

## QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT IN MEDINIPUR (TAMLUK) AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT:

After the failure of the Cripps Mission, there was a lot of discontentment in the country. The Congress leaders got convinced that they could not expect anything from the British Government in the near future. Consequently, the All India Congress Committee passed the famous 'Quit India' Resolution on August 8, 1942. This Resolution emphasized the necessity of immediate ending of the British rule in India and announced 'the starting of a mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible; scale.' The Government of India arrested all the members of the Working Committee and Mahatma Gandhi. The people of India hit back. In various parts of India, the Government machinery was completely thrown out of gear. The Government used all possible means to crush the revolt. The present topic attempt the Thousands of people were either mercilessly killed or put behind the bars. The political life of India was completely suspended. During this hour of India's trial, the Communist Party of India helped the Government in the prosecution of war. The deadlock continued up to 1944 when Mahatma Gandhi was released.

**Key word:** Resolution, violent, struggle, people, revolt

### INTRODUCTION:

The Indian national movement was undoubtedly one of the biggest mass movements modern society has ever seen. It was a movement which galvanized millions of people of all classes and ideologies into political action and brought to its knees a mighty colonial empire. As a mass movement, the Indian national movement was able to tap the diverse energies, talents and capacities of a large variety of people. It had a place for all - old and young, rich and poor, women and men, the intellectuals and the masses. People participated in it in varied ways: from jail-going Satyagraha and picketing to participation in public meetings and demonstration, from going *hartals* to and strikes. Starting out as a movement of the nationalist intelligentsia, the national movement succeeded in mobilizing the youth women the urban petty bourgeoisie, the urban and rural poor, urban and rural artisans, peasants, workers, merchants, capitalists, and a large number of small landlords. Middle-class students and youth dominated the urban demonstrations and raised demands for complete independence and radical social and economic changes.

Inspiring from Western Education a group of intellects of middle class came into existence. The wave of Brahma Movement was diluted by their light of knowledge and an independent thinking began to spread out. The newly educated teachers and students of Medinipur Zilla School welcomed the '*Brahma Samaj*' and a

branch was opened in Contai under the leadership of Bipin Sasmal. Not only the teachers and students but also a large number of lawyers and bureaucrats also joined in the 'Brahma Movement' in Medinipur and Contai.

The young generation and the student's association began to unrest in Medinipur when the British had made a plan to divide Medinipur. In that time, S. N. Ghosh, Kartik Mitra and other young lawyers started to protest against the British attitude. Inspiring from Matsini some of them began to start movement with arms in the under ground. Although the division of Medinipur could not succeed due to some difficulties still revolutionary movement was grown up with the help of Jyotish Bandyopadhyay in 1942. After this when the congress began to divide, Jnanendrenath Basu, Pyarilal Basu and Hem Chandra Das Kanungo and others along with some of the teachers of Medinipur Collegiate School tried to conduct the students' who started to join in revolutionary movement with arms.

The student movement in Medinipur was not only with arms, they also started boycott, *\*Bandh'*, picketing with some constructive mentality. Lord Curzon's Division of Bengal Rule made a disaster in whole Bengal. The Students' Union of Medinipur rose boldly against the injustice rule of British at that time by taking several steps like boycott; picketing etc. the students introduced the home-rule movement under the leadership of revolutionist Satyendranath Basu by arranging several voluntary groups. They inspired the people to boycott the foreign goods and use home-made products. They also made an association to support the poor students. In this time the students with deep patriotic affection participated in a procession without proper garments in spite heavy rain in the roads of Medinipur town. Not only in this town but in Danton, Khirpai, Mahisadal, Ghatal, Contai etc., the students participated in such type of procession of ante-division of Bengal also. The Students' Association of Medinipur shows community harmony heartily during protest against Division of Bengal. In that time on the occasion of 'Id' festival, a vast gathering was held by the learned persons of Medinipur. National song was sung in that gathering to inspire the people for nationalism..

Under the brave leadership of Birendranath the non-cooperation movement was successfully demonstrated by the students of Medinipur. Mahatma Gandhi sent a message to Birendranath in this regard - "You are disobedient but achieved success". Inspiring from Netaji Subhas Chandra Basu, revolutionist Dinesh Gupta came to Medinipur and organised a revolutionist team with the students of Medinipur College. This team accelerated the regional movement against the British imperialist.

