



KRISHNAGAR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE
(A NAAC-Accredited Grade 'A' Institution)



SOUVENIR

published on the
Inaugural Programme of the **175th Anniversary Celebrations**
(1845 – 2019)



KRISHNAGAR GOVT. COLLEGE

ESTD. 1845

A NAAC Accredited Grade 'A' Institution

Affiliated to the University of Kalyani

SOUVENIR

Published on

the

Inaugural Programme

of the

175th Anniversary

Celebrations

(1845-2019)

©Krishnagar Government College
175th Anniversary Celebrations
November 2019

Published under the supervision of the Publication & Publicity Sub-Committee,
on the 175th Anniversary Celebrations
of
Krishnagar Government College

Cover Designed by : Smt. Indrita Saha & Dr. Kaushik Sarkar

Printed by : Bani Press | Krishnanagar

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মমতা ব্যানার্জী

মমতা বেনজী

স্বাস্থ্যমন্ত্রী

Mamata Banerjee



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, পরিচয়বদ্ধ
মুক্ত্যমন্ত্রী, পশ্চিম বঙ্গাল
শ্রীমতী মমতা ব্যানার্জী

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

21st November, 2019MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the 175th Anniversary Celebration of Krishnagar Government College, Krishnagar, Dist - Nadia, will be inaugurated in a befitting manner at Rabindra Bhavan, Krishnagar, on 28th November, 2019.

On this historic occasion, I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the teachers, students and support staff of the college, both past and present, and wish the celebration all success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mamata Banerjee", is placed next to the message.

(Mamata Banerjee)

The Officer-in-charge
Krishnagar Government College
Krishnagar
Nadia - 741101

Nabanna, West Bengal Secretariat, Howrah - 711 102
West Bengal, India

Tel : +91-33-22145555, +91-33-22143101

Fax : +91-33-22144046, +91-33-22143528

175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Govt. Nodal Body

SGPCL on 175th

Day

SGPCL 175th Anniversary

Commemoration

SGPCL 175th Anniversary

Commemoration

SGPCL 175th Anniversary

SGPCL celebrated its 175th anniversary on 17th January 2019. The 175th anniversary was a day of great significance for SGPCL as it marked the 175th year of its existence. The day was marked by various events and activities, including a grand ceremony at the SGPCL headquarters in Mumbai, a special exhibition at the SGPCL museum, and a cultural programme featuring traditional dances and songs.

SECTION ONE :

175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 175th anniversary of SGPCL was a day of great celebration and joy. The day was marked by various events and activities, including a grand ceremony at the SGPCL headquarters in Mumbai, a special exhibition at the SGPCL museum, and a cultural programme featuring traditional dances and songs.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dr. Sobhan Niyogi
Officer-in-Charge
&
President
175th Anniversary Celebrations
Sub-Committee

Honourable Minister-in-Charge of Higher Education Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Respected Secretary, Higher Education Council, Respected Director of Public Instruction Prof. (Dr.) Jayasri Raychaudhuri, Respected Vice Chancellors from various Universities, Respected District Magistrate of Nadia Mr. Vibhu Goel, Respected Zilla Parishad Sabhadhipati Madam , Ex-Principals and Officers-in-Charge of Krishnagar Government College, Principals and Teachers-in-Charge from other Colleges, Ex-students and Alumni Association members, past and present non-teaching staff members of Krishnagar Government College, other dignitaries and my beloved students,

Today on this auspicious day, Honourable Minister-in-Charge of Higher Education Dr. Partha Chatterjee will light the holy lamp to mark the beginning of a year -long programme to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of this institution.

174 years ago, on this very day, eminent Shakespearean scholar and Principal of the then Hindu College (Kolkata), Captain D.L. Richardson took over the Charge as Principal of Krishnagar College. The class in the College started from 1st January 1846 with only 8 students and 13 teachers including the School section, excluding Capt. Richardson. Among the 13 teachers, the most illustrious were Pandit Madan Mohan Tarkalankar and Babu Ramtanu Lahiri.

This College was established as part of the then British rulers' policy of introducing Western education, in tune with the report submitted by T.B. Macaulay to the British Government. The overall academic development of Nadia and its adjoining areas seems to have been the long term goal behind the establishment of Krishnagar College. At that time Krishnagar(or more properly, Krishna-nagar) was amongst the more enlightened towns of Bengal.

Most of the 36 acres of land for this College was donated by Maharaja Srish Chandra Roy of Nadia and Maharani Swarnamoyee Devi of the Cossimbazar estate and the rest of the land was procured for the College from a monetary fund raised from the public donation. The esteemed Burn and Co. drew up the plan of the palatial College building, which was completed in June 1856. The journey of the College continued in the new building with many ups and downs. In course of time, many other separate academic buildings have been constructed to deal with needs of time.

The Government of West Bengal took up the entire financial and administrative responsibilities of the College after independence and is continuing to do so till today. The demand for admission in this College, with 15 Undergraduate and 4 Postgraduate departments, is exceptionally high. The new process of evaluation of colleges was started by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council(NAAC), an autonomous body underthe purview of the University Grants Commission. The college has been evaluated twice, once in 2008 and the second time in 2015. On both occasions, it has fared extremely well with "A" grade. This is quite a remarkable achievement, which has, in my opinion, become possible by the very good academic standard of students admitted here, and the presence of exceptionally good and highly competent teaching staff in their midst.

It is my fervent hope that the College will continue its journey towards future greatness, in keeping with the legacy of its rich academic and cultural heritage.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**Dr. Chaitali Chaudhuri****Dr. Pintu Banerjee****Joint Secretaries****175th Anniversary Celebrations Sub-Committee**

Krishnagar Government College, affiliated to the University of Kalyani is a premier educational institute in West Bengal. Established in 1845, it had remained true to traditional moorings and at the same time embraced the spirit of modernism on its onward journey towards eminence. Dr. D.L. Richardson was the first Principal of the college. Distinguished teachers and academicians like Ramtanu Lahiri, Manmohan Tarkalankar, Chintaharan Chakraborty, Sudhir Chakraborty have graced this college at different points of time. The college also boasts of distinguished alumni such as Akshay Kumar Dutta, Debiprasad Chattopadhyay and Anil Biswas.

Since independence, the college was granted the status of a government college by the Directorate of Public Instruction, Government of West Bengal. In the year 1999, the college was granted the affiliation of the University of Kalyani. 174 glorious years of its history have passed and we are about to witness its 175th Anniversary now. Happily for us, the college can now boast of its eminence, having been considered an institution with potential for excellence by (the NAAC) as well as having been adjudged the best college affiliated to the University of Kalyani.

We, on behalf of Krishnagar Government College, would therefore like to take this opportunity to extend our heartiest welcome to all our delegates, distinguished guests and academicians participating in its resplendent stride towards the 175th Anniversary Celebrations.

We are indebted to our Officer-in-Charge, our esteemed colleagues, administrative and non-teaching staff and most importantly, our students for their active help in organising this grand event.

SECTION TWO :

MESSAGES

Dr. Partha Chatterjee



No. -388/MIC/HED, SED&PA/19

Minister-in-charge
Departments of Higher Education,
School Education, Parliamentary Affairs
Government of West Bengal

MESSAGE

It's a matter of great pleasure that 'Krishnagar Government College' of Nadia district is going to celebrate its 175th anniversary on 28th November, 2019. To commemorate the auspicious moment a souvenir will be published on that day. I am also happy to know that many renowned alumni and teachers connected with this institution. On occasion of this event I express my cordial felicitation to the teachers, students, non-teaching staffs and governing body members of the college and expect a grand success of its related souvenir.



(Dr. Partha Chatterjee)

Prof. Jayasri Ray Chaudhuri
Ph.D (Cantab, U.K.) W.B.S.E.S.

Ref. No. ED-959/2019



**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, West Ben
EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
BIKASH BHAVAN, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA - 7000
Tel. : 2337 8269, Fax : 033 2337 8269
E-mail : dpjre@gmail.com**

Dated 13. 11. 2019

MESSAGE

It is my immense pleasure to know that Krishnagar Government College (established in 1845) is going to begin the year-long celebration of 175th year of its luminous existence on 27th and 28th November, 2019. As one of the earliest higher educational institutions established in the state, Krishnagar Government College has made significant contribution to disseminate the spirit of education among its stakeholders. The institution boasts of its distinguished list of alumni who have made the institution proud of their achievements in diverse fields. I am glad to know that a souvenir is going to be published to commemorate the 175th Jubilee of the esteemed institution. On this occasion, I take my opportunity to convey my best wishes to all the stakeholders of the college and sincerely hope that the celebration will turn out into a grand success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P'.

**Prof. Jayasri Ray Chaudhuri
Director of Public Instruction
West Bengal**

To
Dr. Sobhan Niyogi
Officer-in-Charge
Krishnagar Government College

www.scribd.com

MESSAGE

E-mail : VC_Artisan@Gmail.Com
Website : www.VC-Artisan.com
2652 2750 (E)PARK, FZ : 2652 2652
Phone : 033 - 2652 2650 (Mobile), 2652 2652 (Ext. 2652)
Khalid : 041235 2652, WhatsApp
"A unique interpretation of nature"



2021 PROGRESSIVE SUMMER KULTUR QUARTERLY

UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI

Prof. Nimai Chandra Saha
Vice-Chancellor



The University of Burdwan
Rajbari, Burdwan-713104
Ph. 0342-2634900, Fax : 0342-2530452
Mob : +919051342474
e-mail : vc@buruniv.ac.in, vcbsnsaha@gmail.com

No.V/M-4/61

6th November, 2019

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that Krishnagar Government College, Krishnagar, Nadia is going to celebrate its 175 years of establishment of glorious service to the society on 28th November, 2019. The College has achieved a distinct mark as an institution of learning by spreading education in Krishnagar and its surrounding areas and also produced many famous personalities in literature, academic and cultural sector in West Bengal.

