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Role and importance of Midnapore City of West Bengal: The Anti-British Govt

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Abstract

The significant contribution made by the students not only in the formation of the nation but also in gaining the independence of the country can be well estimated by looking at the students of Midnapur during the struggle for freedom. During first half of the 20th century the number of male-students was not supposed to be very large and female-students were nominal in the district but they actively participated in the freedom movements in India especially in anti-partition movement, Swadeshi Movement, noncooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and quit India movement. History speaks their glorious Anti-British struggle which they fought both in violent and non-violent ways. The glorious contribution of the students in India's long-awaited freedom movement is discussed in history, but the role of many students who dedicated their lives to the service of the country in the regional field is still unknown. The purpose of this article is to accurately highlight the role of many of these freedom fighters who dedicated their lives leaving their study for their motherland.

Keywords: Student, contribution, freedom, regional, field

Introduction

The foreign merchant East India Company came here to try their luck and do business. However, as time went on, they smelled opportunity in the social unrest to take over our polity. Unfortunately, their dictatorial efforts eventually were successful. However, their effort was not simple. Their imperialistic nature was thwarted from the beginning by widespread unrest and uprising.

Following the 'Dewani' in 1765, British emperors attempted a complete reform of the land system. But it was by no means simple. Because the territory was covered in rainforest for 2/3 of its area. The Medinipur district originally included a significant number of parganas, including Barabhum, Panchet, Dampara (now in Purulia), Raipur, Simulpal, Chhatna, Phulkusma (now in Bankura), Dhalbhum and Ghatsila (now in Jharkhand), Bhograi and Jaleswar (now in Orissa). Later, these areas were referred to as Junglemahal.

In this vast forest region, numerous zamindars and local lords each had their own domains. They seldom ever paid taxes during the Mughal era. The Mughal emperors were content and did not meddle with the administration despite the fact that these areas were remote and overrun by dangerous animals. They managed their domain almost autonomously as a consequence. Every zaminder had a few chieftains, and these chieftains in turn appointed a few 'paiks' (foot troops). In lieu of payment, they were granted agricultural land parcels that were either free of charge or subject to a minimal amount of taxes. This structure was popular in the north and north-western parts of Medinipur district before the advent of company-raj.

These customary ways of life were prohibited when the British raj began in this area. Medinipur's Zaminders refused to pay income at increased rates. As a consequence, British resident Mr. Graham sent Mr. Ferguson as his commander of force to collect money from the disloyal zaminders in 1767. In his first assault, he succeeded in forcing several zaminders to submit, but the Ghatsila zaminder displayed the fiercest aggression. In 1778, he was able to get all the local zaminders together and recommence his march towards Ghatsila. With this uprising, Junglemahal as a whole was set on fire. The British authorities believed that the zaminder of Ghatsila, Jagannath Dhal, was the key figure in this uprising. Therefore, in 1777, at Ghatsila, the British Company was compelled to return this zamindari to Jagannath Dhal. The British historian JC.

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Price named this coordinated uprising of the peasants and zaminders of Junglemahal against the British Company as the Chuar Revolt (Chuar Bidroha).

Revolt began in its new phase in 1798-1799 in Bankura's southern and western portions as well as in Medinipur's western region. The second phase of Chuar Bidroha was referred to as this. The focal points of the revolts included locations like as Karnagarh, Shiromani, Panchkhuri, Satpati, Salboni, Keshpur, Anandapur, Dhalhara, Dharendra, Ramgarh, Silda, Gopiballvapur, Narajole, Bagri, Chandrakona, Mayna, and Jaleswar, among others. The leadership was provided by Gobardhan Dikpati of Bagri, Rani Shiromani of Karnagarh, and Durjan Singh, Zaminder of Raipur. To stop this movement, the British military used the worst forms of torture. Before the uprising came to an end, tribal peasants launched a brand-new movement called the "Nayek Revolt of Bagri" (1806-16). Achal Singha, the instigator of the "Nayek Revolt", was assassinated in 1816 after a deceitful British governor managed to seize him. Nearly 200 of his supporters were publicly hanged on gallows.

Some locations revealed that these types of revolts adopted a violent strategy. We'd like to use the migration of Malangis as an example. Tamluk and Hijli area used to be the centre of the salt industry. Production of salt employed over 60,000 people. Company restricted their access to its manufacture and distribution after 1760 even though it generated enormous profits for them. However, Malangis or salt workers had a very miserable situation. They had to put up with physical pain, torture, and low pay while working on its development, but when things became intolerable, they left the location. They often demonstrated against this extortion or torture. However, the authority never made an effort to appease their complaint. The Malangis came together in 1804 under the leadership of Premananda Sarkar to fight this exploitation. Hundreds of Malangis rebelled under his leadership against the development of the salt business. They surrounded the company's agent's office in Contai. The British foot troops arrested Premananda, which incited the Malangis to become more violent.

A High School for English Education was founded in 1834. This school was influenced by Western beliefs and influences. However, in the middle of the 19th century, Rajnarayan Basu and Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, two well-known individuals, significantly contributed to boosting national spirit in this district.

As the Headmaster of the Government Zilla School (today's Collegiate School), Rajnarayan Basu moved to Medinipur in 1851 and remained in that position until 1866. In addition to building his school when he was living in Medinipur, he also founded a number of organisations focused on national awareness, ethical living, physical practise, and education. Re-establishing Brahma Samaj, creating Jatiya Gourav Sampadani Sabha, Surpan Nivanai Saha, Girls' School, General Library, and other institutions among them are noteworthy.

Medinipur district's great son is Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. He was a social reformer and philanthropist. In fact, he helped Bengali writing become literary and achieve its literary standing. As part of his social job, he practised literature. He composed Bengali classics like Bodhodaya, Kathamala, and Barnaparichaya-I & II. He emphasised the use of vernacular as a teaching tool. He was a Special English Schools Inspector in Medinipur, Hooghly, Nadia,

and Bardhaman. He made significant contributions to this district's mass education. However, this venture did not meet expectations in a colonial state. Finally, only three years after being appointed, he announced his resignation. He founded an English-Sanskrit school in his home hamlet of Birsingha in 1853. He also understood that if girls' education were not prioritised, this nation would not advance. In various Bengali areas, from November 1857 to May 1858, he founded 35 girls' schools. In the district of Medinipur, three schools were established among them. Hindu widow remarriage was legalised on July 26, 1856, thanks to his tireless efforts and quick action. He made a number of social reformational moves.

Following the establishment of Bharat Sabha in Medinipur, Ghatal, Contai, and Ramjibanpur with regard to tenancy rights, an additional 29 branches were established. 'Rayat Sabha' (tenant's committee) was the name given to them. Establishing tenants' rights to lands was its primary goal. In order to increase the number of people participating in political activities in this area, Bharat Sabha set up different schedules.

Indian politics changed after the Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. This district established a connection with the Indian Congress right away. Delegates from this constituency routinely participated in the Annual Conferences of Congress. Among them are notable individuals like Kartick Chandra Mitra, Bipin Behari Dutta, and Tara's renowned lawyer Jogesh Chandra Roy. The Gochar Movement, a protest against the Indigo Plantation, was organised in the last decade of the 19th century. The State Conference of Congress in 1901 generated excitement in this region.

