



Stiftelsen BRÖDET

News Letter
Aug 2020
Cooch Behar, India

*Dear Friends and
Supporters,*



The School for Blind Students, supported by the SB Foundation, is in the Indian city Cooch Behar in the north-eastern part of the country. The special landmark of the city is its impressive palace. It was built in 1887 with Buckingham Palace (in London) as a model during Maharaja Nripendra Narayan's reign. The palace originally was three storeys high, but the upper storey was destroyed by an earthquake in 1897. The word maharaja is Sanskrit and means great king (mahat "great", raj "empire" and rajan "king"), which is an administrative rank in India – generally a Hindu prince. Maharajas used to rule in many important Indian states.



Between 1858 and 1947 the united India was under British rule, and in 1876 Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. When the British rule ended, the country was parted into two sovereign states, India and Western & Eastern Pakistan respectively. (When East Pakistan in 1971 became a state of its own it was called Bangladesh, while West Pakistan simply got the name Pakistan.) In India, different faith communities, like Hindus, Muslims and Christians, have been able to live peacefully side by side. Since President Narendra Modi in 2014 became prime minister, he has with his Hindu Nationalist-party promoted Hinduism more and more and opposed other faiths.



The SB Foundation has since 2010 taken over the economic support for the School for Blind Children from KMA Women's Missionary Workers. To begin with, it was difficult to transfer money to the school. The transactions must be done through the Lutheran Church elsewhere, which took more time and made the process more expensive. Since the School for Blind Children some years later received a permission of their own to receive foreign currency to its bank account and since bank transfers nowadays easily can be done via the Web the payments have worked very well.

The current bank license for the School for Blind Children must now be renewed. It is a difficult procedure. The Ministry of the Interior in Delhi has ordered the local intelligence department to ask many questions about which type of work the school performs, and if the school spreads the gospel and misuses its money. Apart from all the paper-work the school has had to fill out and send to all board members, they have been visited in their own homes and been given various questions to answer. Now the local authority shall put together a report to the Ministry of the Interior in Delhi. "We ought to get informed shortly if the ministry renews the license or not," says the administrator of the School for Blind Children, Raj Chhetri. "We are very much worried, for if we don't have a positive answer at the latest on September 10th we cannot receive money from abroad. We pray for this every day and hope the Lord will find a solution, as we have not done anything wrong."

Late summer greetings from the SB Foundation and all of us board members, *Arne, Elisabeth, Ivar, Lena, Roger*

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