On this occasion, I convey my good wishes to teachers, students and members of the non-teaching staff of the college.

I wish the celebration as well as the publication of the Souvenir a grand success.

8.06.11.19
Nimai Chandra Saha
Vice Chancellor

যাদবপুর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

PROFESSOR SURANJAN DAS

M.A. (Cal), D.J.D.U. (Oxon)

VICE-CHANCELLOR

অধ্যাপক মুরাখন দাস

উপচার্য

E-mail : vc@admin.jdvu.ac.in

E-mail : suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in



JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

188, RAJA S.C. MALLIK ROAD

KOLKATA-700 032, INDIA

Phone : +91-33-2414-6000 (O)

Fax : +91-33-2413-7121 (O)

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR : AUROBINDO BHAVAN ANNEXE

Ref. No. : VC/267/GNL/2019

Date : November 11, 2019

The Officer-in-Charge

Krishnanagar Government College

Krishnanagar Government College

Krishnanagar

Nadia- 741101

Sir

It is indeed a happy occasion that Krishnanagar Government College is celebrating its 175th anniversary. The College has played a significant role in the promotion of higher education in Bengal, nay India. It bears a strong legacy of being associated with a scientific teaching-learning process, and I am sure that the College will be able to sustain and enrich this legacy.

I congratulate Krishnanagar Government College for maintaining its continuous quest for excellence. I wish the College further success in attaining new heights of excellence. The pressing challenge in the realm of higher education in our country is to strike a balance between quantitative growth and qualitative improvement. I am sure Krishnanagar Government College will continue to contribute to meet this challenge.

I am sure the celebration of the 175th anniversary will enable the College to recount its past glory and chart out new paths for its future on the basis of its past experience. I wish the 175th anniversary celebration of the College every success.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely

Suranjan Das
Suranjan Das

Professor Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury
Vice-Chancellor



RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY

Emerald Bower Campus :
56A, Barrackpore Trunk Road, Kolkata - 700 050
Phone : 2556 6019, Fax : 91 (033) 2556 6079, E-mail : vc@rbu.ac.in

Jorasanko Campus :
614, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane, Kolkata - 700 007, Phone : 2269 1328
(Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC in 2016)

18 November 2019

GOOD WISHES

It gives me great pleasure to know that, Krishnagar Government College, Nadia, an esteemed institution of higher learning; where famous alumni like Dwijendralal Roy, Narayan Sanyal and Soumitra Chatterjee have studied and renowned teachers like Ramtanu Lahiri, Madan Mohan Tarkalankar, Bishnu Dey, Khudiram Das among many others have taught, is going to celebrate its 175th anniversary.

I convey my very best wishes to the college and wish an all-round success of the celebration programme. I believe that, this famous college will continue to contribute more to enhance the standard of higher education in the years to come.


VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Sadhan Chakraborti
Vice Chancellor
Email: vc@knu.ac.in
Phone No.: 0341-227 0086,
227 0022(F)



KAZI NAZRUL UNIVERSITY

Nazrul Road, Kalla More, P.O. – Kalla C. H.
Dist. – Paschim Bardhaman, Asansol – 713340
Website: www.knu.ac.in

Ref. No.: KNU/VC/19/22

Date: November 23, 2019

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Krishnagar Government College, Krishnagar, Nadia, West Bengal is celebrating its 175 years of establishment on 28th November, 2019. I feel proud of being an alumnus of the College which bears a remarkable heritage having association of luminaries no less than Madan Mohan Tarkalankar, Dwijendralal Roy &c.

I understand that the programme will include, among other things, lectures by eminent speakers, reminiscence of the stakeholders and exhibitions.

I wish a grand success of the programme in terms of participation of the teachers, students, other stakeholders of the College and the respected invited guests.

Sadhan Chakraborti
Professor Sadhan Chakraborti
Vice Chancellor
Kazi Nazrul University



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

Berunanpukuria, Mallickpur Barasat
 24 Parganas (North), Kolkata - 700 126
 Ph. : (033) 6540-3914, Fax : (033) 2524-1977
Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Ph. D. (Tech)
Vice Chancellor
 E-mail : basabc@vsnl.net

Ref. :

Date :

Ref. No. WBGU/vc/Message/1614/19

November 25, 2019

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the Krishnagar Government College located at Krishnagar in the district of Nadia is all set to have a grand celebration of its 175 years of establishment on November 28, 2019. An institution of great repute, this college has created many a landmark in its glorious journey over more than 174 years that are chronicled in history. Much before the country had got its independence, the institution could create an infrastructure of teaching and learning suitable for a higher education institution. Since Independence, there have been sweeping changes in the area of teaching, learning and research in colleges and universities and the Krishnagar Government College could imbibe the values and transformed itself with ease and elan.

Illustrious alumni like poet and dramatist D. L. Roy; famous writer like Narayan Sanayal; illustrious actor like Soumitra Chatterjee were students of this college. Among illustrious teachers of this college were Ramtanu Lahiri of the Young Bengal fame; Madan Mohan Tarkalankar; Poet Bishnu Dey; Critic Khudiram Das, and many others. The quarto-septennial celebration will pay tribute to the glorious tradition set by the college in the past by the illustrious teachers, students, non-teaching employees, academic administrators, philanthropists and local populace; and will take a pledge to move ahead with renewed vigour and to face challenges in the area of higher education with zeal and enormous confidence.

I wish the celebrations all success.

Basab Chaudhuri

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Basab Chaudhuri'.

25/11/2019

Message

Amitabha BHATTACHARYA**I.A.S. (RETD.)**

Former Principal Adviser
Planning Commission, Government of India
New Delhi

It is a joyous occasion that Krishnagar Government College is celebrating 175 years of its hallowed existence. It has been playing an important role in shaping women and men who have contributed significantly to national regeneration efforts in every sphere. Mid-nineteenth century, when the college was set up, saw the emergence of great personalities who ushered in the era of Bengal Renaissance. This institution of higher learning was an epicentre of such creative flourish in this part of the country. Akshay Kumar Dutta, Ramtanu Lahiri and such revered figures once illuminated its portals.

The college has a special place in my heart since my father (Late) Katyayanidas Bhattacharya (1917-1966), an outstanding student and teacher of Philosophy, was first posted here on joining the West Bengal Education Service. His mentor, Surendranath Dasgupta, perhaps the most distinguished academic philosopher of our country, had also been associated with this college. The intellectual tradition has been kept alive with a scholar-litterateur like Sudhir Chakraborty still being organically linked with this institution.

Fortunately, the college has not rested only upon its past laurels. With its A-grade accreditation from NAAC, the college has the potential to become an institution of excellence. One hopes that the Government of West Bengal will extend all possible assistance by way of filling-up all the teaching posts and augmenting the physical infrastructure to facilitate its all-round growth. The students, in this competitive world, should be encouraged to strive for success in every field of human endeavour at the national level so that the future of the college can surpass its past glory.

I compliment Prof. Sobhan Niyogi and his colleagues for having planned a year-long celebration in connection with this momentous event. I wish the students and teachers of this noble institution the very best going ahead.

SECTION THREE :

**175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
SUB-COMMITTEE**

&

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR INAUGURAL
CELEBRATIONS, 27TH& 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

**KRISHNAGAR GOVT. COLLEGE
175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE**

President: Dr. Sobhan Niyogi (OIC)

Vice-President: Dr. Amaresh Mandal

Joint Secretaries: Dr. Chaitali Chaudhuri
Dr. Pintu Banerjee

Treasurer: Dr. Kalidas Das

Sri Gautam Barman

Sri Debabrata Mondal

Joint Convenors of the Cultural Sub- Committee:

Dr. Indrani Goswami,

Smt. Edha Chakrabarti

Members: Dr. Rituparna Kundu Chowdhury, Dr. Debika Ghosh, Smt. Debahuti Sarkar, Smt. Swati Bhattacharya, Smt. Debasree Basu, Dr. Subrata Rana, Sri Manojit Mondal, Dipankar Das (Alumni), Sri Kajal Saha, Smt. Gouri Bagchi

Joint Convenors of the Publication and Publicity Sub-Committee:

Dr. Balai Chandra Das

Sri. Sambuddha Ghosh

Smt. Anindita Halder

Sri Surya Kumar Mandal (Librarian)

Members: Dr. Maitrayee Banerjee, Dr. Nirmalendu Hui, Dr. Pritha Mondal, Smt. Sanjukta Sanyal, Smt. Atasi Rajak, Sri Suman Banerjee

Joint Convenors of the Refreshment Sub-committee:

Dr. Sharmistha Maity

Sri. Mainak Putatunda

Members: Smt. Somanjana Khatua, Dr. Abhijit Biswas, Smt. Moumita Mondal, Dr. Subhadip Nath, Md Iltutmis, Sri Bijoy Kr. Sardar, Sri Samir Das

Joint Convenors of the Liaison and Co-ordination Sub-committee:

Dr. Maitreyi Banerjee

Dr. Sreerupa Ray

Members: Sri Chandan Sarkar, Smt. Ranita Ghosh, Sri Sambuddha Ghosh, Sri Buddhiswar Halder, Sri Shibnath Chaudhuri (Alumni), Smt. Archana Ghosh Sarkar (Alumni), Sri Nirmal Saha, Sri Subhas Chandra Parui, Sri Abinash Darnal, Ashraful Islam Laskar

Joint Convenors of the Seminar Sub-committee:

Dr. Swati Bhattacharjee, Sri Arjun Das

Members: Dr. Mahuya Chakraborty, Dr. Sutapa Sanyal, Dr. Sumana Das, Dr. Debajyoti Saha, Dr. Ashrumita Bhattacharya, Dr. Pijush Kr. Tarafder (Alumni).