Early in the 20th century, Medinipur developed as a hub for extremists and liberation fighters. The grandson of Rajnarayan Basu, Sri Aravinda, added to this effect. Hemchandra Das Kanungo, Gnanendranath Basu, and Satyendranath Basu joined him in Medinipur to start a patriotic organisation in 1902 after he left his position as a state employee in Baroda. Sister Nivedita, a revered female devotee of Swami Vivekananda, visited Medinipur in 1903. She won awards for spiritualism and encouraged nationalism among young people. She even constructed a gym called 'akhra' (Gym) and placed a strong emphasis on moral and physical improvement.

Freedom Movement of Medinipur (1905-1947)

When Medinipur's patriotic movement began to pick up steam in the middle of the 19th century, Rishi Rajnarayan Basu, the revered Grand Old Man of patriotism, launched a number of reformation initiatives. He promoted the patriotism of young men like Gynendranath Basu, Satyendranath Basu, Pyarilal Ghosh, and Hemchandra Kanungo as the Headmaster of Collegiate School (he assumed this position in 1851).

It was customary to form an organisation or assembly to engage in moderate politics, and this tendency began in the third decade of the 19th century. The district of Medinipur was also affected by this effect. Indian Association was established and its 29 branches opened in Medinipur Sadar, Ghatal, Ramjibanpur, Tamluk, Contai, and other locations under the direction of Surendranath Banerjee.

The Medinipur district had a connection with the Indian Congress early on. Indian National Congress state congress was held at Burdge Town, Medinipur Town, in 1901.

Among the gathered individuals were individuals of national stature like Suren Banerjee, Krishna Kumar Mitra, and Janakinath Ghosal. The Secretary of the Reception Committee was Khirodbehari Dutta, and the President was Kartick Mitra. Another person among them deserving of attention is Jogesh Chandra Roy, a member of the Congress Conference.

In Medinipur, a solid foundation for nationalism and the movement against imperialism was created, and it became even more evident on the day of the Banga Bhanga Andolan (movement against the separation of Bengal). A protest gathering opposing this split was conducted on August 7th, 1905, at the Bailey Hall. In support of the Bangabhanga Andolan, volunteer organisations were established, student stores were constructed for the purpose of distributing local products, picketing was organised in front of establishments that sold foreign goods, and road rallies, strikes, and rakshabandhan celebrations were also planned. This area saw the establishment of several "akhra" (gymnasiums) at this time. Exercise, kusti, and spinning in the 'charka' were initiated.

Eminent and educated individuals supported the Swadeshi Movement in a number of Medinipur cities. Mention should also be made of Raja Narendralal Khan of Narajole and his son Debendralal Khan, Digamber Nanda, zaminder of Mugberia, Girish Chandra Maity, zaminder of Kalagechhia, and his son Jagadish Chandra Maity, as well as Sasmals of Contai, Rakshits of Tamluk, etc.

One of the founding members of Medinipur's secret assembly, Hemchandra Kanungo liquidated all of his possessions and travelled to Paris in August 1906 to get the necessary bomb-making knowledge. He returned home and started working on bomb production for the Jugantar Party. Ramfield Fuller, the Lieutenant Governor of East Bengal, was intended to be killed by the first explosion, but his plan failed. The next time, they made an effort to assassinate Andrew Fraser close to the Narayanganj Railway Station, but it was unsuccessful (6th December 1907). Due to this incidence, the government initiated the infamous "Medinipur Bomar Mamla" case. In this instance, hundreds of individuals were accused. Then, Muzaffarpur's oppressive Magistrate Kingsford was the target. Kshudiram, a courageous Medinipur youngster, was sent to Muzaffarpur with Prafulla Chaki on the advice of Hemchandra. Unfortunately, Mrs. Kenedy and Miss Kenedy died on April 30, 1930, instead of Kingsford. On August 11, 1908, Prafulla Chaki committed himself, and Kshudiram received a hanging verdict. Police officers began their investigation following the event and detained all of the secret society's members. The infamous Alipur Conspiracy Case then got underway. During this time, on September 1st, 1908, Satyen Basu and Kanailal Dutta murdered Narendranath Goswami, who rose to the position of approver. Hemchandra Kanungo was detained and sentenced to permanent expulsion.

In August 1914, the First World War officially began. The well-known patriot Bagha Jatin intended to take munitions from the German ship "Maverick." Basanta Sarkar of Garbeta was tasked with maintaining the ammo in Chandbali for this endeavour. The great patriot Rashbehari Basu devised his strategy to coordinate terrorist actions throughout India. Responsibility for building the stairs in Medinipur was delegated to people like Basanta Sarkar, Tarapada Mukherjee, Bipin Hazra, and Manu Bhattacharya, among others.

The non-violent non-cooperation strategy adopted at the Congress Conference in Kolkata was well received in Medinipur. In the state level Congress Committee, a group was established to expand this non-violent strategy. Following the election of Chittaranjan Das, Birendranath Sasmal was chosen as the first president. Under his leadership, the Medinipur District Congress Committee was once again established, and Kishorpati Roy was chosen to serve as secretary. Branch organisations were established in 227 unions, 33 PSs, and four subdivisions. Such a large organisation took on a very clear mission. Organisations, mass awareness, and movements were successful not just during the non-cooperation period but also during the disobedience age and the Quit India campaign.

National vernacular schools were established in the Medinipur district. Anantapur and Kankurda schools in the Tamluk sub-division, as well as the Kalagechhia National Schools in the Contai sub-division, were notable at this time. Additionally, middle and primary National Schools were founded in other locations across this district. The National School Council of Jadavpur authorised these schools. 'Charka' and 'Khaddar' were promoted by the students and instructors of these schools. The principal proponents of Khadi were Kulapara and Durgachak of Nandigram PS, Jukhia of Bhagwanpur PS, Kadua of Ramnagar, Bishnupur of Sabong PS, and Amarshi of Patashpur. Every block established a "Shanti Committee" (peace committee) to promote harmony between Hindus and Muslims.

A club called Milan Mandir (1924) was founded at Midnapore Town School with the support and patronage of Parimal Kumar Roy, Prafulla Tripathy, Pulinbihari Maity, Birendranath Maji, Santosh Kumar Mishra, and Haripada Bhowmick to explain the characteristics of this patriotic movement and to clarify the relevance of students' participation in it. By working together, these individuals created Medinipur Yuva Sangha in February 1927. This Yuva Sangha's president was Raja Debendralal Khan. Dinesh Chandra Gupta, a well-known martyr, visited Medinipur around this time in an effort to increase his activities while attending Midnapore College.

Young groups attempted to get in touch with Bengal Volunteer, Dinesh Gupta's cultural organisation, after he had left Medinipur. Over time, BV Group developed into a significant organisation in Medinipur. This crew murdered three District Magistrates.

