BAGGE LEAVES Dacca FOR DELHI

From Our Staff Correspondent

Dacca, Jan 27.—M. Bagge, Chairman of the Boundary Disputes Tribunal, left for Delhi this afternoon accompanied by the Secretary-General to the Tribunal. Earlier today, Mr Chandrasekhara Aiyar, the Indian member on the Tribunal, left for Calcutta.



The West Bengal Governor reading the Proclamation inaugurating the Republic in the Throne Room at Government House.—Statesman.

U.S.A. SIGNS PACTS WITH WESTERN POWERS

WASHINGTON, Jan 27.—The USA today signed agreements for the rearmament of the North Atlantic area with the leading Western European Powers.

Separate mutual defence assistance agreements were signed between the USA on the one hand and Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway and Denmark on the other.

An agreement was also made with Italy but took the form of an exchange of Notes, dated Jan 27, between the Governments of the USA and Italy and therefore did not have to be signed.

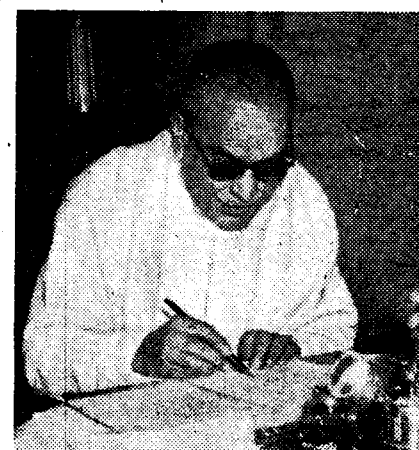
The agreements outlined the terms under which each of the eight countries would receive military assistance from the USA.

The signatories also pledged themselves to assist each other within the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty.—PTI-Reuters.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Twenty-four persons suffering from cholera were taken from different parts of Calcutta to hospital yesterday against 22 the day before.

Eight smallpox cases were also admitted to hospital against five on Thursday.



Dr B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of Bengal, signs the Oath of Office.—Statesman.

FIRST PRE-SIDENTIAL PROCESSION

OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS END IN NEW DELHI

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Jan 28.—Official celebrations for the inauguration of the Indian Republic concluded late last night after two days' rejoicing throughout the country in which millions of people participated with enthusiasm.

In Delhi, which served as the focal point of the event, the birth of the Republic and the installation of its first President were announced by a salute of 31 guns shortly after 10-30 a.m. on Thursday.

Among those who watched the ceremony at Government House were Cabinet Ministers, heads of foreign missions, members of the Constituent Assembly and distinguished representatives of the public.

Outside, in the forecourt of the building and beyond, thousands of people, mostly visitors from nearby villages, stood patiently in a slight drizzle to associate themselves with the event.

More than 500,000 others crowded the route of the Presidential procession, which followed in the afternoon, for a glimpse of Dr Rajendra Prasad in his new rôle as the country's first citizen.

Splendour and dignity combined to make the function at Government House and the later ceremonial parade at Irwin Stadium, which the President attended, a happy blend of spectacle and significance.

In the Durbar Hall at Government House, where the President was installed, the retiring Governor-General, Mr C. Rajagopalachari, read out the proclamation of the Republic of "India, that is, Bharat."

While he vacated his chair for the President, he folded his hands and bowed with deep reverence to the new head of State, who returned the salutation before changing places with the Governor-General.

As the guns boomed outside, a few frightened pigeons fluttered across the ceiling of the Durbar Hall to break the silence of an impressive ceremony, which lacked neither efficiency nor the human touch.

In a far corner of the ballroom, where 700 guests were introduced to the President, the former Governor-General bade farewell to Sardar Patel and Maulana Azad.

Later in the day, at the Irwin Stadium, over 15,000 people watched one of the most magnificent military parades in the country's recent history, which lasted, to the disappointment of spectators, for only an hour.

Standing in an army jeep and accompanied by the Parade Commander, Brig J. S. Dhillon, the President inspected the parade and went round the main stands, later taking the salute at the march past. Comprising units of the navy, infantry and cavalry regiments, Services contingents, the air force, a boys' unit of the Punjab Regiment and the police, the parade combined colour with precision which an appreciative crowd acknowledged with repeated cheers.

Seven massed bands, representing the navy, the army, the air force and the police, provided the music, whose quality fitted in with the general excellent pattern of the entire ceremony.

For the vast majority of people in Delhi, the main interest on Thursday centred on the Presidential procession, which covered a five-mile route and provided a brief glimpse of pageantry, which is now becoming all too rare.

Fascinating though the procession was, owing to the splendid turn-out of the Bodyguard, who escorted the President, there were visible signs of disappointment among the spectators because of the brevity of the pageantry.

As if on purpose, the weather, which presented a threatening prospect on Wednesday night and on Thursday morning, later cleared sportingly for the procession and the ceremonial parade.

After another burst of rain on Thursday night and showers on Friday morning, the weather again brightened up and the President's procession, which was more than 5,000

BURMA ELECTION MUST COVER ENTIRE COUNTRY

Release Of Political Prisoners Also Urged

From Our Special Correspondent

RANGOON, Jan 27.—Burma must hold its first general elections throughout the country and not in a few prescribed areas only if they are to be fair and free, leading citizens are reported to have told the Elections Advisory Commission today.

These citizens voluntarily appeared before the Commission to testify on the advisability or otherwise of holding elections before May 4 as the Burmese Constitution demands.

Some attesters, it is stated, were of the opinion that it would not be possible to hold the elections before May 4. They also advocated the release of political prisoners before the elections so that all freely participate in it.

The Commission's final report to the Government is expected on Jan 31 when the Burmese Parliament commences its first session in 1950.