Joint Convenors of Procession & Games and Sports Sub-committee:

Dr. Lila Mahato

Dr. Bishwajit Paul

Sri Chandan Sarkar

Members: Smt. Sarmistha Das, Smt. Sanjukta Sanyal, Smt. Indrita Saha, Smt. Ranita Ghosh, Sri Buddhiswar Halder, Smt. Edha Chakraborty, Sri. Manojit Mondal

Joint Convenors of Decoration Sub-committee:

Dr. Sheuli Das

Dr. Sujit Ghosh

Members: Dr. Balai Ch. Das, Dr. Pritha Mondal, Dr. Kaushik Sarkar, Dr. Achintya Mohan Goswami, Sri Pitambar Nirala, Sri Arnab Mondal, Mehedi Hasan Mondal, Sri Gopal Majhi

Joint Convenors of Volunteer Sub-committee:

Sri Pitambar Nirala

Dr. Ritankar Mukherjee

Members: Dr. Pranab Bhattacharya, Smt. Moumita Basu, Dr. Himani Biswas, Dr. Pulakesh Ghosh, Sri Patit Paban Sarkar

Joint Convenors of Accommodation Sub-committee:

Dr. Panchanan Mandal

Sri Tanmoy Bhattacharjee

Members: Dr. Biswajit Paul, Dr. Gopal Das, Samsul Hauqe, Sri Kajal Saha, Sri Surendra Mahato

Joint Convenors of Reunion Sub-Committee

Sri Tanmoy Bhattacharya

Dr. Sujit Ghosh

Members: Dr. Achintya Mohan Goswami, Sri Abinash Darnal, Mehedi Hasan Mondal, Sri Suman Banerjee

SOUVENIR on 175th Anniversary Celebrations

Programme Schedule of 175th Anniversary Celebration

of Krishnagar Government College

10:00 am: ▶ Opening speech by Dr. L. Roy of the College premises by the Distinguished Guests

Yava Kalyan Bhattacharjee → Nederparo More ← Addhara Sweet ← A.V. S. School More
Routie: Krishnagar Govt. College ← Sader More ← Head Post Office More

◀ Organization of a Grand Rally within the Krishnagar Town

10:00 am: ▶ Opening speech by Dr. Sobham Nyogi

Day 1 : 27th November, 2019

5:00pm Musical Programme by Shri Subendu Majhi and his Group

3:00pm Combined Reunions and Cultural Programme organized by the Alumini Association of the College

2:10pm Cultural Programme by the present students and staff of the College

2:00pm Opening Song by the Teachers of Krishnagar Govt. College

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Lunch Break (Post Lunch Session of Rambir Shrawon)

10:30am-12:30pm: Inaugural Session Rabindra Bhawan

Chaprasan Horibe Minister-in-Charge, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal

10:45am-Release of flower bouquet and memento etc to the Hon'ble Distinguished Guests

10:45am-Release of Souvenir of 175th Anniversary of Krishnagar College

10:50am-Welcome address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani

11:00am-Keynote address by Prof. Mamata Roy, Chairman, WBTE Council

11:15am-Speech by Prof. Maiti Shri Sudhir Chakraborty, an Eminent Alumnus of this College

11:30am-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani

11:45am-Speech by the President, University of Kalyani

11:55am-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Kazi Nazruddin University

12:05pm-Speech by Shri Gour Sankar Datta, MLA

12:10pm-Speech by the Secretary, Alumini Association

12:15pm-Speech by the Secretary, Students Union

12:20pm-Speech by Shri Ultra Biswas, MIC, Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal

12:25pm-Speech by Dr. Partha Chatterjee, MIC, Higher Education Dept., Govt. of West Bengal

12:30pm-Speech by Shri Ultra Biswas, MIC, Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal

12:45pm-Speech by the G.S., Students Union

12:50pm-Speech by the Secretary, Alumini Association

12:55pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RBU

1:00pm-Speech by Shri Md. Moti, MP

1:05pm-Speech by the President of College, University of Kalyani

1:10pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani

1:15pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani

1:20pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Govt. of West Bengal

1:25pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Govt. of West Bengal

1:30pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Govt. of West Bengal

1:35pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani

1:40pm-Speech by the President, University of Kalyani

1:45pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, WBTE Council

1:50pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Kazi Nazruddin University

1:55pm-Speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RBU

2:00pm-Speech by Shri Gour Sankar Datta, MLA

2:10pm-Speech by the Secretary, Alumini Association

2:15pm-Speech by the Secretary, Students Union

2:20pm-Speech by Shri Ultra Biswas, MIC, Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal

2:25pm-Speech by Dr. Partha Chatterjee, MIC, Higher Education Dept., Govt. of West Bengal

2:30pm-Cultural Programme by the present students and staff of the College

2:40pm-Felicitation Programme by the students of Noteable Ex-Students & Teachers of Krishnagar College

3:40pm-Cultural Programme by the students of Noteable Ex-Students & Teachers of Krishnagar College

4:30pm-Songs by Shri Jagati Chakraborty

The above programme are subject to last minute changes due to unavoidable reason.

SECTION FOUR :

THE PRESENT: A GLIMPSE

D.L.RICHARDSON : THE FIRST PRINCIPAL AND A GREAT COLONIAL EDUCATOR

Dr. Santanu CHAKRABARTI
Principal (WBSES)
Singur Government College
&
Former Officer-in-Charge
Krishnagar Government College

David Lester Richardson (1801-1865) was the most influential teacher of British literature in 19th Century in India. He was among the earliest ones to publish English poetry in India. Since the age of eighteen, he had travelled to India and London several times and eventually retired in London. He continued his passion for India by editing the newspaper *Allen's Indian Mail* till his death. He was quite enthusiastic in educating Indian students, even if that meant leaving his wife and children in London,. His father, Lt. Col. D.T. Richardson, was in Bengal Army and naturally David was enlisted as a cadet in Bengal Native Infantry. The literary life however, held more attraction for the young man than the military, and only at the age of twenty-one, he published his first volume of verse, *Miscellaneous Poems* in 1822. Due to his father's wish he returned to military service in Bengal and became the *aide-de-camp* of Governor General William Bentinck. Having been voluntarily invalidated in 1833, he left the job as a Major and moved on to his most loved sphere of job as an educator.

From 1836-1843, Richardson was a Professor of English Literature and later was the Principal of Hindu College (Now Presidency College & University). He later underwent significant troubles there and due to controversies and quarrel in matters of finance and governance with the College Board, he left Hindu College.

He joined as the first ever Principal of Krishnagar College in 1845 and started teaching young Bengali minds outside the considerably enlightened Calcutta-based population. He moved on to another region as the Principal of Hugli College (now Hooghly Mohsin College) and in this way, his influences on young minds as a great teacher of literature spread over a considerable part of south Bengal. Among his students, the great Michael Madhusudan Dutta admitted he was strongly influenced by the teach-

ing of Richardson on Milton, Shakespeare and other 18th century British Poets. His collection of verses *Selections from the British Poets, from Chaucer to the Poets of the Present Day (1840)* was a standard text at that time. He published numerous volumes of poems and literary criticism, including *Sonnets and Miscellaneous poems written in India(1927)*, *Literary Leaves (1836)*, *Literary Chit-chat(1848)* and *Literary Recreations(1852)*. His interest in gardening made him the first ever amateur Botanist too when he wrote a delightful and knowledgeable volume, *Flowers and Flower Gardens* in 1855. He had edited numerous literary volumes like *Bengal Annual*, *The Oriental Pearl* and the *Calcutta Literary Gazette*. Richardson resided many years in Bengal and loved the province deeply for its natural landscape and livelihood. I shall conclude my homage by using one of his verses on Calcutta, where we may catch a glimpse of his passion towards our very own Bengal.

View of Calcutta

Here Passion's restless eye and spirit rude
 May get no kindred image of power
 To fear or wonder ministrant. – No tower,
 Time-struck and tenantless, here seems to brood,
 In the dread majesty of solitude,
 O'er human pride departed – no rocks lower
 O'er ravenous billows – no vast hollow wood
 Rings with the lion's thunder- no dark bower
 The crouching tiger haunts- no gloomy cave
 Glitters with savage eyes! – But all the scene
 Its calm and cheerful. At the mild command
 Of Britain's sons, the skilful and the brave,
 Fair Palace-structures decorate the land
 And proud ships float on Hooghly's breast serene!

(Further Reading: Science, Technology and Medicines in Colonial India by David Arnold, Cambridge University Press)

Foot Note: I really feel proud to see my name in the list of the Principals/ Officer-in-Charges in the Principal's Room of Krishnagar Government College as I was posted here all through 2016. Walking through the majestic building with the stairs going directly up from the floral garden towards the Office of the Principal, the hugely built doors once used for the entry of the inspirational horseback riders, the historical library and the serene picturesque surroundings of this Institution made me immensely proud of being a part of the history the College possesses. In the auspices of the 175th anniversary of the College, I therefore, preferred paying my homage towards the first ever Principal of this College by sharing a few lines about the great literary mind who commenced the journey of this great Institution.