Almost everywhere in Medinipur, preparations were made to counter civil disobedience. The manufacturing of salt continued uninterrupted starting on April 6 in several locations in the Tamluk subdivision and the coastal region of Contai. Pichhabani of Contai and Norghat of Tamluk were significant locations. Volunteers from all around Bengal came together to protest against this legislation. In Contai, 56 facilities were set up to produce salt illegally. Nine facilities were established for this purpose in the Tamluk subdivision by May 1930. This initiative established a solid foundation in the Medinipur district. Women directed Shiulipur of the Bhagawanpur PS, Ghoramara of the Mayna PS, and Baroduari of the Nandigram PS. In this salt movement, a great number of women were prisoned and mention must be made of Matangini Hazra, Prababati Maity, Laxmimani Hazra, Charushila Jana, Surama Hota, Kiranbala Maity, Mayalata Das, Naribala Das, Jamunabala Devi, Subodhbata Kuiti,

Indumati Bhattacharyya, Prabhabati Singha, Chikanbala Jana, Suhani Devi, Satyabati Devi, Nityalala Gol, Chinmayee Das, Nityabala Jana, Laksmirani Chatterjee and others of Tamluk sub-division. Sukhadamayee Roychowdhury, Kusumkumari Mandal, Gita Bhowmick, Bhagawati Sasmal, Rajbala Sasmal, Sukhadamano Das, Prabhati Banerjee, Muktakeshi Tamli, and others in the Contai Subdivision. Charushila Goswami, Bindubala Sasmal, Nanibala Maity, Nibarani Das, Sateswari Bose, Sobhana Basu, Manorama Das, Sarajubala Das, Charushila Palit, Savitri De, and others reside in the Medinipur subdivision. The government imposed a ban on those organisations that were advocating disobedience in order to counteract the movement's catastrophic impact (May 1930). James Paddy, the District Magistrate, also considered splitting Medinipur in half.

District Magistrate James Paddy was murdered by Jyotijiban Ghosh and Bimal Dasgupta on April 7, 1931. Both of them escaped to Kolkata after this incident. When Bimal Dasgupta tried to murder Villiers, the president of the European Merchants' Association in Kolkata, on October 29, 1931, he once again came to light. Ten years of harsh incarceration served as his punishment. Due to a lack of evidence, he could not be charged with Paddy's murder. Two young patriots, Pradyot Bhattacharyya and Pravanshu Pal, shot and murdered Mr. Douglas, the second District Magistrate of Medinipur, in the Zilla Board Office on April 30, 1930. Pravanshu remained unidentified or untraceable while Pradyot was executed by hanging at Medinipur Central Jail on January 12, 1933.

In the secure Police Line Campus, two Medinipur youths named Anath Bandhu Panja and Mrigen Dutta killed District Magistrate Mr. Burdge. The bodyguards for Mr. Burdge shot these two heroic youngsters to death. A case was filed shortly after the occurrence against Kamakhya Ghosh, Nandadulal Singha, Sukumar Sen, Sanatan Roy, Nirmaljiban Ghosh, Ramkrishna Roy, and Brajakishor. Ramkrishna and Nirmaljiban received death sentences, while the other defendants received life sentences.

The August Movement was launched with a school boycott, a meeting or gathering to spread the message, and the formation of volunteer organisations. For instance, Bidyut Bahini was founded with chosen volunteers in the Tamluk sub-division. Biplabi, a bulletin, was first published on September 24, 1942. On September 29, offices, courts, police stations, and other government locations would all be targeted, it was determined in a private conference. 'Samar Parishads' (Combat groups) were established in a number of Medinipur subdivisions. Thousands of volunteers cut down the major road's connections in the middle of the night on September 28, 1942. Transport systems were interrupted, and telegraph and telephone connections were cut off. The 73-year-old Old Grand Lady Matangini Hazra was shot to death along with eleven other demonstrators when Tamluk police stations were stormed. Five demonstrators were murdered in Nandigram compared to 13 in Mahisadal. Tamluk and Contai Sub-divisions saw the formation of "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar." "Sarbadhinayak" (Chief) Satish Chandra Samanta, 'Finance Secretary' Ajay Kumar Mukhopadhyay, and 'Home Secretary' Sushil Kumar Dhara served under him. This "Jatiya Sarkar" remained for a considerable amount of time, from December 17 to September 1, 1944. On September 1st, 1944, they submitted after Mahatma Gandhi gave the command.

After the creation of a leftist study group and the Students' Federation, Communist activities began at the end of 1938. In Medinipur Town, Kharagpur, Mahisadal, Nandigram, Lakhya, Mohammadpur, and Kalagechia of Tamluk Subdivision, Anandapur in Keshpur PS, and Kalora of Daspur PS, branches were established between 1939 and 1941. Kishan Sabha operations began in this district in 1938. In this stage, Bhupal Panda, Saroj Roy, Mohini Mondal, and Deben Das all played significant roles.

The militant faces of the Tebhaga Movement were seen in the Tamluk and Ghatal subdivisions. The location of the agitation between the members of the Krishak Sabha on the one side and the zotdar (land owner) and police on the other was Nandigram, Mahisadal, Sutahata, and Panskura PS.

The 10th Pradeshik Krishak Sabha Session took place at Panchkhuri on February 27, 1947. Krishnabinod Roy served as the session's chair. However, the Tebhaga Movement was in decline following the leaders' arrest and subsequent cover-up. 200 of the 3119 inmates of Tebhaga, according to a report by the Bangiya Pradeshik Krishan Sabha, were from the Medinipur area.

August movement in Medinipur (TAMLUK)

The Congress workers were working to develop their organisational roots among the populace via the constructive work programme on the day of the individual Satyagraha Revolution in 1940, realising that a bigger and more were prepared for it. At that time, the War's direction was shifting away from the allied forces. The Japanese were moving quickly into India on the Eastern Front, and it was obvious that the British were likewise preparing for another "successful retreat" from all signs. The Bay of Bengal skirts the Midnapore district in the south, giving it considerable strategic significance to the British government. It was anticipated that the district's coastal sections would provide for the most advantageous landing spot for the Japanese if they decide to go by water. As a result, the district's southern and eastern regions, including the Tamluk subdivision, were designated emergency zones, and all modes of transportation, including bicycles, motor cars, and boats of all shapes and sizes, were confiscated and evacuated. It is important to note here Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's comments, who was a member of Bengal's Fazlul Haque Ministry at the time. The House should keep in mind that the Denial Policy was in place in several areas of Bengal even before the civil disobedience dance revolution that began last year. The strategy of forcibly removing boats and other modes of transportation especially bicycles persisted in Midnapore. In any case, only one district saw the removal of close to 10,000 bicycles, and hundreds of boats were required to be turned in within a short period of time before being forcibly destroyed by the local authorities because they weren't turned in on time. This must be kept in mind in order to comprehend how strong the sentiments were among the local residents of the area.

In addition, as part of the Denial strategy, a variety of food grains, including rice and paddy, were being purchased on a large scale and shipped outside the subdivision without any consideration for the needs of the local population. The problem was made worse by government officials who were overzealous in their efforts to demonstrate their devotion to their foreign overlords and any type of porter's towns that is banned by Defence of India Rules.