Formosa & Hainan To Be Invaded

Communist Plans Of Attack

HONGKONG, Jan 27.—Unofficial but usually reliable reports from Canton today said the Chinese Communist High Command would use 1m men to invade Formosa and Hainan Island simultaneously.

The Communists were expected to use a newly-trained air force to protect troops crossing the Formosa strait and the Hainan strait.

Reports said that General Liu Po-cheng and General Chen Yi would attack Formosa and were making final arrangements. Preparations for the Hainan invasion had been assigned to General Lin Piao and General Chen Keng and were completed.—PTI-Reuters.

[See also Page 8]

President Takes Austerity Vow

Rededicates Himself To Mahatma's Ideals

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Jan 27.—Standing barefooted in the rain before the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi yesterday, Dr Rajendra Prasad took the vow of austerity enjoined upon an ashramite.

Accompanied by Sardar Patel, the President motored to Rajghat a little after 7 a.m.

The exact time had been kept a secret. It was intended to be a purely private communion, but the President was forestalled: hundreds had gathered in advance of him.

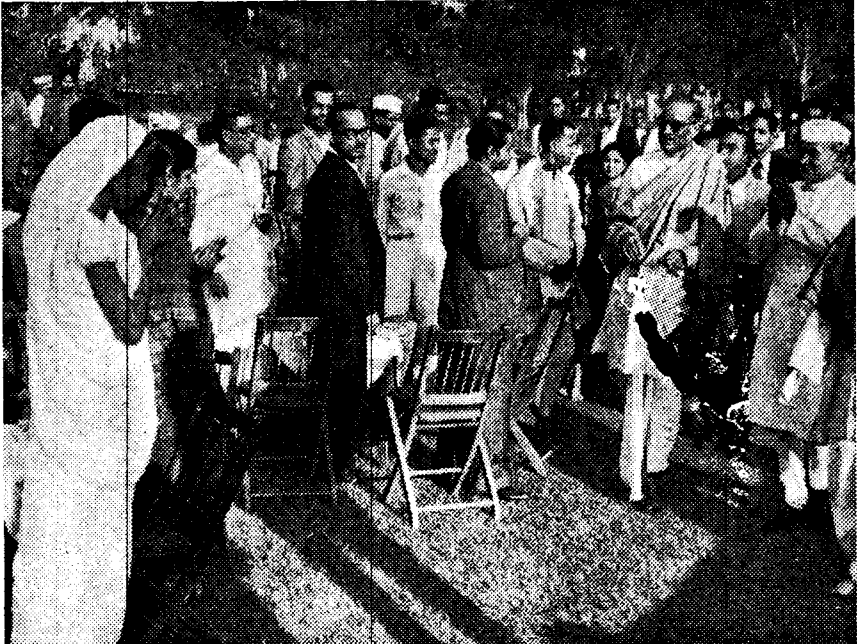
They saw the President stand for 20 minutes in silent prayer, rededicating himself to the teachings of the master.

Prayers were then said in Sanskrit, which the President recited fluently. The Mahatma's favourite hymns were sung.

In the 20 minutes of silence, those around Dr Prasad recalled the long and eventful story of his association with the Mahatma. Among the large number of the Mahatma's political associates, there were few more closely associated with him.

The Samadhi was decorated with flowers. The President placed a floral wreath among them. Then he solemnly walked round the Samadhi.

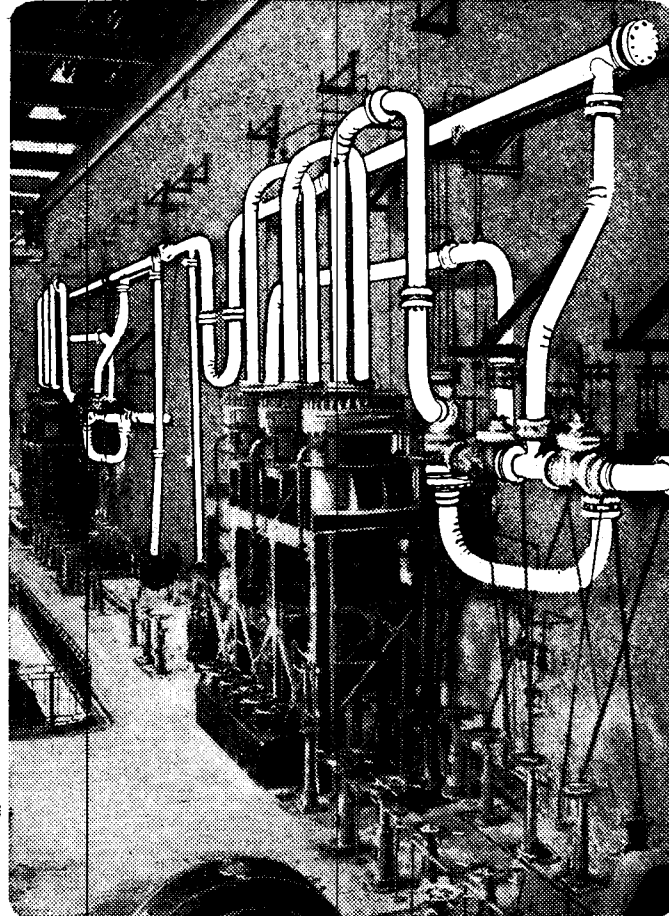
W. BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER'S RECEPTION



The Governor, accompanied by the Chief Minister, freely moved among the gathering and exchanged greetings.

The band of the Eastern Frontier Rifles (West Bengal Police) enlivened the occasion with special selections of Indian and European music.

Other photographs of Republic Day ceremonies in Delhi and Calcutta are on Pages 5, 7 and 12.



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