KRISHNAGAR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE ON THE EVE OF ITS 175 YEARS OF FOUNDATION

Sanjukta SANYAL
Assistant Professor (WBES)
Dept. of History,
Krishnagar Government College
Krishnagar, Nadia, West Bengal

The third decade of the 19th century was marked by a tremendous change in the field of education in India. The colonial government had introduced western education as well as the English language as its medium of instruction. The Council of Education was formed and a number of schools and colleges were established to impart western education to the Indians in some parts of the Bengal, Bombay and Madras presidencies. In order to provide the opportunity of English education to the peoples of the districts of Nadia, Burdwan, Jessor and Bankura, Krishnagar Govt College was established. For this purpose, a local committee composed of J. Bruce, D. I. Money (District Magistrate), E. T. Trevor (Magistrate) and Babu Ram Lochan Ghosh (Principal Sadar Ameen) was formed. At that time this College was known as the Krishnagar College. Boys within the age of sixteen years of any religion and caste were provided the opportunity to apply to this local committee for their admission into this institution. However the course of study remained the same as that introduced at the Hindu College, Calcutta and the Muhammad Mohsin College at Hughly.

On the 1st of October, 1845, the Government issued an order regarding the foundation of a college at Krishnagar in Nadia district and thereby circulated a general notification both in English and Bengali language for admission to the college from 1st November 1845 throughout the adjoining districts. The College was formally founded on 28th November, 1845. However, with the sanction of the then Governor General of India Lord Hardinge, academic classes of this educational institution commenced from 1st January, 1846 at a rented house located at Hatarpara of the town Krishnagar. From the beginning both the school and college section started working jointly. Maharaja Srish Chandra Roy of Nadia and Maharani Swarnamoyee Devi of Kasimbazar, Murshidabad, had contributed large tracts of land for the construction of the College building. Apart from the contribution of the government, a monetary fund was also raised from the public towards this purpose. On June 1856, the

institution was shifted from the rented house of Babu Harimohan Mukherjee to the new building. On 2nd June, 1848 the control of the College was transferred to the Council of Education and by January, 1855, it came under the purview of the Director of Public Instruction.

After the establishment of the University of Calcutta, the College received affiliation to it. In the year 1865, both the B.A. and Law courses were started. In 1870, the college started to impart education at the post-graduate level. In 1872, the Survey Department was also introduced. Later on the M.A. and Law courses were abolished. In the year 1908 the school section was also separated from the college.

The first Principal of this College was D L Richardson, the former Principal of the Hindu College, Calcutta and the renowned Shakespearian scholar, who formally assumed the charge on 28th November, 1845. Among other notable contemporary teachers of this institution the names of Babu Ramtanu Lahiri, Pandit Madan Mohan Tarkalankar can also be mentioned. During the tenure of Sir Loper Leithbridge (1874-1877) the institution had made gradual progress. At that time the number of professors and students were increased. Both Arts and Science courses were introduced and laboratories of Physics and Chemistry were established. In 1918, Honours courses in English and Mathematics and Pass courses in Economics and Philosophy were introduced. Under the hands of the notable principals like Roy Bahadur Jyotibhushan Bhaduri, Sri Satish Chandra Dey and Mr. R.N. Gilchrist, the College had made remarkable progress. In 1908, the Staff Council and the Governing Body were formed for the management of the college.

Nineteenth century Bengal witnessed a socio – religious and political awakening which can be termed as the "Renaissance". The metropolitan city Calcutta and the Hindu College took leading roles in this awakening. Eminent figures such as Raja Rammohan Roy had led this movement in order to eradicate the social evils of Hinduism as well as to purify it. This movement also touched the 'mofussil' areas of contemporary Bengal like Krishnagar. At Krishnagar the Krishnagar College was the centre of awakening. Babu Ramtanu Lahiri, a student and follower of Derozio and a member of the Young Bengal group, was a teacher of this institution. He made the students aware about contemporary socio- religious evils and the degeneration of the Indian society and thereby became successful in engendering a progressive and rational outlook among them. As a result the students extended their support towards social reforms like widow re-marriage. They were involved in the Brahmo

Samaj movement as well. The college was a pioneer in the promotion and subsequent advancement of women's education. From the year 1932, Principal Sri Rajendranath Sen opened its doors to female students. Moreover, this institution has also set an illustrious example of secularism from its very beginning by providing equal opportunities of admission to any student, irrespective of religion or caste. Apart from the Hindu Hostel, hostel buildings for the accommodation of Muslim students opened in 1915.

The second half of the 19th century witnessed the growing political consciousness among the people of India. This college also played a vital role in creating political awareness and the fostering of patriotic and nationalistic fervour in the district, and some of its students were actively involved in various political movements. In this respect, the names of Manmohan Ghosh, Lalmohan Ghosh, Pramathanath Bose and Bijaylal Chattopadhyay can be mentioned.

Manmohan Ghosh, son of renowned Sub-Judge Ramlochan Ghosh had passed the Entrance Examination from this college in 1859 and was admitted to the Presidency College. He was one of the advisers and founders of the Indian Association and the Indian National Congress respectively. He also advocated for the separation of the judiciary from the administration. Manmohan Ghosh has made remarkable contribution for the improvement of native education and mainly for the education of women. Lalmohan Ghosh, the younger brother of Manmohan Ghosh was also a student of this educational institution. He had passed the F.A. in the year 1867 from this college. He had raised his voice against the destruction of indigenous industries in India through the oppressive policies of the British Government. He strongly opposed the Madras Municipal Bill and the University Bill. In 1903 he was elected as the president of the Madras session of the Indian National Congress. Another notable alumnus, Pramathanath Bose, the eminent geologist, had taken part in the anti-partition movement in Bengal.

Hemanta Kumar Sarkar was also a student of this educational institution. He actively participated in the Non Cooperation Movement and became a leader of this district. He was closely associated with Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and was involved with the Swarajya Party. Another freedom fighter, Bijaylal Chattopadhyay passed the I.A. exam from this college. He and his brother Mihirlal Chattopadhyay actively participated in the non-cooperation movement. At first he was inspired by the political ideologies of Subhash Chandra Bose and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Later on he turned towards

Gandhian non-violence. During the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-31) Bijaylal led the Nadia district.

A number of brilliant students from Krishnagar College had joined the Swadeshi Movement. Some were influenced by the ideas of armed revolution and were thus, members of various revolutionary associations. The Moderate – Extremist conflict prevalent in contemporary national politics of India had left an impact on the minds of students. In 1926, when Kazi Nazrul Islam settled at Krishnagar, his creations had a strong appeal to the minds of pupils. Even some professors of this institution were inspired by the Swadeshi ideology. The year 1927 witnessed the formation of the Student Union body in the said college. Some professors like Sri Subodh Dasgupta and students such as Ashutosh Ganguly, Mohit Kumar Chattopadhyay, Birendranath Palchaudhuri took active roles towards this particular end.. At first, the aim of this organization was to promote free thinking among the students as well as to unify them in order to introduce constructive developmental activity. Contemporary college students had made significant contribution in famine relief and extended their help to the poor students. They also actively participated in the Quit India Movement. Due to certain political reasons, the Centenary Celebration of this college in 1946 was boycotted by its students.

In the cultural and literary field, the contribution of the college can also be mentioned. Eminent personalities of Bengali literature like Pandit Madan Mohan Tarkalankar and the Bengali modernist poet Bishnu Dey have served this college as teaching faculty. Among its notable alumni Nihar Ranjan Gupta and Narayan Sanyal have enriched Bengali language and literature by their creation. The college had its own magazine namely Life and Light, towards the publication of which, both students and teachers had taken an active part. Furthermore, the College had its own debate association and literary association ('Banga Sahitya Bibhag').

This educational institution took a leading role in the promotion of performing arts like drama and recitation. The first drama was staged in 1869. At first English plays were selected for stage performance. From 1870 Bengali plays began to be performed. From 1908 to 1923 the performance of drama was discontinued due to contemporary socio economic and political disturbances. In the year 1923 the drama 'Durgadas' by D .L .Roy was performed. The flourish of theatre and stagecraft reached its zenith during the phase 1924 to 1957. During this period a number of plays based on mythological, historical and social

contexts were staged. Apart from the students, teachers had also actively participated in them. The college hostel was also another centre of stage performance. However from 1962, this activity was discontinued.

In the field of games and sports, this college was also in the forefront. It had an Athletic Club. Gymnastics was made compulsory. The annual sports of the college were first organized in 1909. A large number of students had participated in various games like football, hockey, cricket, tennis, volley ball, basketball and badminton. Apart from the students the professors of contemporary period also took part in various games. In this respect the names of Narendranath Chattpadhyay and Professor Mamud can be mentioned who devoted themselves for the improvement of the college students. Among the contemporary students Sunilesh Mukherjee, Dilip Chaudhuri, Saroj Goswami made remarkable contribution in football. Even the female students of the college actively participated in various games and sports.

After independence the name of the college was changed to Krishnagar Government College. The influx of 'refugees' during the Partition led to an increase in the number of students enrolled at the college. In July 1955, the NCC unit was introduced in the college. During the devastating flood of 1956, students as well as the professors took part in relief work. In 1958 the college authority organized popular lectures. The town Krishnagar witnessed the food movement for rice and kerosene at fair prices in 1966. Furthermore, political turmoil during the 1970s and the influx of the refugees from East Pakistan resulted in the degradation of law and order of this town. All these laid a tremendous effect on the normal academic and cultural life of the college.

From the 1960s this educational institution began to receive grants from the University Grants Commission. From 1865 to 1999, Krishnagar Govt. College was affiliated to the University of Calcutta. From 1999 onwards, it came under the affiliation of the University of Kalyani. In 2008, the college received the status of 'A' Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and acquired the status of "College with Potential for Excellence" in 2010. In 2015 this institution was again awarded an 'A' Grade by the NAAC. Notable awards won in recent years, like "The Best College of Nadia District" by the University of Kalyani in the year 2017 only serve to consolidate its present-day assertions of excellence.