The August Revolution began abruptly at this unfortunate time. The people's uncontrollable emotional outburst in response to the news of the widespread arrest of Congress leasers started a chain reaction that eventually gained steam and manifested itself as a major revolution. At first, none of the provincial or notational leaders were left outside to direct or plan the revolution. After a few days, the revolution's leaders, including Jaiprakash Narayan, Sucheta Kripalani, Aruna Asaf Ali, and others who were still free of prison, attempted to guide it towards a clear and unified plan of action.

In the past, Medinipur had always been in the vanguard of the whole national battle for independence. In August 1942, however, it took a time to consider the best course of action before launching into the revolution. However, as usual, there were still demonstrations, meetings, hartals, student protests, and other forms of opposition to the government's oppressive tactics. During the early phases of the revolution, Sri Kurhar Chandra Jana, president of the district Congress Committee, was detained along with other district-level Congress officials. Sri Rajani Kanta Pramanik was also detained a few days later. In order to organise the revolution among the populace, Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar then made the decision to relocate to the rural. Other lessees received instructions to abandon their homes and stay underground in order to lead the revolution.

At this point, on September 8, 1942, a month after the August revolution had begun, an occurrence occurred that accelerated the Revolution's speed. In conjunction with Gove, the proprietors of a rice mill at Danipur Village on the banks of the Rupnarayan River, under the jurisdiction of Mahisadal Police Station, had been exporting rice and paddy out of the district. Officials The locals predicted that if such shady transactions were permitted to continue, they would soon run out of decent grains. As a result, a large group of locals gathered close to the mill and requested an assurance from the mill owners that they would cease exporting food grains going forward. Three villagers were murdered as a consequence of the police party's use of excessive force to disperse the unarmed gathering at the mill site after receiving this information. In 1942, this was the subdivision's deadliest shooting.

However, this bloodshed wasn't in vain. The tenacious opposition of the populace forced the mill owners to submit. They pledged to halt the export of rice and paddy and to compensate the grieving families with an agreed-upon sum. The public responded strongly to this occurrence, and their emotions reached fever pitch. They became agitated and ready to start taking direct action against the government right now.

The Revolution's major plan was seizing earls like Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar, who were then put under the command of their capable lieutenants and deserving adherents and performed marvels. All the key highways, including Panskura Tamluk Road Tamluktrict, namely in Contai and Tamluk subdivisions, were closed on September 28, 1942, for a few hours of the night. The 29th of September 1942 was designated as the day for such an action. In order to prevent connection with the outside world, it was also determined that on the preceding night (i.e., the 28th night), a blockade would be established by cutting roads, falling trees, disconnecting and damaging telegraph and telephone lines, and uprooting telegraph poles. People in the subdivision accomplished marvels under the direction

of renowned generals like Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar, and under the supervision of their capable lieutenants and deserving subordinates. Thirty culverts were blasted off or left inoperable, and thirty important roads were cut deeply in numerous locations on September 28, 1942, during the course of a few hours of the night. In addition, 27 miles of telephone and telegraph cables were severed, uprooted, hacked into pieces, and thrown away after the battle. On the Cosset and Halide rivers, every ferryboat was sunk or removed. From 10 p.m. until 4 a.m., the whole process was accomplished in less than six hours, almost by magic. Every hamlet was given certain responsibilities on a specific section of road or given charge of a specific task. They arrived in huge numbers at the designated time and location, worked diligently until it was time to go, and then left well before it was time to leave again. The roadblock was set up with the specific goal of preventing outside military or police assistance from reaching the area on the scheduled day of September 29. It should be mentioned here in passing that due to the district's employees' exceptional secrecy preservation and discipline, the government authorities were kept in the dark about what was going to happen right up until the last minute. This was made possible by the fact that the plan and preparation involved a sizable geographic area and a large number of individuals. They didn't learn about the telephone line outage and road barricade until the morning of September 29th, which gave them enough time to speculate and make their assumptions. The local police learned of the events from the previous night early on September 29 and promptly went out to fix the roads and remove the blockades by forcibly removing the nearby villages with bayonets. As previously planned, at around 2 p.m., large professions each consisting of several thousand people young and old men and women Muslims and Hindus approached the subdivision and thana headquarters to take possession. Led by Vidyut Bahini, a group of trained and disciplined volunteers, they made some progress in clearing the Tamluk Panskura Road and making it passable for military trucks to come to Tamluk Tonne with additional military force. Additional military forces had arrived in the town by that point, and they took up positions at the points where the roads into the town were narrowest. When the processions came closer, they opened fire indiscriminately at four different locations on the peaceful, nonviolent procession participants, and ten people immediately lost their lives. The tale surrounding them is on the stately old woman, Matangini Hazra, also known as "Gandhi Bum." That frail old lady, age 73, advanced with unmatched bravery and heroism while holding the national flag tightly in her hands, unconcerned about the barrage of bullets that had already struck her twice. However, the third bullet went straight through her forehead, causing her to collapse while the National Flag continued to fly unharmed and stand straight in the hand.

There was no way to determine how many people were hurt. According According to prior plans, the Nursing Squad of the Vidyut Bahini's trained volunteers swiftly transported the critically injured people to safer locations and transferred the others to Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, where specific plans had been established for their care.

If the narrative didn't include the tale of another courageous woman, it would be lacking. The police opened fire on the demonstrators approaching from the southeast at one of these five entrances to Tamluk town, close to Sanwarara

Bridge. Some of the seriously injured people were pleading for water, but no one had the guts to go get it for them in the face of the never-ending barrage of bullets. A lady of easy virtue, Sm. Savitri, arrived at this point with a vegetable processor (CBanti) in one hand and a cup of water in the other. She was told to leave by the troops who were waiting there, but she continued to provide water to the injured instead. The troops grumbled and complained, but they lacked the audacity to point their weapons at her or prevent her from working. Later, while still sitting outside guarding the entry, she had also provided sanctuary to a severely injured volunteer in her room.

A forty thousand strong assault was organised in Mahisadal under the direction of "Vidyut Bahani" trained volunteers. Up to that point, no extra police officers or soldiers had arrived in Mahisadal. However, the local Zamindars provided the police with their bodyguard, an ex-military man known only as "G Sahib", along with a lot of ammunition. Under the direction of this "G Sahib", the armed forces began firing randomly and unprovoked at the peaceful protestors. The processionists had to temporarily withdraw. The operation was being led by Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, JOC in C of Vidyut Bahani, who was in attendance. He directed the Vidyut Bahini to launch another assault while crawling at times, laying down or retiring at others, and then approaching once again in response to predetermined cues. However, due to heavy and constant gunfire, they were unable to move any further and were forced to retreat, losing thirteen precious lives in the process. Only the Satahata Police Station was able to be taken over and captured without any casualties. The police station's officer in charge and the sepoys stationed there saluted the flag while turning in their weapons. Two aeroplanes were deployed to bomb the protesters since the government was unable to prepare for the security of this police station. Unfortunately for them, when they dropped the bomb, it landed on a nearby pond without doing any harm.

