



# Maharaja Nandakumar In Socio-Economic And Political Activities Of Hooghly District - Pre Plassey Episode

SOURABH ADHIKARI

STUDENT

BURDWAN UNIVERSITY

## ABSTRACT :-

Maharaja Nandakumar is known in history as Dewan Nandakumar. What was his achievement as Dewan of Hooghly before the battle of Plassey, was he only a tax collector? Civil servants, or did various activities against the invasion of Hooghly by the British. An attempt has been made to discuss it in the context of the history of Hooghly district.

## KEYWORDS :-

Tax collector, Manasamangal Kavya, Hoogla trees, Bargi, Dewan Nandakumar, Faujdar, plundered, accuses, Bengal child.

## INTRODUCTION:-

Hooghly is a district of Burdwan division of West Bengal. In ancient times, the region was dominated by canals, and rivers. There was a time when this region was home to the Kaivartas and Baghdis. The name Hooghly is mentioned in Manasamangal Kavya written by Mangalkavi Vipradas Pillai. Hooghly River flows through the eastern side of this district. 1. How this Hooghly came to be named, though there are various opinions, according to the popular belief, the name Hooghly came from the fact that there were many Hoogla trees growing on the road to Saptagram port. Hooghly was a part of the revenue division at the beginning of the Nawabi period in Bengal.

## ANALYSIS :-

2 .Jagat seth Fatechand and Sarfraz's minister Haji Muhammad plotted to make Alivardi Khan the Nawab of Bengal and the plot succeeded in the battle of Gheria. At this time Maharaja Nandakumar was 35 years old. 3.Nawab Alivardi entrusted Maharaja Nandakumar with collecting the revenue of Mahishadal; But he was soon sacked from this job for attacking Bargi and being anti-national.4. Sometime after this probably around 1748 the Maharaja first came to Hooghly. Although he had come to Calcutta some time ago. Hedayet Ali was the Faujdar of Hooghly at this time. Maharaja Nandakumar was selected as Dewan of Hooghly under Nawab Alivardi. Within a few days, he again went to Murshidabad. Subsequently, Nandakumar was re-elected to the post of Dewan of Hooghly during the tenure of Mohammad Yarbeg, Fauzdar of Hooghly. Thus it can be seen that Maharaja Nandakumar returned to Hooghly at different times. He was just, charitable and from this time Maharaja Nandakumar Hooghly In the history of the district he was called 5. Dewan Nandakumar.At that time provinces like 24 Parganas were also connected with Hooghly.

As Faujdar had to control foreign activities, customs duties, as Diwan, Nandakumar used to collect domestic customs duties. Both sides of the river Ganga were fertile and the cultivation was good at that time. During this time food crops were cultivated. However, during this period there was an outbreak of Bargi attacks in Bangladesh. For some time people were busy with their looting, etc. However, during the reign of Nawab Alivardi Maharaja Nandakumar was appointed Dewan in Hooghly Province perhaps twice. Now let us see whether Dewan Nandakumar was only a tax collector or as Dewan of Hooghly before the battle of Plassey Protected Hooghly district from British invasion and appointed himself as protector of Hooghly for some time. When Nawab Alivardi died, Siraj became the Nawab of Bengal. It can be said that a new phase began in the life of Maharaj Nandakumar right from this time. Before Nawab Siraj's invasion of Calcutta, Muhammad Ali was the Faujdar of Hooghly. 6. The Nawab deposed Muhammad Ali and made Umralla the Faujdar of Hooghly and Maharaja Nandakumar again became the Dewan of Hooghly. At this time, Nandakumar started organizing to protect the entrance of Hooghly to save Hooghly from the British invasion. Renovated the Budge Budge fort and built a new fort at South Aligarh in Calcutta to deter English attacks. This place was the entrance to Hooghly by river. He thought that the British would not be able to enter the Hooghly once the place became shallow. Thus he wanted to protect Hooghly. Unfortunately his plan was thwarted by the treachery of the Manik chand. As a result, after the Calcutta attack, the British attacked Hooghly in January 1757 under the initiative of Major Kirkpatrick. A Mughal fort at Hooghly was shelled and destroyed by the British. The Nawab had earlier sent troops to Nandakumar. 7. The English entered the Bandel of Hooghly and fled to Calcutta with loot. Maharaja Nandakumar surrounded the English army at the last moment but was the last survivor but did not Hooghly was plundered by the British.