Attention to a student's all-round development has been one of the great hallmarks of the education imparted by the college. Apart from helping the students in the advancement of their career, the college has attempted to create environmental as well as social awareness among them by organizing a number of programmes like tree plantation, health awareness camp, blood donation camp etc. through the NSS unit.

References:

1. "History of Krishnagar College" by Prof. T.N. Talukdar and Nirmal Kanti Majumder.
2. "The Past and Present of Krishnagar Govt. College" by D.N. Biswas.
3. Krishnagar College Centenary Celebration, January, 1946.
4. Krishnagar Govt College Sardhasatabarshik Smaranika, 1997.

**LIST OF PRINCIPALS WHO HAVE SERVED
KRISHNAGAR
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE**

1845	CAPT. D. L. RICHARDSON	1930	KIRAN CHANDRA MITRA*
1846	M. G. ROCKFORD	1930	APURBA KUMAR CHANDA
1855	E. LODGE	1931	RAJENDRA NATH SEN
1857	G. KNAVES*	1935	KAMALUDDIN AHMED
1857	L. CLINT	1936	BHABESH CHANDRA BANERJEE*
1858	A. SMITH	1937	JITENDRA MOHAN SEN
1870	L. LOBLE	1947	DR. PARIMAL ROY
1874	E. LETHBRIDGE*	1948	DR. NALINI KANTA BRAHMA
1875	UMESH CHANDRA DUTTA*	1949	SUDHANGSU KR. GUHA THAKURATA
1877	F. J. ROW	1954	TARAK NATH TALUKDAR
1879	W. H. PAULSON	1954	DURGA PRASANNA ACHARYA
1881	GEORGE WORTH*	1958	PURNĀ CHANDRA MUKHERJEE
1881	G. A. STUCK*	1959	PHANI BHUSAN MUKHERJEE
1882	T. A. MARTIN	1962	AMIYA KR. MAJUMDAR
1883	J. MANN	1965	CHANDIKA PRASAD BANERJEE
1887	S. C. HILL	1970	BRAJENDRA NATH GHOSH*
1890	W. BILLING	1971	MANINDRA NATH GHOSH
1895	NILKANTHA MAJUMDAR	1972	KANAKENDRA CHAKRABORTY
1897	W. B. LIVINGSTONE	1973	SATYENDRA NATH GOSWAMI*
1898	BRAJA BALLAV DUTTA	1974	TARIT KR. MUKHERJEE
1899	JYOTI BHUSAN BHADURI	1974	SUBESH CHANDRA SARKAR
1907	SASHI BHUSAN BHADURI	1985	PABITRA BHATTACHARYA*
1908	DEBENDRA NATH BASU	1985	SUBRATA DUTTA*
1909	SATISH CHANDRA DEY	1987	RAMNARAYAN MUKHERJEE*
1910	M. G. DE PRATAS	1988	BHAGABAT DASGUPTA
1911	SATISH CH. DEY	1992	SATYABRATA BHATTACHARYA
1916	R. N. GILCHRIST	1996	DHIRENDRA NATH BISWAS*
1919	RAKHĀL RAJ BISWAS*	1997	PRADIP KUMAR MAJUMDAR
1920	R. N. G' LCHRIST	2000	SASADHAR JANA*
1921	EGERTON SMITH	2001	SUBHASIS DUTTA*
1923	EGERTON SMITH	2005	PRABIR KUMAR DAS
1924	RAKHĀL RAJ BISWAS*	2009	DR. NIMAI CHANDRA SAHA
1926	EGERTON SMITH	2010	MICHAEL DAS*
1926	RAKHĀL RAJ BISWAS*	2012	PROF.(DR.) JAYASRI RAY CHAUDHURI
1927	EGERTON SMITH	2015	Dr. ANUPAM CHAKRABORTY*
1928	KAMALUDDIN AHMED	2016	Dr. SANTANU CHAKRABARTI*
1929	BIJOY GOPAL MUKHERJEE*	2017	Dr. SOBHAN NIYOGI*

* Officer-in-Charge



Group Photograph of Present Teachers



শিক্ষক সমাজকে আমাদের কুর্নিশ জানাই

মাননীয়া মুখ্যমন্ত্রী

মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের
উপস্থিতিতে

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
শিক্ষার মানবিকতা



Dr. Kalidas Das, HOD, Mathematics Dept. receiving "Siksharatna" award from Honurable Chief Minister of WB.

Photograph of Dr. Kalidas Das receiving Shiksha Ratna Award



Photograph of 24 Ghanta Award—Best College

স্থিতধী রামতনু লাহিড়ী

ডঃ অমরেশ মন্দল
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (WBES)
স্নাতকোত্তর বাংলা বিভাগ
কৃষ্ণনগর সরকারী মহাবিদ্যালয়
 ও
সম্পাদক
কৃষ্ণনগর সরকারী মহাবিদ্যালয় শিক্ষক সংসদ

[১]

“...এ সংসারে যে খেলে সে কানাকড়ি লইয়াও খেলে, যে ভাল হইতে চায়, ভাল থাকিতে চায়, তার জন্য পথসর্বদাই উন্মুক্ত। এত দারিদ্র্য, এত সংগ্রাম কয়জন লোকের জীবনে ঘটিয়াছে? এত পাপ প্রলোভনের মধ্যে কয়জন বাস করিয়াছে? এত কুসঙ্গ কয়জন দেখিয়াছে? অথচ সর্বত্র, সর্বকালে ও সর্বাবস্থাতে এত ভাল কয়জন থাকিতে পারিয়াছে? তিনি সকল দলের, সকল রঙের লোকের সহিত মিশিতেন; কিন্তু তাহাদের মত হইয়া মিশিতেন না। কস্তুরি যেমন যে ঘরে থাকে সেই ঘরকে আমোদিত করে, তেমনি তিনি যে দলে মিশিতেন, যে ঘরে গিয়া বসিতেন, সেখানে একপ্রকার অনিদেশ্য অথচ হৃদয়-মনের পবিত্রতা-বিধায়ক বায়ু প্রবাহিত হইত। তিনি যেন মানুষকে ভাল করিয়া সেই সময়ের জন্য আপনার মত করিয়া লইতেন। অথচ তিনি নিজে তাহা বুবিতে পারিতেন না। এই যে নিজের অজ্ঞাত প্রকৃতি-নিহিত সাধুতা, ইহাই তাঁহার চরিত্রের প্রধান আকর্ষণ ছিল! ইহার মূল্য ভাষাতে কে ব্যক্ত করিতে পারে? এই সাধুতার ছবি একবার দেখিলে আর ভুলা যায় না।”

- শ্রী শিবনাথ শাস্ত্রী

রামতনু লাহিড়ীর সমগ্র জীবন সম্পর্কে শিবনাথ শাস্ত্রী মহাশয়ের এই উপলক্ষ্মি কোনো নিবিট পাঠককে মুহূর্তে সম্মোহিত করে। বিশেষ করে এই ভোগবাদী সময়ে তাঁর মনে উৎসুক্য জাগে কীভাবে, কোন মন্ত্রে লাহিড়ী মহাশয় এরূপ গুরুত্ব ও গুরুসীন্য প্রাপ্ত হয়েছিলেন! অথচ তিনি ছিলেন উনবিংশ শতাব্দীর সমাজবিপ্লবের একজন অন্যতম সৈনিক। কঠোরতা, দৃঢ়তা ও প্রতিবাদ-প্রদর্শনের ধরণে যে তীব্রতা, রক্ষতা অনিবার্য, সর্বদা তা সত্য নাও হতে পারে। শাস্ত্রী মহাশয় যথার্থই তাঁর ‘প্রকৃতি-নিহিত সাধুতা’র কথা বলেছেন। মনে হয় এ ভাবনাও সারবত্তাহীন হবে না যে লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের সুদূর্লভ ব্যক্তিত্ব গঠনের পশ্চাতে দুটি বিষয় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ছিল - প্রথমটি তাঁর মজাগত উন্নতরাধিকারের দিক, আর দ্বিতীয়টি তাঁর শিক্ষা ও শিক্ষাগুরুর প্রভাব-সংশ্লাপ দিক। বর্তমান নিবন্ধে এই দুই বিষয়ের আলোচনার সূত্রে তাঁকে আরো একটু জানা, এবং তাঁর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধার্ঘ্য নিবেদন করাই লেখকের প্রধান অভিপ্রায়।

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রামতনু জন্মসূত্রে পারিবারিক যে পরিম্বল প্রাণ্ত হয়েছিলেন, তা তাঁর মানসগঠনে সহায়তা করেছিল। বিশেষ করে তাঁর সম্ভাষণ মাতৃকুল, পিতা ও জ্যেষ্ঠ ভ্রাতার দুঃখেস্বনুদিগ্নমনা স্বভাব ও প্রকৃতি তাঁর স্থিতী ব্যক্তিত্ব গঠনে কাজ করেছিল। এ বিষয়ে আলোকপাত করা আবশ্যিক। ১৮১৩ খ্রীষ্টাব্দের চৈত্র মাসে বারুইহুদাগ্রামে মাতুলালয়ে তাঁর জন্ম। পিতা রামকৃষ্ণ লাহিড়ী বারুইহুদা ও রাজবাটীর দেওয়ান রাধাকান্ত রায়ের কন্যা জগদ্বাত্রী দেবীকে বিবাহ করেন। জগদ্বাত্রী যে রায়বৎশের কন্যা, তাঁরা কৃষ্ণনগরে দেওয়ান চক্ৰবৰ্তীর বৎশ হিসেবে বিখ্যাত। তাঁদের পূর্বপুরুষ ঘষ্টীদাস চক্ৰবৰ্তী খাঁ, ভাদুড়ি, সান্যাল, লাহিড়ী, মেঝেয় প্রভৃতি ছয় ঘর প্রসিদ্ধ কুলীনকে প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছিলেন। তাঁর সময় থেকেই দেওয়ান বৎশের অনেকেই রাজবাটীর দেওয়ানের কাজ করে এসেছেন। উল্লেখ্য, তাঁরা সকলেই সৎ, পরোপকারী এবং ধর্মভীরু ছিলেন। রাজাদের বিষয়-সম্পত্তি রক্ষা করাই তাঁদের একমাত্র দায়িত্ব ও কর্তব্য মনে করতেন। দেওয়ান কার্তিকেয়চন্দ্ৰ রায় মহাশয়ের আত্মজীবন-চরিতে তাঁদের সাংসারিক অসচ্ছলতার কথা আছে। সেখানে তাঁর জ্যেষ্ঠতাত তারাকান্ত রায় মহাশয় সম্পর্কে তিনি লিখেছেন -