The women section of the students of Medinipur also played a vital role side by side with the male students in the different movement for Indian independence. Among them, Sadhana Patra, Bimala Mukherjee, Pramila Patra etc. actively participated in the movement with arms. The movement did not lack exceptional individuals, both among leaders and followers. It produced thousands of martyrs. But as heroic were those who worked for years, day after day, in an unexciting humdrum fashion, forsaking their homes and careers and losing their lands and very livelihood - whose families were often short of daily bread and whose children went without adequate education or health care.

The great significance of this historic movement was that it placed the demand for independence on the immediate agenda of the national movement. After 'Quit India', there could be no retreat. Any further negotiations with the British Government could only be on the manner of the transfer of power. Independence was no longer a matter of bargain. Civil Disobedience Movement and Non-cooperation Movement were the two concrete pre-announced mass-movements but due to arrest of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel etc. renowned leaders on 9<sup>th</sup> August, the National Congress could not declare any concrete activity like previous movements. For this, the public tried to direct their movement according to their own conception. This shows how the Indians were impatient against the British imperialist.

This movement was started on the path of nonviolent but in the long run violent started frequently. The comment of Jawaharlal Nehru in this regard is authentic. He said, 'The people forget the lesson of nonviolence which had been denned into their ears for more than twenty years.'<sup>1</sup> The imperialist ruler started to stop the movement by unprecedented torture. National Congress and its branches were proclaimed as illegal. Firing, imprisonment, burning houses, torture on women, looting etc. were started by them unlimitedly. Although this movement was spread out over the whole India, but it was vivid especially in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa etc. provinces. Destruction of police station, Post offices and other government offices, rail stations, roads, bridges, telephone etc. also were the activities of the revolutionists. National Government was set up and directed in the Balia of Uttar Pradesh,

Bhagalpur of Bihar, Satara of Maharastra and Medinipur of Bengal etc. for struggle against the British. These were treated as the symbol of independence and courage. The participation of general cultivators and labourers was much spontaneous than the factory labourers. The labourers of Jamshedpur, Ahmadabad, Poona and Ahmednagar industry-belts were active in the movement. This movement was treated as the spontaneous movement under the leadership of National Congress.

Muslim League, Communist Party, Hindu Mahasabha, and Radical Party did not participate in that movement. This movement showed the deep reliance of the people on Indian National Congress. The British imperialist was deeply perturbed by this unprecedented mass movement and the Viceroy Lord Linlithga forced to send towards the British Prime Minister Churchill the following telegram "By far the most serious rebellion since that of 1857 the gravity and extent of which we have so far concealed from the world for reason of military security."<sup>2</sup>

#### **AUGUST MOVEMENT IN MEDINIPUR (TAMLUK) :**

On the even of the individual Satyagraha Revolution in 1940 the Congress workers had realized that a greater and more in prepared for it and were engaged in strengthening their organizational bases amongst the people through the constructive work programme. The course of the War was then moving against the allied powers. In the Eastern Front, the Japanese were advancing rapidly towards India and from all indications it was clear that the Britishers were also getting themselves ready for another "successful retreat". The district of Midnapore is skirted by Bay of Bengal in the south, whereby it gained some strategic importance for the British Government. It

was apprehended that if the Japanese choose to come by the sea - route, they may select the costal areas of the district as a most favorable landing ground. Therefore the southern and eastern part of the district, including the Tamluk subdivision was declared as an emergency area and all forms of transports including cycles, motor vehicles, boats off all varieties and descriptions were seized and removed. It is worthwhile to note here the remarks of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, a member of the ruling Fazlul Haque Ministry of Bengal of that time. He had said: The House should recall that long before the civil disobey dance revolution had started last year, we had the Denial Policy enforced in many parts of Bengal. So far as Midnapore was concerned, the policy of forcible removal of boats and other conveyances, especially bicycles, went on unabated. The fact remains that nearly 10,000 bicycles were taken away from one district alone and a large number of boats were asked to be surrendered within a very short time and quite a few hundreds were forcibly destroyed by the local authorities because the boats were not surrendered within the prescribed time. This has to be borne in mind in order to realize how strong were the feelings in the minds of the local inhabitants of the district."<sup>3</sup>

Besides this, all sorts of food grains including rice and paddy were being procured on an extensive scale and exported outside the subdivision as a part of the Denial policy without any regard being paid to the requirement of the people of the district. Any form of porter's towns prohibited under Defense of India Rules and the overzealous like; agents of the Government in their bid to prove their loyalty to their foreign masters made the situation worse still.