The show couldn't be started in Nandigram on November 29th since there had been a police shooting there only two days before. Police opened fire in Iswarpur in that Thana region on September 27, 1942, and many people were killed. As a result, the assault was scheduled for the next day, or September 30, 2009. Twenty thousand people marched towards the Nandigram police station on that day. Unfortunately, by that point, military forces had arrived there. Four more people died as they started shooting at the parade participants.

None of the dead or wounded victims in these confrontations had any bullet wounds below their belt, demonstrating that the only goal of these firings was to murder these defenceless people. Another noteworthy characteristic was that none of the victims had bullet wounds on their bodies from their enemies, demonstrating that none of the large group of people had fled in fear but had instead confronted the danger head-on and given their lives or suffered severe injuries.

The British Government acknowledged that this assault was conceptualised, planned, and carried out with great care and thought. "In Medinipur in Bengal, the operation of the rebels indicated considerable care and planning, an effective warning system had been devised, and elementary tactical principles were observed, such as encirclement and flanking revolutions clearly on prearranged signals," it had been

written in a booklet titled "Some Facts about the Disturbances in India." Doctors and nursing assistants were present with the forces of disorder to treat casualties, and the intelligence system was effective.

All of these have been used to criticise or disparage the actions of the so-called "rebels," but given that they come from a formidable foe, they also speak to the organisational prowess and mental toughness of the individuals involved.

Course of the movement Phase II

The next stage of the revolution involved seizing control of various lower-level government institutions, including the Union Board Debt Settlement Board, Rent Collection!! Centres, etc., in order to completely eradicate all signs of foreign rule from rural India. This was done very successfully and without much difficulty.

In this fashion, just as the uprising was reaching a successful conclusion, Medinipur was struck by an unexpected natural disaster. The first day of Durga Puja (maha Saptami) was October 16, 1942. Every house was filled with celebrations. Since early in the morning, a strong wind and heavy rain had been accompanying it. The wind turned into a gale in the late afternoon, and by nighttime it had transformed into a powerful cyclone with winds that had never previously been recorded. The storm raged and screamed more violently as night fell, blowing off everything in its path, uprooting ancient trees, falling homes, toppling roof tops, and causing untold havoc along the road. Additionally, the sea and rivers rose into the sky, overflowed their banks, and flooded the villages.

The flood and typhoon both caused enormous destruction. The then SDO of Tamluk, Mr. WA Sheikh, stated in his official report about the extent of loss caused by the cyclone that a total of 3873 people were killed, 1972 people were injured, 68,193 houses had collapsed, and 76,958 houses had suffered partial damage. He also stated that two steamers of Hoare Miller & Co., several launches, and a large number of boats had capsized. Almost all district Board and 5 The government's first response was unusual. The worst case scenario was to completely bury the news. Under Defence of India Rules, the media was prohibited from reporting on this devastation in any way, especially in the instance of the Medinipur area alone. The Bengali newspaper "jugantar" censored a specific edition for making a brief reference to what had occurred in Medinipur. Ananda Bazar Patrika's innocent inquiry regarding Medinipur's state after the disaster was rebuffed, and they were sent a warning not to interfere in Medinipur's internal affairs.

The speech made by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on the cruel behaviour of the current government and its local authorities on the occasion of his retirement from the Fazlul Haque Ministry is very illuminating. In response to this severe blow, he said that "the callousness I observed on the part of some of the authorities, from the highest to the lowest, was something unequalled in the annals of civilised government...The publication of the news about the destruction inflicted on October 16th was criminally and purposefully delayed, which is my first accusation against Midnapore. Numerous ways have the Defence of India Rules been misapplied. But nowhere in India has the application of these laws been more shameful. For over a week, the joyful family of government employees kept the news from spreading. Even cries for assistance were not

permitted to be heard. The reasoning provided lacked any foundation whatsoever. The reality is that since there was no planned and organised aid, the most precious time was squandered, and people suffered and perished. Due to his prior animosity towards them and his inability to rise to the occasion, the District officer. He was stopped from taking the necessary action that any responsible official would have to take to lessen the suffering of the populace by persons he referred to as rebels. His report, which advised the government to withhold aid due to the populace's political transgressions as well as to forbid any non-governmental organisations from providing aid in the afflicted region for one month, revealed his mental state to us.

It should also be noted that oppressive excesses and torture committed against the people of Medinipur, particularly molestation and rape of women by the police at Tamluk Subdivision, were a major factor in Dr. Mukherjee's decision to resign from the Bengal Ministry. Dr. Mukherjee had also made an effort to organise and carry out relief efforts among the flood-affected people with the active assistance and participation of political activists both inside and outside of prison. Those who were detained at the time also agreed to temporarily halt all political activity and focus only on relief efforts. They were even willing to promise that when this labour was done, they would go back to the prison to finish out their sentence. Through a messenger, Dr. Mukherjee's message was delivered to Satis Chandra and Ajoy Kumar, who also agreed to temporarily halt all political activities and assist with relief efforts. However, the individuals in charge of the administration at the time imposed such unreasonable conditions that Dr. Mukherjee himself was forced to withdraw his proposal.

A communiqué was finally released on the 17th day after the ministers threatened to disclose the news of Medinipur on their own.

On the one hand, there was a systematic neglect and reluctance on the part of the administration and officials, from the highest to the lowest, to provide relief to the afflicted people; on the other hand, the same officials displayed a lack of enthusiasm or energy when conducting raids in villages, setting houses on fire, beating innocent people, inflicting horrifying and indecent tortures, looting and plundering properties, assaulting and raping helpless women, and engaging in other criminal. On the exact night of October 16, 1942 When the elements were wreaking havoc, the obedient police officers of the civilised Brutish Government set fire to one house after another using petrol. In the two years between August 1942 and September 1944, the police set a total of 116 houses on fire, of which 52 were burned prior to the tragic cyclone day (16.10.42), six on that day, and 58 after.

Property theft occurred on a scale whose magnitude could be inferred from a single incidence. Just seven days after the cyclone, on the night of October 24, 1942, a police party raided the village of Putputia in Tamluk Thana by swimming through floodwaters that were then several feet deep over the roads. They raided many homes in the hamlet, detained a few people, beat people mercilessly with batons, and stole anything they could get their hands on. They stole from the home of Sri Chaitanya Charan Das alone that night Rs. 11,0007 in cash and 62 gold coins, each worth more than a lakh of rupees. By sticking together and putting up a united front against the evil plans of the hose creatures, the

ladies of the home were able to defend themselves.

Perhaps it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that neither the police individually nor in small groups dared to enter the village. Every time they stormed a community, they arrived in a body, supported by a sizable number of armed police and military personnel. Additionally, very well-planned efforts were being made to sow the seeds of racial tension and to pit one community against the other. In conjunction with the police, several non-Bengalese Muslim officials appointed as Dagistrate, Subdivisional officers, and in other senior administrative positions participated in the theft of Hindu assets and shared the booty with them.