“আমার জ্যেষ্ঠতাত মহাশয়ের এই সকল মহৎ গুণ এত অধিক ছিল যে তাঁহার সমতুল্য ব্যক্তি আমরা কখনও দেখি নাই। তিনি এমন মিষ্টভাষী ছিলেন যে কখনও কাহাকেও ‘তুই’ বলেন নাই; এমন দানশীল ছিলেন যে, সাধ্যাতীত না হইলে কখনও কোনও যাচককে নিরাশ করেন নাই; পরন্তৰী অভিলাষ বোধহয় তাঁর হৃদয়কে কখনও স্পর্শ করিতে পারে নাই; শত্রু-মিত্রে সমান জ্ঞান, এই দুর্লভ ধর্ম কেবল তাঁহাতেই দেখিয়াছি।”

প্রসঙ্গত বলে রাখা ভালো স্বয়ং দেওয়ান কার্তিকেয়চন্দ্ৰ রায় সাধুতাতে একজন অগ্রগণ্য ব্যক্তি ছিলেন। তাঁর ন্যায় ধর্মভীরু, কর্তব্যপরায়ণ, সত্যনিষ্ঠ ও পরোপকারী লোক অল্পই হয়। জগদ্বাত্রী দেবী এরূপ বৎশে জন্ম গ্রহণ করেছিলেন। বলাই বাহুল্য, এরূপ গৃহে জন্মালে ও বড় হলে মানুষ যেমন হয় তিনি সেইরূপ ছিলেন।

জগদ্বাত্রী দেবী পিতার একমাত্র কন্যা, তিনি ভাইয়ের অগ্রজা। রূপ-লাবণ্যে ও গুণে তিনি ছিলেন শ্রী-স্বরূপা। শৈশবে রাজা শিবচন্দ্ৰ তাঁকে কন্যার মত ভালবাসতেন। বিবাহের কিছুদিন পর অতিসচ্ছল পিতৃগৃহ ছেড়ে কদমতলাতে রামকৃষ্ণ লাহিড়ীর নিতান্ত সাংসারিক অসচ্ছলতার মধ্যে নিজেকে মানিয়ে নিলেন। তিনি গুরুজনের অধীন থেকে ঘর নিকোনো, জল আনা, ধান ভানা প্রভৃতি কাজ হাসিমুখে করতেন। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে, তাঁদের সাত পুত্র-কন্যার (নবকুমার, লীলাবতী, ইন্দুমতী, শরৎ, বসন্ত, বিনয় ও মৃদুমতী) পালনের দিকে দৃষ্টি রাখতেন। লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের জন্মকালে পিতা রামকৃষ্ণ সামান্য পৈতৃক বিষয়ের আয়ের পাশাপাশি সেই সময়ের প্রসিদ্ধ লালাবাৰুদের বিষয়-সম্পত্তির ম্যানেজারি করে যে সামান্য বেতন পেতেন, তাই দিয়ে কঠে সংসারযাত্রা নির্বাহ করতেন। ধর্মভীরু রামকৃষ্ণ উপরি আয়ের দিকে চাইতেন না; ফলে জ্যেষ্ঠ পুত্র কেশবচন্দ্ৰ উপাৰ্জনক্ষম না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অত্যন্ত কঠে সংসার চলত। সন্তানদের তিনি সবসময় কুসঙ্গ থেকে দূরে রাখার চেষ্টা করতেন। প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যায় বিষয়কর্ম থেকে মুক্ত হয়ে ধর্মালোচনায় মনোনিবেশ করতেন। তিনি নিজে যেমন সাধু ছিলেন, তেমনি সাধু-সদাশয় ব্যক্তিদের সঙ্গেই মিশতেন।

বিদ্যাসাগর মহাশয়ের মাতৃভক্তির বিষয়ে এক বাড়-জলের রাতে দামোদর পার হয়ে মায়ের কাছে পৌঁছনোর কথা

অনেকের জানা, কিন্তু এর সাথে যুক্ত হতে পারে আরও একজনের মাত্ত্বক্তির কথা। ইনি রামতনু লাহিড়ীর জ্যেষ্ঠ ভাতা কেশবচন্দ্র লাহিড়ী। তিনি কর্মসূল কলকাতা থেকে কৃষ্ণনগরে যখন মায়ের কাছে যেতেন তখন মাজগান্ধাত্রী দেবীকে জোর করে এক স্থানে বসিয়ে একটি থালায় তাঁর পা দু; খানি ধুয়ে দিতেন পরমশ্রদ্ধা সহকারে। মাকে তিনি যথার্থভাবেই দেবীর আসনে বসিয়েছিলেন। কেশবচন্দ্র কলকাতাতার আলিপুর জজ আদালতে কেরানীর কাজ করতেন এবং তার সঙ্গে তিনি অনেক দেশী ও বিদেশী লোকের মোকদ্দমায় সহায়তা করে সামান্য কিছু উপরি আয় করতেন যা তাঁর অনুজদের শিক্ষায় ব্যয়িত হত। শাস্ত্রী মহাশয় লিখেছেন - “জ্যেষ্ঠের প্রতি ভক্তিভাজন রামতনু লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের যে প্রকার ভক্তি দেখিতাম তাহাতে বোধহয় যে তাঁহার জ্যেষ্ঠের চরিত্র তাঁহার চরিত্রগঠন বিষয়ে বিশেষরূপে কাজ করিয়াছিল।”

পাঁচ বছর বয়সে লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের হাতেখড়ি এবং কৃষ্ণনগরে দেবী চৌধুরী মহাশয়ের গৃহের পাঠশালায় তাঁর পড়াশোনা শুরু হয়। রামতনু যখন ভাল-মন্দ বন্ধুদের সঙ্গে আনন্দে কাল অতিবাহিত করছেন তখন তাঁর ভবিষ্যত-ভাবনায় বাবা-মা বিশেষ ভীত ও উৎকর্ষিত হলেন। তাঁদের এই উৎকর্ষার কারণ সেইসময় “কৃষ্ণনগর সমাজের নীতি-সম্বন্ধীয় জলবায়ু দুর্বিত ছিল।” জগদ্বাত্রী ও রামকৃষ্ণ লাহিড়ীর দুর্ভাবনা দূরীভূত করার জন্য জ্যেষ্ঠ কেশবচন্দ্র রামতনুকে ১৮২৬ খ্রীষ্টাব্দে কলকাতার কালীঘাটের নিকটবর্তী চেতলায় তাঁর বাসায় নিয়ে আসেন। কেশবচন্দ্র ভাইকে ইংরেজী শিক্ষা দেওয়ার সংকল্প করেন। কিন্তু নিকটবর্তী কোনও উপযুক্ত বিদ্যালয় ছিল না, তাই তিনি নিজেই রামতনুকে ইংরেজী, এবং তার সঙ্গে তাঁর অধীত পারসী ও আরবী ভাষা শিক্ষা দিতে থাকেন। উল্লেখ্য, যে জলবায়ুর কারণে কৃষ্ণনগরে লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের বাবা-মা তাঁর জন্য চিন্তিত ছিলেন, সেই একই ধরণের চেতলার দুর্যত সমাজ-পরিবেশের কারণে জ্যেষ্ঠ কেশবচন্দ্র উৎকর্ষিত থাকতেন। বাণিজ্যকেন্দ্র চেতলা-কালীঘাটের টালির নালা খালের নিকটবর্তী অঞ্চলে নারী-পুরুষের শ্বেচ্ছাচার-বৃত্তি অবাধ ছিল। কিভাবে ভাইকে এইরূপ স্থান থেকে অন্যত্র নিয়ে যাওয়া যায়, সেই চেষ্টায় রত থাকতেন। সৌভাগ্যের বিষয় কিছুদিনের মধ্যেই কালীশক্র মৈত্র এবং গৌরমোহন বিদ্যালক্ষারের সহায়তায় ও যোগাযোগে মহাআ ডেভিড হেয়ারের সঙ্গে তাঁদের সংযোগ ঘটে। ডেভিড হেয়ার অনেক পরীক্ষার শেষে রামতনুর বিদ্যাশিক্ষার প্রতি অগ্রহে সম্পৃষ্ট হয়ে স্কুল সোসাইটির স্থাপিত স্কুলে ফ্রী বালক হিসেবে তাঁকে ভর্তি করে নেন। এই স্কুল পরে ‘কলুটোলা ব্রাওঞ্চ স্কুল’ এবং আরও পরে ‘হেয়ার স্কুল’ নামে প্রসিদ্ধ হয়েছে। রামতনুর শিক্ষা, চরিত্রগঠন ও প্রতিকূল সকল ক্ষেত্রেই তাঁর মাত্ত্বকূল ও পিতৃকূলস্থ ব্যক্তিবর্ণে প্রভাব স্ফুর পরিসরে এ পর্যন্ত বর্ণনা করা গেল।