At this unhappy juncture the August Revolution was started all on a sudden. The spontaneous emotional outburst of the people on hearing the news of wholesale arrest of the Congress leasers set the ball rolling which gradually gathered momentum and took the shape of a great revolution. At first there was none of the notational or provincial leaders left outside to lead or organize the revolution. After a few days those of the leader who were still outside jail like Jaiprakash narayan Sucheta Kripalani Aruna Asaf Ali and others, tried to lead the revolution to follow a definite and uniform course of action.

In the past Medinipur had always been in the forefront of the entire national struggle for independence/ In August, 1942, however it did not plunge itself headlong into the revolution, but paused for a moment to ponder over the course of action to be followed. Processions, meetings hartals student-srjkes etc, in oprotest against the heavy-handed action for the Government however went on as usual. Amongst the Congress leaders of the district sri Kurhar Chandra Jana, president of the district Congress Committee, was taken into custody in the early stages of the revolution. A few days later, Sri Rajani Kanta Pramanik was also arrested. /Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar then decided to move to the villages to organize the revolution amongst the people. Instructions were sent to other leasers also to leave their residences and remain underground to lead the revolution.

At this stage on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1942 just one month after the August revolution had strted and incident happened which quickened the pace of the Revolution. The owners of a Rice Mill, situated at Danipur village on the banks of

rive Rupnarayan, under Mahisadal Police Station, had been exporting rice and paddy out of the district in collusion with Gove. Officials The local people apprehended that if such clandestine deals were allowed to continue, very soon they would have no good grains left in their homes, Thus several thousand villagers assembled near the mill and demanded an assurance from the mill owners to stop further export of food grains. On receiving this information a police party arrived at the mill site and fired several rounds to disperse the unarmed crowd as a result of which three of the villagers were killed. This was the direst shooting incident in the subdivision in 1942.

But this bloodshed did not go in vain. The mill owners had to bow down before the determined resistance of the people. They promised to stop export of rice and paddy and paid an agreed amount as compensation to the bereaved to the bereaved families. This incident generated a great reaction amongst the people and their emotions rose to fever heat. They became restless and were eager to start direct action against the government immediately.

The main programme of Revolution consisted in capturing the earls like Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar and under supervision of their able lieutenants and worthy followers worked wonders. On 28th September, 1942 in course of a few hours of the night, all the major roads, including Panskura Tamluk road Tamluk district, specially in Contai and Tamluk subdivisions. The date fixed for such action was 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1942. It was also decided that on the previous night (i.e. on 28<sup>th</sup> night), a blockade would be created by cutting roads felling trees, disconnecting and breaking telegraph and telephone lines and uprooting telegraph posts so that no exchange of communication could be possible with the outside world.

The people of the subdivision under leadership of great generals like Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar, and supervision of their able lieutenants and worthy followers worked wonders, On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1942 in course of a few hours of the night, all the major road were cut deep at several places a number of big trees felled on them and thirty culverts were blown off or rendered unserviceable. Besides this telegraph and telephone lines extending over a length of 27 miles were cut off or and the postwar uprooted cut pieces and thrown away. All the ferryboats on the Cosset and Halide rivers were sunk or removed. The whole action was completed as if by magic and it took less than six hours from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Every village was allotted definite duties on a particular stretch of road or was entrusted with a particular job. They came in large numbers at the appointed hours at the appointed place and went back long before it was down completing the work assigned to them. The blockade was created with the sole intention that no military or police help should reach the subdivision from outside on the appointed day of 29<sup>th</sup> September. It may be mentioned here in passing that the workers of the district, from the top to the lowest level were so disciplined and their of secrecy they conserved so magnificently that the Government authorities could not get even a hint about what was going to happen upto the last moment, inspire of the fact that this plan and preparation covered so wide an area and involved so many people. It was only on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> September, when they heard the reports about road blockade and disruption of telephone lines so that they could guess the implications of such action and draw their inferences. In the



early morning of 29<sup>th</sup> September, the local officers came to know of the happenings of the previous night and they immediately set themselves to repair the roads and remove the blockades by forcing the neighbouring villagers on point of bayonets. Thus with utmost effort, they could partially clear the Tamluk Panskura Road and make it passable somehow for military trucks to come to Tamluk town with additional military force,

