Preface

The great "Movement" launched by the people of Goalpara District, during the States Reorganisation of India under the leadership of Sarat Chandra Sinha, the then President of Goalpara District Congress Committee to resist its separation from Assam, owing to the claims of West Bengal on the District. The Movement shook like earthquake in the erstwhile District. The erstwhile District, at present divided into four parts and each part formed a separate District, viz. - Goalpara, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts. Goalpara District, here we refer to the undivided one.

The Movement of our study is a "People's Movement". The nature, character and forms of the People's Movement invariably indicates the movement of "Resistance Movement" or "Preventive Movement". Here we used both the terms People's Movement and Resistance Movement as in the same connotation and purposes.

The topic of our study consists of eight Chapters. The I, II and III Chapters included the Political Entity of Goalpara District, nature of immigration of the Bengali Muslims and their process of Assamisation and the language controversy and social tension in Goalpara. Without detailed
study of such things, the topics of our study would remain in cloud. So that, we included and explained as separate Chapter for micro study.

Chapter IV, V, VI and VII included the People’s Movement. The last Chapter bears the summary and conclusion on the entire research work.

Now we come to the contents of the respective Chapter one after another.

Chapter I, explained the Political Entity of the District and frequent changes of its administrative divisions of British India. This frequent changes influenced severely on the language and culture of the District and created new trend of language and culture. The internal administration of the District administered by six big Zamindars. The Zamindars had long administrative relations with West Bengal – administrative headquarter of the then British India. The Zamindars and their amalahs joined the new trend of language and culture except the two Zamindars - Bizni and Sidli. Both the Zamindars, originally were Rajas. After British occupation they degraded to the position of Zamindar and paid a certain part of their collected revenues to the British Government. They were the offsprings of Maharaja Naranarayana. The District of Goalpara finally transferred to Assam in 1912 when Assam was constituted a
III

separate Province with Chief Commissioner in the Council. India after getting Independence in 1947, the District Goalpara remained with Assam.

Chapter II, involved the flow of immigrants in Goalpara and subsequently in Assam, their process of Assamisation and their identity. The immigrants particularly the Bengali Muslims had a great role in the District and subsequently in Assam. The Muslims who came from East Bengal during British Administration for the purpose of livelihood. The British Government, Zamindars, Jotedars, Talukdars were brought them for their burning needs and settled on both the bank of Brahmaputra Valley. Grazing reserves, forest reserves and other abandoned lands. The local people did not bother such lands but frightened for future problem. Up to the Independence, they formed a major part of the total population in the District gradually, they were assimilated with the sons of the soil i.e. with the mainstream and recorded their mother tongue as the Assamese language in the 1951 Census. On the contrary the Bengali Hindu immigrants and Bengali amalas did not assimilate with the mainstream. 1951 Census of India was the first Census after getting our Independence. The Census shows that the Assamese speakers increased to 60% but in 1931 Census it was only 19.4%. The sudden increase of the percentage of Assamese speakers shows the recording of Assamese by the immigrant Muslims.
Chapter III, included the language controversy and social tension in Goalpara District. G.A. Gierson in his Linguistic Survey of India indicated the language of the District was Rajbonshi. Later on, it was called Goalparia dialect. But Goalparia dialect is more akin to Assamese than Bengali. It is established as one of the richest dialect of the Assamese language and culture. British Government and their Bengali Hindu amalaha introduced Bengali language in the Offices, Courts and in the Schools. The then Zamindars and their amalaha had great role in introducing Bengali as communicating language. The indigenous people removed from practicing their mother-tongue and severely affected. The language controversy and social tension started and had been continued till 1960 in Goalpara District.

Chapter IV, included the Movement in Goalpara District in connection with the States Reorganisation Movement in India. In 1920, Indian National Congress decided to form their organisational division on the basis of language and culture after Independence the people of India, in pursuance of that decision of started Movement for linguistic state. Accordingly, the State of Andhra formed, bifurcated Madras on the basis of Telegu language. Other states follow the path of Andhra. In the meantime the Government of India constituted the States Reorganisation Commission in
1953. The Commission started tour all over the country. The West Bengal claimed on the District of Goalpara of Assam having dominant position shows in the 1911, 1921 and 1931 Censuses of India. Dhubri unit of All Assam Bangla Parishad supported the claims of West Bengal. Ultimately, the entire indigenous and immigrant Muslims united and launched mighty Movement against such unexpected demand. The then District Congress Committee under the leadership of Sarat Chandra Sinha launched the Movement. Soon, the Movement became popular. The District Congress Committee and the then intellectuals of the Districts termed it as "People's Movement".

Chapter V, deals with the forms and dimension of the People's Movement. The entire Movement carried out in three main stages. In the first stage discussion, meetings, publication of booklets, leaflets, seminars, strikes were held, owing to uprising the mass people against the claims of West Bengal for ensuing danger. In the second stage demonstration, processions, big public meetings were held all over the District. The greatest procession was started from Bongaigaon to Dhubri, distance about 130 K.M. carrying with Trucks, Buses, Jeeps, Bi-cycles, Festoons, Banners etc. The procession virtually, uprise the people and demonstrated the public opinion. Similar procession also spontaneously started elsewhere in the District. In the third stage the Movement concluded with submission of memoranda through various political and social organisations during the visit
Chapter VI devoted to analyse the Report of the States Reorganisation Commission. During visit at Dhubri the Commission collected numbers of memoranda. Some of them, the memoranda of Dhubri District Congress Committee, Bangla Parishad and Immigrant Association were most important. Another important memorandum was submitted by Assam Sahitya Sabha at Gauhati, carried out strong argument in favour of the people of Goalpara. All the memoranda except Bangla Parishad of Dhubri argued that the District of Goalpara should not be separated and it would remain as a part and parcel of Assam. The States Reorganisation Commission was guided by its term of references. Accordingly the Commission studied carefully and prepared a Report. The Report submitted to the Government of India on 30 September, 1955. The Government with minor modification submitted it to the Parliament of India. After long discussion, the Parliament passed the Bill with the title, "The States Reorganisation Act, 1956". Goalpara District remained as part and parcel of Assam. Peace, unity and integrity soon came back. Language and culture of Goalpara District also retained. The endeavor of West Bengal and Dhubri unit of Bangla Parishad totally futile.

Chapter VII, explained the impact of the People's
VII

Movement in the District and subsequently in the country. The Movement launched not only for the shake of Movement but also for certain aims and objectives. The success of the Movement had laid a permanent impact on the various aspect of the people of the District.

Chapter VIII, is the final one. It devoted to explain the summery and conclusion of the entire research work. The result of the Movement had some gains. These gains vindicated the importance and significance of the Movement even today.

While making our study an attempt has been made to use all the available materials relevant for it. Interviews of the leaders and active participants also included as one of the method of collecting inadequate materials and events. It has also included some appendixes which are also enhanced the relevancy of research work.

However, we tried more and more to achieve the ends, but our study may not completely final, owing to the limited scope. Over and above it is to be opened for all for further study.

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