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ব্যক্তিগতনে রামতনু লাহিড়ীর উপর তাঁর মাস্টারমশাইয়ের প্রভাব স্ফুর পরিসরে আলোচনা করা আবশ্যিক। নব্যবঙ্গের তিন প্রধান দীক্ষাগুরু - ডেভিড হেয়ার, ডিরোজিও এবং মেকলের প্রভাব ও আশিস তাঁর উপর বর্ষিত হয়েছিল। ১৮২৮ খ্রীষ্টাব্দে রামতনু স্কুল সোসাইটির স্কুল থেকে হিন্দু কলেজে আসেন। তিনি স্কুলের অগ্রগণ্য ছাত্র হিসাবে এবং অবেতনিক ছাত্ররূপে হিন্দু কলেজ চতুর্থ শ্রেণীতে ভর্তি হন। তাঁর সহপাঠীদের মধ্যে দিগঘর মিত্র, রামগোপাল ঘোষ, রাসিককৃষ্ণ মল্লিক, কৃষ্ণমোহন বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়, দক্ষিণারঞ্জন মুখোপাধ্যায় প্রভৃতির নাম বিশেষ স্মরণীয়। হেনরি লুইস ভিভিয়ান ডিরোজিও তাঁদের শিক্ষক ছিলেন। বঙ্গের নবযুগ-প্রবর্তক এই অসাধারণ

প্রতিভাশালী শিক্ষক ১৮২৮ সালের মার্চ মাসে হিন্দু কলেজে যোগদান করেন। তিনি চতুর্থ শ্রেণীর সাহিত্য ও ইতিহাসের শিক্ষক ছিলেন বটে, কিন্তু তাঁর জ্ঞান ও ব্যক্তিগত অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে ছাত্রদের অত্যন্ত প্রিয় শিক্ষক হয়ে উঠেন। ক্লাস শুরুর পূর্বে ও পরে তিনি নানা বিষয় নিয়ে ছাত্রদের সাথে আলোচনা করতেন এবং তাদের বিতর্কে উৎসাহিত করতেন - এভাবে তিনি ছাত্রদের মধ্যে স্বাধীন চিন্তাশক্তির উন্নয়ন ও বিকাশ ঘটাতে চাইতেন। ডিরোজিও 'একাডেমিক অ্যাসোশিয়েশন' নামে একটি সভা স্থাপন করেন এবং তাঁর সভাপতিত্বে শিষ্যদল প্রধান বঙ্গ হিসাবে তাঁদের স্বাধীন মত-সমবিত্ব বজ্রব্য উপস্থাপন করতেন। গুরু ডিরোজিওর প্রভাবে রামতনু লাহিড়ী, কৃষ্ণমোহন, দক্ষিণারঞ্জন প্রভৃতি ছাত্ররা হিন্দু ধর্ম তথা সমাজের কুসংস্কার নিবারণের লক্ষ্যে উদ্যোগী হয়েছিলেন।

প্রসঙ্গত একটি ঘটনার উল্লেখ আবশ্যিক। রামতনু কোনও প্রচলিত ধর্মসম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত ছিলেন না। ঈশ্বরের প্রতি তাঁর প্রগাঢ় ভক্তি ছিল, এবং জীবনের প্রত্যেক কার্য তাঁরই কার্য মনে করে সম্পূর্ণ করতেন। আচারসর্বস্বত্ত্ব যে নিতান্ত অর্থশূন্য বিষয় তা তাঁর যজ্ঞোপবীত পরিত্যাগের মধ্যে নিহিত আছে। অবশ্য এই জন্য তাঁকে যথেষ্ট যত্নগ্রস্ত সহ্য করতে হয়েছিল। একদিকে বাবা-মা, আত্মীয়স্বজন ও সমাজ; অপরদিকে তাঁর কর্তব্যকর্ম। এ এক বিরাট সংঘাতের মুহূর্ত। তৎকালে সমাজ-বন্ধন ছিল অত্যন্ত দৃঢ় ও নির্ভুল। কোনও ব্যক্তির আচার-ব্যবহারে তিলমাত্র বিপরীত ঘটলে, তিনি সাধারণের নিকট উপহাসের পাত্র হয়ে যেতেন। এরকম সময়ে রামতনু পিতামাতা, স্বজনবর্গ ও সমাজের টান ছিন্ন করে যে অসীম সাহস দেখিয়েছিলেন তার পশ্চাতে নিঃসন্দেহে গুরু ডিরোজিওর সঠিক শিক্ষার প্রভাব ছিল। "Do what is right and leave the rest to God" -এই ছিল তাঁর ইষ্টমন্ত্র।

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শিবনাথ শাস্ত্রী মহাশয় কথিত 'সাধুপুরুষ' রামতনু লাহিড়ী মহাশয়ের কর্মজীবনের কিছুমাত্র উল্লেখ করে তাঁর প্রতি প্রদ্বার্য অর্পনের এই সামান্য প্রচেষ্টার উপসংহার করা যাক।

লাহিড়ী মহাশয় শিক্ষকতা-সূত্রে কিছু সময়ের জন্য যেখানে বাস করেছেন সেখানেই তাঁর স্মৃতি রেখে এসেছেন। তাঁর ছাত্ররা তাঁর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধায় নত হয়ে তাঁর দৈনিক জীবনের সুশৃঙ্খল কার্যধারা বর্ণনা করে থাকেন। তাঁর মধ্যে যে নিয়মানুবর্তিতা ও কর্তব্যপরায়ণতার আদর্শ ছিল - শিক্ষকতার কাজে যে এরপ দেহ-মন-প্রাণ ঢেলে দেওয়া যায় - ছাত্রের হনয়ে জ্ঞানস্পৃহা উদ্দীপ্ত করার এবং চরিত্র ও নীতি উন্নত করার প্রতি তাঁর তরিষ্ঠ প্রচেষ্টা সকলের মনে থেকে যায়।

তিনি ১৮৫২ সালে উত্তরপাড়ার ইংরাজী স্কুলে প্রধান শিক্ষকের পদে নিযুক্ত হন। এর পূর্বে তিনি বর্ধমান স্কুলের প্রধান শিক্ষক ছিলেন। সম্ভবত তারও পূর্বে তিনি হিন্দু কলেজের সর্বোচ্চ পর্যাক্ষা পাশ করে সেখানে শিক্ষকতা করেন। ১৮৫৮ সালে কলকাতার দক্ষিণে রসা স্কুলের প্রথম সহকারী শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত হন। অল্প কিছু দিনের মধ্যেই তিনি চলে যান বরিশাল স্কুলের প্রধান শিক্ষক হয়ে। সেখান থেকে মাত্র এক বছর পর কৃষ্ণনগর কলেজের স্কুল-বিভাগে দ্বিতীয় সহকারী শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত হন এবং পৈতৃক বাসস্থান কৃষ্ণনগরে বাস করতে থাকেন। দু'বছরের জন্য অবসর নিয়ে সেখান থেকে তিনি স্বাস্থ্যলাভের জন্য ভাগলপুরে বাস করতে থাকেন। প্রয়োজনের তাগিদে তাঁকে পুনরায় কৃষ্ণনগরে ফিরে আসতে হয়। কৃষ্ণনগরের বেলেডাঙ্গার পল্লীগৃহে কিছুদিন

অতিবাহিত করেন। ম্যালেরিয়া জুরের প্রকোপ শুরু হলে ১৮৮০ সালে সপরিবারে তিনি কলকাতায় প্রথমে বাড়ি ভাড়া করে এবং তার পর তাঁর মধ্যমপুত্র শরৎকুমার লাহিড়ীর বাড়িতে শেষ দু'বছর বাস করেন। ১৮৯৮ সালের ১৩ আগস্ট তিনি অম্বতলোকে যাত্রা করেন।

রামতনু লাহিড়ীর মৃত্যুর খবর জানার পর সকল দলের, বিশেষতঃ ব্রাহ্মসমাজের লোক শরৎকুমার লাহিড়ীর বাড়ির দিকে ধাবিত হল। অন্ন সময়ের মধ্যে হ্যারিসন রোডে তাঁদের বাড়ির সামনে জনতার ঢল নামল। সেখান থেকে উথিত ধ্বনি শোনা গেল -

“হায় কি দেখিলাম, কি সঙ্গই পাইয়াছিলাম, এমন মানুষ আর কি দেখিব!... যিনি পরের ভালোটা আর নিজের মন্দটা দেখেন তিনিই সাধু।”

গ্রন্থসমূহ:

- ১। শিবনাথ শাস্ত্রী - “রামতনু লাহিড়ী ও তৎকালীন বঙ্গ-সমাজ”, সম্পা. বারিদবরণ ঘোষ, নিউ এজ পাবলিশার্স প্রা. লি., দ্বিতীয় সংশোধিত সংস্করণ, তৃতীয় মুদ্রণ, ২০০৯।
- ২। সুবোধচন্দ্র সেনগুপ্ত ও অঞ্জলি বসু (সম্পাদকদ্বয়), “বাঙালী চরিতাভিধান”, সাহিত্য সংসদ, কলকাতা-৭০০০০৯, মে, ১৯৭৬।

**EMBRACING A NEW FAITH:
CHRISTIANITY IN 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY KRISHNAGAR**

Sambuddha GHOSH

Assistant Professor (WBES),

Department of English, Krishnagar Govt. College,

Krishnagar, Nadia

In T.S. Eliot's well-known poem 'The Journey of the Magi', the three wise men from the East who had resolved to visit the newly born Christ return to their respective kingdoms feeling depleted and worn out, partly having outgrown their 'people'. Eliot depicts them feeling 'out of place', lodged amidst an "alien people clutching their gods" among whom they were "no longer at ease". The poem—to iterate briefly—brings out the speaker-protagonist's movement from faith in an older dispensation to that in a new one, and the deep unease that accompanies it cannot be easily missed. The magi, having witnessed the birth of Christ undergo a symbolic death of sorts (in terms of adherence to their older faith), from whence they spring into a new life (forging a new faith.) The path along which this transition takes place is nevertheless, doubt-ridden and difficult. Interestingly, a similar phenomenon seems to have taken place when one considers the exploits of early Christian missionaries in 19th Century Krishnagar. For indeed, this historic town did witness a rivalry of sorts, where two different sects of Christianity—the Catholics, comprising mainly of the Carmelite Jesuits on one hand, and the Protestant Church Missionary Society on the other—vied closely for winning the faith of the 'natives' of not only this town but even adjoining areas. But even when in ideological strife, these two different cults of Christianity did manage to accomplish a substantial growth in their respective dioceses, did pioneering missionary work and most of all, found willing people who were ready to forsake their old Hindu faith in favour of either this or that form of Christianity. It is my humble intention to trace, even if very sketchily, the trajectory of these events in this article.