As previously arranged at about 2 p.m. large processions each consisting of several thousands of people young and old Hindus and Muslims led by Vidyut Bahini a band of trained and disciplined volunteers approached the subdivision and thana head quarters to take possession of the town from five different directions. By that time additional military forces had reached the town and they took their position at the narrow points of the roads leading to the town. When the processions approached they fired indiscriminately on the peaceful nonviolent processionists at four places and 10 persons laid down their lives on the spot. Of them the story of that grand old lady, Matangini Hazra, popularly known as 'Gandhi Bum' has become legend. With unsurpassed bravery and heroism, that frail old lady of seventy three advanced with firm steps with the National Flag held tight in her hands unmindful of the shower of bullets that had hit her twice. But the third bullet ran right through her forehead and she fell down, with the National Flag still standing straight in the grip and flying unsullied.

The number of wounded could not be ascertained. According to previous arrangements, trained volunteers of the Nursing Squad of the Vidyut Bahini removed them immediately to safer zones and seriously wounded ones were transferred to Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, where special arrangements had been made for their treatment.

This narration would remain incomplete if the story of another brave woman remains untold. At one of these five entrance points of Tamluk town, near Sanwarara Bridge, the police opened fire on the processionists coming from southeast directions. Some of the seriously wounded persons were crying for water, but none could gather the courage to bring it to them in the face of incessant shower of bullets. At this time, Smt. Savitri, a woman of easy virtue, came forward with a mug of water in one hand and with a vegetable chopper (Banti) on the other. The soldiers standing there asked her to go away but she did not heed them and went on giving water to the wounded. The soldiers fussed and fumed but had not the temerity to lift their rifles at her or to obstruct her in her work. Later on, she had also given shelter to a seriously injured volunteer in her room, while she herself remained sitting outside guarding the entrance.

At Mahisadal, about forty thousand people under the leadership of the trained volunteers of "Vidyut Bahini" organized an unprecedented attack. No additional police or military force had reached Mahisadal till then. But the local Zamindars lent the services of their bodyguard, an ex-military man known under the nickname of "G. Sahib", to the police, along with large quantities of bullets. The armed force, under the command of this "G. Sahib", opened fire indiscriminately on the peaceful processionists without provocation. The processionists had to retreat for the time

being. Sri Sushil kumar Dhara, (j.O.C.in C.of Vidyut Bahani, was himself present there directing the operation. Under his guidance, the Vidyut Bahini returned to the attack again, crawling at one time, lying down or retreating on the other and again advancing in accordance with prearranged signals. But it became impossible for them to advance further in the face of heavy and incessant firing, and they had to retreat leaving behind thirteen valuable lives. It was only the Sutahata Police Station, which could be seized and captured without any loss of blood. The officer in charge of the police Station and the sepoy's stationed there surrendered themselves with their guns and saluted the national Flag. The Govt, could not make any arrangement for protection of this police station and for this reason, two aeroplanes were sent for bombing the processionists. They did drop a bomb, but unfortunately for them, it fell on a nearby pond and did not cause any damage.

At Nandigram, the programme could not be taken up on the 29<sup>th</sup> since there had been a police firing there only two days back. On 27<sup>th</sup> September 1942 police had opened fire at Iswarpur of that Thana area, and had killed four persons. Therefore the attack was planned on the next day i.e. on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. On that day twenty thousand people marched towards Nandigram police station. But unfortunately military forces had reached there by that time. They opened fire on the processionists, and four more lives were lost.

One remarkable feature of these encounters is that none of the dead or injured persons had bullet marks below their belt, which proves that the sole purpose of these firings were to kill these unarmed people. Another notable feature was that none of the victims had received bullet marks on their backs to show that none of the great assemblage of persons had turned their back in panic; rather they had faced the situation fearlessly and had laid down their lives or had received grievous injuries in a face to face encounter.

The British Government itself admitted the conception and planning of this attack and the meticulous care and deep thinking that went behind its execution. In a booklet published under the title 'Some Facts about the Disturbances in India', it had been stated: "In Medinipur in Bengal the operation of the rebels indicated considerable care and planning an effective warning system had been devised, elementary tactical principles were observed, for instance, encirclement and flanking movements clearly on prearranged signals. The forces of disorder were accompanied by doctors and nursing orderlies to attend to casualties and the intelligence system was efficient".<sup>4</sup>

All these have been said to censure or disparage the activities of the so-called 'rebels', but coming as it is from a powerful opponent it also bears testimony to the organizational strength and mental preparedness of the people concerned.