When Maharaja Nandakumar was taking various measures to protect himself from the English invasion, Manik Chand set up a market at Phalta so that the British would not be eaten. Nawab Siraj defend Hooghly after receiving news of attack on Calcutta Thousands of troops were sent to Nandakumar at Hooghly but Manik chand himself planned to demoralize the Nawabi army and described the extraordinary power of the English troops. Soldier morale on the battlefield is exceptional but Manikchand strikes fear into their hearts. This army was sent to Nandakumar. Later, Nawab got the news of Hooghly invasion and looting and prepared to suppress the English.

## CONCLUSION :-

Subsequently, Maharaja Nandakumar's life was temporarily darkened, which could be called the first conspiracy of the British. At this time Clive thought that if the French got the help of the Nawab, the English future was uncertain So he attacked Chandannagar. The Nawab had at this time sent troops to Nandakumar in case Clive attacked Hooghly But it didn't happen that way. The French army lost the battle.<sup>8</sup> English writer Hill accused Nandakumar of helping the British by accepting bribes from the British. However, none of this has been proven true. Local writers like Golam Hossain also did not write anything special about this. However, the Nawab deposed Siraj Nandakumar on false charges.<sup>9</sup> H. Beveridge, while discussing him, refers to Nandakumar as a simple man. Nandakumar, during his tenure as Dewan of Hooghly, repeatedly tried to oppose the British. Although his last life was terrible he could be said to be a devoted ideal Bengal child.

## REFERENCES :-

- 1 O'MALLEY, L.S.S AND CHAKRAVARTI, MONMOHAN (1912)-BENGAL DISTRICT GAZETTEERS; HOOGHLY: THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT. (CALCUTTA) P :- 1
- 2 CHAUDHARY TASLEEM ( MAY,1996) BHAROTER ITIHAS : MUGHAL JUG THEKE ADHUNIK JUGER UTTORON 1500- 1818 :PROGOTI PUBLISHER (CALCUTTA) , P- 774
- 3 SEN CHANDI CHARAN ( 1292 BANGABDO)MAHARAJA NANDAKUMAR OTHOBA SHOTOBORSHO PURBE BONGER SAMAJIK OBOSTHA: NABAPATRA PUBLICATION (CALCUTTA) P - 196
- 4 MITRA, SUDHIRKUMAR (MARCH 1960) HOOGHLY ZELAR ITIHAS O BANGASAMAJ -VOL.2 :MITRANI PUBLICATION 1960 P- 658
- 5 MITRA, SUDHIRKUMAR (MARCH 1960) HOOGHLY ZELAR ITIHAS O BANGASAMAJ -VOL.2 :MITRANI PUBLICATION 1960 P- 658
- 6 MITRA, SUDHIRKUMAR (MARCH 1960) HOOGHLY ZELAR ITIHAS O BANGASAMAJ -VOL.2 :MITRANI PUBLICATION 1960 P- 659
- 7 MITRA, SUDHIRKUMAR (MARCH 1960) HOOGHLY ZELAR ITIHAS O BANGASAMAJ -VOL. 2 :MITRANI PUBLICATION 1960 P- 660
- 8 MITRA, SUDHIRKUMAR ,(MARCH 1960) HOOGHLY ZELAR ITIHAS O BANGASAMAJ -VOL.2 : MITRANI PUBLICATION P- 661
- 9 BEVERIDGE.H (1886) THE TRIAL OF MAHARAJA NANDA KUMAR: A NARRATIVE OF A JUDICIAL MURDER :THACKER, SPINK AND CO. (CALCUTTA) P-10