The Church Mission Society (formerly known as Church Missionary Society) is a British missionary society founded in 1799. It is an Anglican society which in 1814 decided to send seven missionaries to India, posting them at Madras and Bengal. In 1816, a further mission

was sent to Travancore. In Krishnagar, the activities of the Church Missionary Society started in 1832. The C.M.S. Committee was formed, and C.M.S. St. John's High School was founded in 1834 by two German Christian missionaries Rev. W.Deerr and Rev. Blumhardt. It is the oldest school in Krishnagar, predating Krishnagar Government College and even the Krishnagar Municipality. Historians Brian Stanley and Kevin Ward have noted that the first flutterings of conversions were heard when the early Christian missionaries found a willing and ready audience for them in the local *Kartabhaja* sect of Vaishnavism. Founded by Fakir Aulechand (c. 1686-1769) about whom very little is definitely known, the *Kartabhajas* were a unique sect who blossomed and thrived in the village of Ghoshpara in the neighbourhood of Kalyani where Ramsharan Pal, disciple of Aulechand, his wife Saraswati (known to disciples as Sati Ma) and their son Dulalchandra Pal were the early religious leaders. Principal religious practices of this cult included the chanting of *mantra* and the enactment of *premanusthan* (ritual of love) among its members. According to historian H.H.Wilson, the *Kartabhajas* shunned the rigidity of social customs and institutions such as caste in the context of 19th century Hinduism, aimed at a more syncretic brand of Vaishnavism and prioritised humanity over the narrowness of parochial religious beliefs. Md. Dilwar Hossain has designated this particular syncretic tendency within the *Kartabhajas* as one of the many "drifts of defiance" they exhibited in relation to the more conventional folds of Hinduism in the 19th century. His translation of a particular song from Bhaber Geet (a collection of popular mystical songs which may be considered a scriptural text for the sect) supports this idea:

"Mog, European, Dutch, Hindu, Muslim all are created by one God

All are invested with same substances;

See, all the thirty-six castes and creeds call only for humanity."

Anyhow, what remains of import to us consists in noting that the emphasis on the oneness of humanity remains the greatest priority in the *Kartabhaja* cult. This was naturally possible in a scenario where lower caste communities existing on the fringes of the Hindu fold such as farmers, agricultural labourers, cobblers and blacksmiths, having been quite fed up with the everyday injustice they faced at the hands of the upper-caste Hindus. And thus, in 1835, when the Rev. William Deerr led a team of two Bengali catechists and a Bengali schoolmaster to preach in the town of Krishnagar, they were ardently welcomed by the

Kartabhajas at Dipchandrapore about six miles west of Krishnagar. The two catechists, Paul and Ramathon met Chandy, the village blacksmith who led the *Kartabhaja* sect in that particular region. Having publicly removed the rite of idol-worship, the *Kartabhajas* had incurred the wrath and annoyance of fellow caste Hindus who were now bent upon excommunicating them from the Hindu faith. In 1836, about 36 villagers, led by Chandy were baptized, making them the earliest bearers of the Cross in the Krishnagar district (of the day). Persecution from caste-Hindus remained, but so did the new interest in Christianity among the local populace. In 1838, a mass conversion of *Kartabhajas* (about 400-500 people) occurred. The waves of conversion were felt gradually in centres as distant as Solo, Ranaband and Joginda, covering almost 50 miles east of the initial centre of conversion, Dipchandrapore. Geoffrey Oddie writes that towards the end of 1838, an unusually overpowering monsoon had caused flood in the region watered by the Jalangi (Anglicised by the missionaries as 'Jellinghy') river. People from all religions and creed lost their crops and starvation was widespread. Deerr and the other missionaries began relief work in the region, attracting a large number of converts across the Hindus and the Muslims. Relief was handed out to anyone but especially those who were willing to embrace the new Gospel. Oddie further adds that by October 1839, when the Bishop of Calcutta came to visit his diocese, he found more than 4000 enquirers and baptised Christians.

The importance given to mysticism and devotion in the *Kartabhaja* system of beliefs undoubtedly pre-disposed these groups towards Christianity. Their easy familiarity with the cult of *bhakti* in Vaishnavism, and to some extent, their lack of rigidity in committing to any particular religious disposition made them particularly amenable to change. Especially significant were the effects of *avataravada* on the psyche of these illiterate villagers. They believed God was made manifest through his *avatara* (incarnation) in any particular epoch. The Christian doctrine expounded in St. John's Gospel where Jesus says, "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" came very close to this idea. Deerr also honed in on the fact that Jesus was "God made manifest in the flesh". Similarly, the doctrine of the Second Coming also attracted early *Kartabhaja* converts to Christianity. The acceptance of the new faith became a "mass movement" that spread up to adjoining areas such as Chapra, Bangaljhi and Sholua.

The Catholic orders were not to be left far behind. Fr. Thomas Zubiburu, a Portuguese Carmelite monk was the first Catholic priest to come to Krishnagar from Chittagong in 1845.

The first Catholic Church of Krishnagar was founded in 1846. But he was prevented by illness from doing more work, and after his death, the Church was taken over by the Krishnagar Municipality and turned into a dispensary. However, the early venture by the Catholics was duly kept up by the efforts of the Milan fathers. Fr. Luigi Limana, who arrived in Krishnagar to find the Carmelite fold fast dwindling into naught, made remarkable contribution in expanding the Catholic fold in Krishnagar. A significant event in this history is the arrival of the Sisters of Charity at Krishnagar in 1860. Sisters Batholomea Capitanio and Vincenza Gerosa came to the town to work towards the cause of charity. Both Fr. Limana and Fr. Marietti consolidated the Catholic community of Krishnagar, reclaiming the Church and the residence from the Municipality. In 1870, the Catholic Church of Krishnagar was erected into a Prefecture Apostolic with Fr. Marietti as its first Prefect Apostolic.

The Diocese of Krishnagar was established on 1st September, 1886. Msgr. Pozzi, the first Bishop of the Diocese erected a Cathedral at the site of the old Church which had been destroyed in the earthquake of 1897. In 1899, the Cathedral was rebuilt at its place. After Bishop Pozzi's death, Msgr. Taveggia, who had already founded a small congregation called 'Catechist Sisters of Mary Immaculate' in 1892, became the second bishop of the diocese. However, after the establishment of a new Diocese of Dinajpur in 1928, the Milan fathers relocated there, leaving Krishnagar to the charge of the Salesians of Don Bosco. In 1928, three Salesian fathers, Fr. Piesuir, Fr. Pisano and Msgr. Emmanuel Bars reached Krishnagar. The third Bishop of the Diocese of Krishnagar was Msgr. Stephen Ferrando, succeeded by Fr. Seuderi who became the first Apostolic Administrator of Krishnagar. Since May 1939, the Diocese passed into the able hands of Mgr. L.R. Morrow, whose tireless efforts at spreading education led to his ultimate recognition among the people of Krishnagar. Bishop Morrow further expanded the Cathedral building in 1952. Bishop Morrow School (B.M.S) of Krishnagar has been named after him.

It will be easily apparent, even within as brief an investigation such as this, that despite the initial success achieved by the Protestant missionaries around mid 19th century, the range and scope of the activities of the Catholic missionaries were far greater in Krishnagar. They succeeded in expanding the Church to a Diocese, led to the establishment of a Roman Catholic neighbourhood within Krishnagar named R.C. Para and in 1969, founded the Don Bosco school in Krishnagar. Today, the Diocese is comprised of more than 15,000 Catholics with Fr. Joseph Suren Gomes as the seventh bishop. The hallowed grounds of the 'Most

Holy Redeemer's Cathedral', as it is titled, are now also host to an elaborate sculpture depicting Christ carrying the Cross to the Calvary, as well as a museum with sculpted figures of the major Apostles and Saints in Catholic Christianity and a number of coloured murals chronicling the initiation, and subsequent baptism of poor and illiterate Hindu and Muslim commoners into the fold of Christ, named the 'Christo Mandir'.

Today, Krishnagar has a sizable population of Christians, belonging variously to either the Protestant or the Catholic faith. Near about 200 years of history and tradition predate today's Christians living in Krishnagar, making them heirs to a legacy which could only come about owing to the initial willingness of the local populace in accepting a relatively less known, alien creed. This religious diversity added to the rich and colourful history of this sub-divisional town and has no doubt endowed it, at least in part, with a cosmopolitan character.

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