### **COURSE OF THE MOVEMENT PHASE II:**

The next phase of the revolution consisted of taking possession of various seats of governmental authority at the lower level, like Union Board Debt Settlement Board, Rent Collection!! Centers etc., so as to wipe out all traces of foreign rule from the face of the countryside; and this was carried out very effectively without much

hindrance or difficulty.

In this way when the revolutionary activities were progressing satisfactorily, an unprecedented natural calamity came down on Medinipur. It was on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1942 the first day of the Durga Puja (maha Saptami). There were jubilations in every home. It was running heavily since early morning accompanied by a strong wind. Towards afternoon the wind developed into a gale and in the evening it took the shape of a severe cyclone with a wind speed the like of which had never been seen before. As night advanced, the cyclone raged and roared more fiercely blowing off everything on its ways uprooting ageless trees felling houses, overturning roof tops and bringing in endless devastation and destruction throughout its course. The sea and the rivers also rose in space, overflowed their banks and inundated the villages.

The devastation brought about by the cyclone and flood was immense. Mr W. A. Sheikh, the then S.D.O. of Tamluk in his official report about the extent of loss caused by the cyclone, had stated that in Tamluk Subdivision alone, a total to 3873 persons were killed, 1972 persons received injuries, 68,193 houses had collapsed and 76,958 houses were partially damaged, Two steamers of Hoare Miller & Co., several launches and a large numbers boats had capsized, Almost all district Board and Local Board roads were damaged beyond repair and 110 miles of embankment were washed away, 50% of standing crops on 21, 511.49 acres of land were damaged.<sup>5</sup> The first reaction of the Government after this unprecedented. Disaster was to suppress the news altogether. The newspapers were gagged under Defense of India Rules and not the slightest reference about this havoc was allowed to be published specially in case of Medinipur district only. The particular issue of the Bengali daily 'jugantar' was suppressed for publishing a passing deference to what had happened in Medinipur. An innocent query by Ananda Bazar Patrika about the condition of Medinipur after the calamity was objected of and they were warned not to meddle in Medinipur affairs.

The statement given by Dr. Shyama prasad Mukherjee, on the occasion fo his resignation from the Fazlul haque Ministry, about the heartless attitude of the Government of the day and its local officers is most revealing. He said: "The callousness that I witnessed on the part of some of the officials from the highest to the lowest in the face of this terrible blow was something unparalleled in the annals of civised administration...My first charge about Midnapore is a criminal and deliberate delay in publishing the news of the havoc caused on 16<sup>th</sup> October.. The Defence of India Rules has been misapplied in many directions. But a more disgraceful application of these rules has not taken place anywhere in India. The happy family of civil servants suppressed the news for nearly a fortnight. Even appeals for help were not allowed to see the light of the day. The explanation that was given was utterly devoid of justification. The fact remains that most valuable time was thus lost and people suffered and died for want of coordinated and organized relief. The District officer himself failed to rise equal to the occasion and his previous prejudice against them. People, who were called rebels prevented him from doing what any responsible officer was bound to do to mitigate the sufferings of the people.His frame of mind was made known to us when he sent his report



recommending that in view of the political misdeeds of the people not only should Government withhold relief, but it should not permit any nonofficial organization to conduct relief in the affected area for one month.<sup>6</sup>

It should also be noted here that one of the major reasons which prompted Dr. Mukherjee, that great son of Bengal to resign from the Bengal Ministry was oppression excesses and tortures committed on the people of Medinipur especially molestation and rape of women committed by the police at Tamluk Subdivision. Dr. Mukherjee had also tried to enlist the support and active cooperation of the political workers both inside and outside jail, in organizing and conducting relief operations amongst the flood stricken people. Those who were in jail then, had also agreed to suspend all political activities for the time being and devote themselves entirely to relief operations. They were even prepared to give an undertaking that they would return to the jail to serve their term after this work was over. Dr. Mukherjee's message was conveyed to Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar through a messenger, and they also had agreed to suspend all political activities temporarily and cooperate in relief operations. But the people who were then running the administration imposed such impossible terms that Dr. Mukherjee himself was compelled to withdraw his proposal.<sup>7</sup>

It was only when the ministers threatened to publish the news of Medinipur in their own responsibility that a communique was issued, 17<sup>th</sup> days.