Fortunately, however, their evil plans were thwarted. The local Muslim community as a whole did not react to their persuasion or provocation, with the exception of a few born criminals. The serenity and peace amongst the many groups residing in this subdivision have never been disturbed by intercommunal strife throughout its history. Under Sri Samanta's direction, the Congress workers in the Subdivision made a brave choice in response to this circumstance. They determined that the subdivision should have its own national government in order to establish law and order in the countryside by ending the widespread disorder and anarchy, torture, and oppression, and above all, to make proper and adequate arrangements for relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected people. The "Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" (National Government of Tamluk) was created on December 17, 1942, with that goal in mind. The following announcement appeared in "Biplabi," the Congress Committee's official bulletin, on January 26, 1943.

A New Era in Tamluk

Establishment of a Free National Government in Tamralipta

The Tamluk subdivision is now experiencing such anarchic and disorderly circumstances that such a state of complete confusion and disorder can no longer be tolerated. Consequently, the subdivisions! '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) has been created and declared by Congress as of the auspicious first day of pous, 1346 B.S. (17.12.1942). This national government will eventually become a part of the independent Federal State of India and will implement a fully democratic system of government in the future; however, due to the abnormal circumstances of the moment, all of the government's authority and duties have been delegated to a Sarvadhanayak until other arrangements are made. He has assembled his ministerial team and is now in charge of the government. Nandigram, Mahisadal, Sutahata, and Tamluk thanas have also created Thana Jatiya Sarakars. In each of these thanas, one "Adhinayak" has also been appointed, who has been given the required authority and powers to oversee government in their particular regions with the aid of Ministers to be chosen by them. We hope and think that residents of this subdivision will provide their support, cooperation, loyalty, and aid to the national government in order to help it eradicate all evidence of foreign rule from our territory and usher in a brand-new era in this subdivision.

The declaration mentioned Sarbadhunayak and Adhinayakas by name. Additionally, it was declared that the volunteer group "Vidyout Bahini is being proclaimed as the National Militia of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" and that the newspaper

"Biplabi will become the official organ of Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar" ^[9]. The choice to create the national government was greatly influenced by another factor. At that time, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had arrived in Germany. His public remarks and broadcasts to the country were previously audible only via headphones. Once again on the Eastern Front. After Singapur fell on February 15, 1942, the Japanese forces advanced swiftly towards India. Additionally, word spread that Captain Mohan Singh and Sri Rashbehari Basu were attempting to found an Azad Hind Fouz, a group of Indian revolutionaries operating in East Asia. It was determined that British Intelligence was possibly anticipating that the liberation forces led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose might choose to travel by sea and may prefer the coastal areas of Midnapore as their staging area because the British Government had vigorously enforced the Denial Policy in the coastal district of Medinipur. It just so happens that it would be advantageous for them to enter a free zone that is not under foreign rule from where they might march on their successful voyage. Additionally, if a functioning independent national government continues, the subdivision may be able to avoid the chaos and anarchy that are a natural byproduct of war.

Union Board Boycott Movement in Midnapore and BN Sasmol

When people of the district were outraged over the Bengal Village Self Government Act (BVSG), then Sasmol realized the need to agitate against the illegal law of the govt. According to Sasmol, *".....after reading these laws well, I could easily understand that, it could not be of any benefit to the country but could be a nuisance to the ignorant and the poor"*. Sasmol organised an anti-union board campaign with the irate citizens of contain after foreseeing the negative effects of setting up a union board in such a circumstance. The 'Chowkidari' tax ban movement or the Union Board Boycott movement ran concurrently with the noncooperation campaign and was approved by Sasmol.

Being a renowned and devoted congressman made it difficult for him to organise a rival campaign during the time of Gandhiji's All India Non Cooperation campaign that was focused on any provincial issues. He then took a position in front of the asterisk. Sasmol could not determine if an anti-union board's campaign should be organised on behalf of the Congress, despite the fact that he had no doubts at all about the futility of the Union boards. He attempted to introduce a resolution at the Nagpur Congress in 1920 calling for the opposition of the union board's provisions in the village self-government act in various provinces, but he was unsuccessful. He sought to ask Gandhiji for permission to launch a union boycott campaign in his area using a non-violent, non-cooperation strategy, but Gandhiji refused under the guise of complicated methods and the all-India policy. Everyone agreed that the BVSG Act should be obeyed during the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee (BPCC) congress held in Barisal in 1921. It was not possible to take part in the anti-board movement, but he was convinced of the low that, *"the BVSG Act would not only benefit the district but also weaken the economically weak Medinipur rural economy."* He organised and oversaw the anti-board action in response to the populace's cries, keeping in mind the hardship of the Medinipur people, although honestly adhering to Gandhian Congress philosophy and not wishing to challenge the

Congress's decision. The union board made the risky decision to boycott the movement in opposition to the AICC & BPCC's viewpoints. By urging the populace to oppose the additional taxes imposed by the Contai and Tamluk sub-divisional union boards, he launched the campaign. Relevantly, he abandoned his shoes in front of the audience when he first proclaimed at a public gathering that the resistance movement had resolved not to wear shoes while the district union board was in session. Residents of Contai and the whole Medinipur region immediately joined the anti-board campaign after being inspired by his choice. The movement was originally started in the Contain sub-division and eventually extended to the Tamluk, Ghatal, and Sadar sub-divisions. The first meeting with the local merchant took place on June 9th, 1921 at Kantala bazar of Contai. To get the public's view on the recently constituted union board, Sasmol and his allies PN Banerjee, Satish Chandra Jana, Surendra Nath Das, and others have been hosting meetings in different locations. At Kathi Bazar in the Contai Subdivision, Birendranath, Pramathanath, and Nagendra Chandra Baksi organised a meeting. The major objective was to inform the public of the arguments for and against the Board so they could make an informed decision. The meeting's proponents and opponents presented their arguments to the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone in attendance raised their hands in opposition to the creation of the union board and decided to launch the campaign. The movement's leaders understood the public's opposition to union boards, extensively discussed those boards' drawbacks from time to time, and demonstrated how unfairly and inconsistently taxes had been levied. The leaders met in various locations, and the decisions made at the meetings were forwarded to the DM, SDO, Chairman of the District Board, Chief Secretary of Bengal, and Minister in charge of local self-government. They reacted horrifiedly to the government's decision to extend union boards to the Conti subdivision and urged it to do so. Additionally, they call for the newly elected board members to resign from their positions. In response to this call, Kedarnath Das, Taraknath Paul, Ganendranath Maity, Upendranath Das, and Amar Nandi all submitted their resignations from their positions on union boards. In his lectures, Sasmol emphasised the negative features of the boards while travelling about the subdivision barefoot as a representative of the people and advocating for the welfare of the people. His gatherings consistently draw large crowds, regardless of ethnicity or creed. A number of gatherings were invited to and attended by leaders of different Muslim organisations. East Bengali native Moulavi Rayhan Uddin Ahmed spoke in the Contai subdivision during the protest against the board. Later, the government filed a sedition case against him. On August 14, 1921, Contai Thana said at a gathering in Swarasati Tala that he had personally chosen not to pay the union boards' taxes and was prepared to accept whatever penalty the government could impose for doing so. The inhabitant of the Contai neighbourhood chose not to pay union taxes as a result of Sasmol's choice. Seven residents of Fatehpur village of Ramnagar Thana within this sub-division consented to pay 'Chowkidari' tax in this scenario, but they refused to pay extra union tax. On claims that they made abusive comments against the Fatehpur Union Board President for refusing to resign and damaging the pillars of his farm home, the police detained the seven villagers. Seven persons were imprisoned when the police knowingly

filed a sedition case. These are the first anti-board movement convicts. As a consequence, the situation at Ramnagar and the Contai police station became worse. Recognising this, the authorities decided to release the defendants before their sentences were over.