On the one hand there was a criminal neglect and reluctance on the part of the administration and officials, from the highest to the lowest in bringing relief to the distressed people; while on the other, the same officials evinced on dearth of energy or eagerness in conducting raids in villages, burning houses, beating innocent persons inflicting horrible and indecent tortures, plundering and looting properties committing assault and rape on helpless women and indulging themselves in many other forms of oppression, unknown in the history of any civilized administration. On the very night of the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1942 when the fury of nature was raging violently the dutiful police officers of the civilized British Government were engaged in burning of houses one after another with the help of petrol. In course of two years from August 1942 to September 1944, a total of 116 houses were burnt by the police, of which 52 houses were burnt before the fateful day of cyclone (16.10.42), 6 houses on that very day and 58 houses burnt after that date.<sup>8</sup>

Looting of properties went on in a scale the extent of which might be guessed from one instance only. On the night of 24 October 1942 just seven days after the cyclone, a police party swarmed over the flood waters which was then quite a few feet deep over the roads, and raided village Putputia in Tamluk Thana. They searched a number of houses in that village, arrested a few persons used their batons indiscriminately, and looted everything that they could lay hand upon. On that very night, they took away Rs 11,000/- in cash and sixty two gold coins (guinea-present value more than a lakh of rupees) from the house of Sri Chaitanya Charan Das alone. The women of the house were able to save themselves from the wicked designs of those beasts by staying together and offering joint resistance.

It is perhaps necessary to mention this connection that the police did not

dare to enter the village, single or in small batches. Whenever they raided any village, they raided any village, they came in a body, accompanied by a large contingent of armed police and military spays. Attempts were also being made in a very well planned manner to plant the seeds of communal discord and to instigate one community against the other. The appointment of selected non bengalee Muslim officers as Dagistrate, Subdivisional officers, and in other top ranking administrative posts was part in looting of Hindu properties in collusion with the police, and share the spoil with them.

But fortunately they were foiled in their nefarious designs. Excepting a few born criminals, the local Muslim community as a whole did not respond to their persuasion or instigation. Never in its history has any communal discord isturbed the harmony and peace between the different communities living in this Subdivision Faced with this situation, the Congress workers of the Subdivision, under the leadership of Sri Samanta, took a momertous decision. They decided that in order to establish law and order in the countryside by putting an end to the wide spread disorder and anarchy, torture and oppression and above all, to make proper and adequate arrangement for relief and rehabilitation of th eflood stricken people, the subdivision should have a national government of its own. With that end in view the "TAMRALIPTA JATIYA SRKAR" (National Government of Tamluk) was established on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1942. The lollowin gannouncement was published in 'Biplabi' the official bulletin of the Congress Committee, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1943

**"A New Era in Tamluk"**

**"Establishment of a Free National Government in Tamralipta"**

"..... the subdivision of Tamluk as peresently passing through such an anarchical and disorderly conditions that such a state of utter confusion and disorder an not be allowed to continue any longer. Therefore the Subdivisions!! Congress has established and proclaimed the ' National Government of Tamluk Subdivision being a part and parcel of the Federal state of India in shout Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar' (National Government of Tamralipta) from the auspicious first day of pous, 1346 B.S. (17.12.1942). This national Government will eventually form a part fo the independent Federal State of India and will introduce a fully democratic administration in future; but due to the present abnormal conditions, all powers and responsibilities the Government have been vested on a Sarvadinayak, till alternative arrangements are made. He has formed his cabinet of Ministers and is now running the administration. Similarly Thana Jatiya Sarakars have also been formed in Nandigram, Mahisadal, Sutahata and Tamluk thanas. One 'Adhinayak' has also been appointed in each of these thanas, who have been invensted with necessary powers and authority to run the administration in their respective areas with the help of Ministers to be appointed y them. We hope and believe that inhabitants of this subdivision wilt extend their help, co-operation, allegiance, and assistance to this national Government and wilt help it to wipe out all traces of foreign government from our soil and usher in a completely new era in this Subdivision

The proclamation included the names of sarbadhunayak and Adhinayakas. They were:

SARBADHINAYAK  
**Sri Satis Chandra Samanta**  
Thana Adhinayakas

**Mahisadal**  
Sri Nilmoni Hazra  
**Nandigram**  
Sri Kunja Behari Bhaktadas

**Tamluk**  
Sri Gunadhar Bhowmik  
**Sutahata**  
Sri Janardan Hazra

It was also announced that the volunteer corps "Vidyout Bahini is being proclaimed as the National Militia of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" and that the bulletin "Biplabi will become the official organ of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar".<sup>9</sup> Another consideration also weighed heavily on the decision for forming the noational government. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had then reached Germany. His speeches and broadcasts to the nation used to be heard secretly on headphones. On the Eastern Front, again. The Japanese forces were rapidly advancing towards India after the fall of Singapur on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1942. News also reached that the Indian revolutionaries living in East Asia were trying to form an Azad Hind Fouz under the leadership of Captain Mohan Singh and Sri Rashbehari Basu.