The leaders of the anti-union movement organise a welcome gathering at Swarasari Tala of Contai on the day when seven inmates from Fatehapur are released, disregarding societal catastrophes. Seven liberated warriors marched with Sasmol and Dr. Guharoy from the Congress office of Contai to the welcome meeting with Bandemataram and the sound of Gandhiji's name. They wore fresh Dhotis, Kartas, and garlands around their necks. Then, as Bandemataram was lulled in a humorous voice, the sky shook. The volunteers performed a number of patriotic songs together, including "We Meet Today at the Call of Mother" and "Call Your Mother Once, Let Himadri Pashan Cry." In front of a large crowd, Birendranath exhorted the people to be prepared for sorrow. The newly appointed union board is required to swear an oath not to pay taxes while being bothered by any kind of persecution. He said that in *Swarasati Tala*, *"I have a house, which is taxable and I will not to pay tax, when the tax collector arrives, I will keep the door open to take away the property. I will do same if my Chandiveti or Fulbari village house collects tax. I will pray to God in the village Temple while doing Harinam with the villagers"*. Through Gandhi's nonviolent Satyagraha philosophy, Sasmol guided his movement. In front of those in attendance at the meeting that day, he led the movement's operational strategy. He pleaded with the populace to open the door so that the property might be confiscated for unpaid taxes so that we wouldn't go into any kind of difficulty with the law. We won't pay less to purchase the property if it goes up for auction. We shall not in any way help the law enforcement officers move the confiscated goods. So, one by one, he explained to the crowd the movement's goals and objectives. The audience at the conference cheered in unison in response to his moving speech, telling him that they would pay attention to him and that if he had to face persecution, he would do so while refusing to pay taxes. He said that he was prepared for the first shot to be fired at his chest in a statement. Emotional mobs say they will face persecution head-on without faltering, that they won't pay a cent in taxes, and that they won't turn back. Dr. Guharoy asked permission to give up wearing foreign clothing during the conference in order to advance swadeshi. Then there was a large public gathering, and everyone removed everything but the barest minimum of clothing before throwing the rest into the fire.

Despite having its origins in the Contai sub-division, the anti-union board movement swiftly spread throughout the district, but particularly in the Tamluk, Ghatal, and Sadar sub-divisions. The movement had started in other areas of Medinipur by October. Sasmol advocated the anti-board campaign while touring the neighbourhood. People in the whole Tamluk subdivision decided not to pay taxes, allow their properties to be attached and removed by the "Tahasildars", and decided not to purchase or provide manpower for the removal of the items. The villagers kowtowed to the threat and declined to assist the "Chowkidars", "Tahasildars." Within the unions, even the "Tahasildars" were denied shelter. Most union boards advise their SDO that they are encountering increasing resistance and are thus unable to collect taxes. Though generally quiet

and becoming less supportive of violence.

In the Ghatal sub-division's Daspur Thana, nobody was found who supported the Union Board. The danger of a societal boycott persuaded board sympathisers to reconsider their position. Due to pressure from the townspeople, the majority of the members left the hamlet. Anyone who advocated for boards was met with utter resistance. It was evident, according to Ghatal SDO, that they would not pay union income unless Sasmol gave them the go-ahead. The government struggled to fill 27 unions in Daspur Ps with enough "Chowkidars" and "Dafadars". The majority of them left their positions. However, the SDO of Ghatal was able to persuade them to "go back to their work".

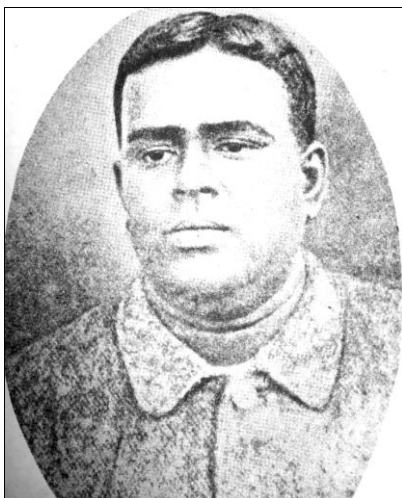
Some Medinipur Sadar union board members were reluctant to resign. The boards' opponents refused to do all of the required labour, such as farming and other jobs, for their families. The anti-union boards campaign is gaining traction in the Sadar subdivision's Pingla, Datan, Sabang, and Keshpur Thanas. The collection of fees set by union boards was halted in Pingla and Sabang Ps. The Chowkidari tax will not be paid unless the BVSG Act was repealed, they claimed.

The government took a number of actions to limit the impact of the anti-board campaign. To expand the number of tax collectors and put pressure on the tax collection, the soldiers were tortured. The circle officer, the sub deputy magistrate, the Nizam, and the Tahasildar were among of the government officials who went on the attached operation in September 1921. Villagers erected 'harinam' and conch shells everywhere they went, and they assisted in acquiring property peacefully. Even lowly elderly guys are able to attach all of her daily requirements in protest. The property attachment was kept up until September 23. Nearly 400 defaulters' properties in Contai Thana were attached during this time. Properties belonging to around 13,000 persons were connected. However, no labour could carry these qualities. The same kind of work, carts, and cart men were replicated across the whole subdivision. The government used an aggressive strategy to seize the property, but to no effect. Every household lends a hand to the attachment squad, and throughout the operation, the local Congressman keeps track of the assets and sends a copy to the SDO and movement organiser. Additionally, the government has failed to find any buyers to purchase attached property that was auctioned off at a lower price than the higher priced property. The taxpaying public believed that they did not want the union board, thus they refused to accept the revenue set by the board low until it was removed.

Withdrawal of Union Boards

The inhabitants of the area united in their opposition to the government's harsh policies, led skillfully by Sasmol. The union boards started to become outdated as the movement gained traction because board members started to leave. Assuming that things are progressively getting out of control. ADM S.N. Roy and District Magistrate AW Cook visited the Contai subdivision. Property attachment operations were momentarily put on hold as a result of their arrival. S.N. Roy, ADM, and the SDO of contain visited several villages and spoke with the locals. Following a thorough investigation, they concluded that "it would not be wise to keep the union board operating in Contai." 28 Dr. A. Surawardy, Chairman of the Medinipur District Board, moved a resolution on November 27, 1921, during the fifth

session of the Bengal Legislative Council, urging the government to suspend the application of the BVS Act in places where the environment was unfavourable to the development of self-governing institutions. He specifically referred to the Contai sub-division in this respect. He quotes the essay by Sasmol that was published in the Amrit Bazar Patrika. Additionally, he claimed that the residents of Contai were harshly criticising the law because they had not benefited from it. Numerous people in the Contai subdivision refused to pay the low amount due and worked to attach more valuable property. Surawardi said in the fine that he hated the concept of imposing measures—no matter how beneficial—on an unwilling population. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, the former Minister of Local Self Government, responded. said that *'if in any particular locality circumstances are unfavourable and then in accordance with the spirit of local self govt., we must give the almost consideration to the circumstances and take note of them and deal with them in accordance with the principles of local self govt., however reluctant we may be to do so'*. He also added that *".....if we feel that circumstances are so unpropitious to the continuance of this institutions, we shall reluctance, suspend them"*.



In such a case, the district magistrate of Medinipur shall tell all elected and nominated members of the district's union boards that their opinions should be expressed on behalf of the union by 12 December 1921. Following the opinion's receipt, the district magistrate reported to the Bengali government that only 10 union boards' 16 members had expressed support for the boards. In this case, Wood, the secretary to the government of Bengal, announced in the Calcutta Gazette that the government had revoked the notification of the Act's extension from all areas of Medinipur except Gopalpur Union under the jurisdiction of Panskura Thana in accordance with section 1(3) of Act V of 1919. On the basis of the SDO of Tamluk's report, the District Magistrate of Medinipur withdrew the Gopalpur Union Board within a short period of time. The associated property has been returned to the citizens, according to a recent announcement by the government. The district of Medinipur saw the dissolution of 227 Union Boards as a consequence.

Women Freedom Fighters of Midnapur

Midnapur was designated by British authorities as a major region of rebels, revolts, and revolts. Except for Rani

Siromoni of Karnagarh and Rani Krishnapriya of Tamluk, who rose up against the English East India Company in 1781 and 1794, respectively, to defend their rights, there were no true female revolutionaries in Midnapur. The ladies of Midnapur, both the aristocracy and the commoners, participated in the national struggle in a variety of admirable positions that, in one way or another, were of enormous significance and utmost importance.

Even though they were few in number, the ladies of Midnapur engaged in bonfires of their priceless bi/ali clothing and gave away their priceless jewellery during the Swadeshi Movement. This time, they persuaded their neighbours' ladies to join the initiative as well as their own family members. They were aware of the seriousness of the situation as a result of celebrating Rakhibandhan and Arandhan. They treasured the desire to join all of Bengal in protesting and demonstrating against the proposed division. While it is true that their modest and sincere efforts failed miserably during the initial stage, it must be remembered that this was only the lowly beginning of a grand drama. The Swadeshi songs of Mukunda Das, Atul Prasad Sen, and Rabindra Nath Tagore had a profound psychological impact on the Midnapur population. The awful news of Kshudiram's execution angered and motivated them both. The women's association in Midnapur therefore came to understand the enormous potential for their protest, no matter how little, to exert pressure on the imperial British authority.

The interwar and postwar economic crises led many Indians, especially those in underdeveloped areas, to believe that colonial control was the primary cause of their hunger, poverty, despair, and other problems. The Midnapurians, in especially those from the hills and seaside districts, shared this sentiment. The beginning of the non-cooperation movement was met with great anticipation by the Indians. The Midnapur ladies who had previously experienced the fundamental lesson of starting a movement against the government came out to join it. They began picketing in front of booze stores and stores selling Lancashire clothing in the subdistrict towns. They took part in prabhal ferries, led processions, went to meetings, and yelled anti-government and anti-bi/ali chants. Additionally, they promoted the Satyagraha ideal, discussed the significance of Asahayog Andalon, and encouraged others to join the movement. They were often cruelly tortured as punishment for their crimes. They did not, however, lose hope and stop taking part in the movement. Instead, they increased their mental fortitude beyond what they had before. A significant number of Midnapur women were involved in village restoration, charka spinning, and khadi production after the Asahayog Andalon left.

A big number of Midnapur women took part in the civil disobedience campaign, and this time they openly disobeyed all kinds of social and traditional restrictions. Even their parents' and guardians' irate eyes couldn't keep them inside their houses.

In the words of a local journal 'Nihar' the Civil-Disobedience movement as it was running on, became the movement of the breaking of the salt-laws by the women of the Coastal areas of the Contai and Tamluk Subdivisions. From Nandigrane Swadhinata Sangram of Bangabhusan Bhakta, a veteran freedom fighter, it is learn that in the year 1932-33 in Nandigram P.S. out of 104 processions 75 were led by women, 90% of the salt-making centres were run

totally by illiterate women and in 75% cases they were beaten severely and tortured and humiliated inhumanly by the British Police ^[6]. In the Contai Subdivision during the

movement 1137 women were arrested with specific charges and 40 women were sentenced with short term and long term imprisonments.



The participants in the Quit India movement were inspired with the message of Gandhiji 'Do or Die'. All over the country people participated in this last battle spontaneously. Midnapur joined the battle whole heartedly. The devastating cyclone and the tidal wave of October 16, 1942 in which 14,443 people were killed was a sort of deterrent to the progress of the movement⁸). But shortly afterwards the District Congress organized itself astutely. On December 17, the Tamul Sub divisional Congress formed the Tramalipta Jatiya Sarkar (17 Dec., 1942-1 Sept., 1944), a parallel government. The Contai Sub divisional Congress formed another parallel government named Swarai Panchayet (15 April, 1943-Dec., 1943). The Thana Congresses of Khejuri (Oct., 1942-Dec., 1942) and Pataspur (Oct., 1942-Dec., 1942) also did the same. Thus in the history of the national movement Midnapur ushered in a new era of fighting tactics. This time the Tamul Congress organized its National Militia Bidyut Bahini and its auxiliary corps Bhagini Sena). The Bhagini Sena was a militarily organized disciplined army that had to perform various duties. Its leading cadres were asked to implement plan-wise the directions of the district Congress. The second tier of the Sena acted as a link between the leading women cadres and the village women who had no political training, no formal education, and even no clear cut idea about their opponent. Yet they joined the movement keeping the firm idea in mind that they were fighting to make the British government quit India, their motherland.

The women fighters of Midnapur played a heroic role during the movement. This time they were three in one: They were trained active fighters, they were dependable supporters and they were sincere sympathizers who acted as coverage's for the male fighters and volunteers. They were those women who gave shelter to fighter-volunteers, gave them food and nursed them in cases of their injury. And if it so required they went out in groups with their vegetable-cutters and long daggers against the British police. They were very particular to defend themselves against any sort of molestation. The Bhagini Sena distributed 10,000 daggers among the women of the Tamul Subdivision to protect themselves against all sorts of physical torture. It is a pity

that they could not defend themselves in all cases from the beastial lust of the police and of other miscreants. Yet they did not lose heart. To them chastity was a matter of mind, not of the body. So they did not care for what the society would think of them. This sort of their moral courage has made these 'biranganas' ever adorable to us. These fighters had no sufficient or even no educational or organizational background and equipment. Yet it was their love for the country, and desire to make Mother India free from the clutches of the foreign Tatars that impelled them, nay prompted them to respond to the call of the nation. It was their vow 'Do or Die' i.e. 'Karo Eya Mara', in other words 'finish the firinghess to make your country free', and if this vow cannot be realized, then face a spiritual death at the altar of the nation and inspire others to proceed on and on towards the golden dawn of a free India.

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