The Brutish Government had enforced the Denial Policy in the coastal district of Medinipur so vigorously which had led to the conclusion that British Intelligence was perhaps apprehending that the forces of liberation led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose may choose to come by the sea route and may prefer the coastal areas of midna pore as their standing place. It is so happens; it would be convenient for them to set foot on a free zone, independent of foreign control, wherefrom they may march on their victorious journey. And if an independent national government remains functioning the subdivision may save itself from disorder and anarchy, an inevitable accompaniment of war.

**SOME OF THE MENTIONABLE ASPECTS :**

- (1) The movements were both non-violent and malevolent.
- (2) Massive and annihilated activities of the masses.
- (3) The torture of the imperialist administrator was unprecedented.
- (4) Glorious activities of the students.
- (5) The role of the women is remarkable.
- (6) Participation of Hindu-Muslim, Literate-illiterate and labourer-farmer.
- (7) The number of martyrs was highest than any other district in India.
- (8) Struggle continued continuously despite of several calamities.
- (9) Construction of the long time National Government in India and its maintenance.

### **CHARITIES OF THE FREEDOM-FIGHTING :**

It is a historical truth that the freedom-fighting movement in Medinipur has earned a remarkable place in the history of Indian freedom-fighting movements. The success of the struggle was possible for the soil of Medinipur, including its geographic location, economic, social, and cultural lifestyle which is discussed earlier. Besides those, there were some other characteristics for which the spontaneous and unite mass-struggle was possible. These are discussed in the following paragraphs.

### **COMPETENT SUCCESSOR OF TRADITION:**

Before the start of the Indian freedom-fighting movement, the people of Medinipur were assembled in the movements of 'Chorh' 'Nayek' 'Malangi' etc. spontaneously from the inception of British empire as discussed earlier. In the same direction, Partition of Bengal, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements were also performed by the people of Medinipur. So in the British period in India, the people of Medinipur remained alert to maintain privilege.

### **PERIODIC ADVANCEMENT OF THE MOVEMENT:**

One of the main characteristics of the freedom fighting movement of Medinipur was its periodic advancement. Movement of Bengal was held in the non-violent manner whereas the movement of Kshudiram, Satyen etc. was in the form with arms, acceptance of indigenous goods and boycott of foreign goods were performed spontaneously by the people of Medinipur. In 1920 - 1922, the contribution of Non-cooperation movement, boycott of court, and establishment of national schools, social reconstruction, stopping enhanced 'Chowkidari' tax, boycott of Union Board was done under the leadership of Birendranath and other distinguish freedom-fighters.

In 1930 - 1931, at the period of Civil Disobedience, the movement of Medinipur attained its youth and numerous men and women participated spontaneously in the Salt Satyagraha. At least 59 became martyrs in those members. In the second phase of Civil Disobedience in 1932 - 1934, stopping of different enhanced taxes and in the other movements the contribution of women along with the other people is remarkable. It was perfectly and spontaneously shown in the Quit India movement of 1942. The people of Medinipur specially the students association played a vital role to compel the British imperialists to escape India by their immortal struggle.

### **CONCLUSION :**

We often forget that Swaraj did not come in a natural course, but it had to be achieved through hard toil, tears and bloodshed. We also do not know how the people of India dared to fight such an unequal struggle in face of serious odds and in complete isolation. The Government torture and repression could not put an end to the movement of the masses. Students were highly inspired by the ideas of freedom and were determined to win it at any cost including sacrifice of person and property. Open revolutionary activities came to a halt with the cyclone that engulfed But neither the ravages of the cyclone and the tidal bore nor the inhuman atrocities committed by the administration of the country could crush their unconquerable spirit which continued

the live in the masses and bailed the rising sun of freedom in august 1947.

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