CHAPTER - VI
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CONCLUSION

Assam came under the Burmese control from 1816 to 1825 and after the defeat of Burmese the British captured Assam from Burmese by the terms of the Treaty of Yandabo (24 February, 1826). The Treaty of Yandabo ended the long about six hundred years of the Ahom rule and established the British Raj in the annals of Assam.

The Assamese people hatred the alien rule and within two years of the British foot-hold in Assam the first resistance movement broke out in 1828 under the leadership of Gomdhar Konwar the nobles of the Ahom royal family. After this rebellion in 1829 another prince of the Ahom nobility had revolted against the British. The third attempt against the British was made by a group of nobles lead by Pealiar Bar Gohgain allies Dhanjoy in the beginning of 1930. The other persons of this rebellion were Jewram Dulia Barua, Rupchand Knowar, Haranath and Boom Singpho. But following all the rising had failed and it was suppressed by the British.

In 1857, the revolt of Maniram Dewan, Peali Barua, Sheikh Formood Ali and Bahadur Gaonbura was very momentum in the history of freedom struggle in Assam. The sacrifice of Maniram and Peali was the heroic example before the eyes of the every Assamese.

After the Great Revolt of 1857, from 1861 to 1894 was the period of peasant uprisings in the history of Assam. From 1893 to 1894 various places of Nalbari and Barpeta, viz, Nalbari, Barama,
Bajali, Lachima, Gobindapur and Hadira the raij mel and peasant uprising was held.

The role of raij mel and peasant uprising was very significant for arousing the consciousness among the masses against the foreign rule. Before the freedom movement of 1921-22, it was the preparation of the people of Assam.

The birth of the Assam Association in 1903 was the important event in the history of 20th Century Assam. It was mainly a socio-political organization and for the political and educational life of the Assam, the role of this organization was very prominent. Manik Chandra Barua, Ghanashyam Barua, Jagannath Barua, Faiznur Ali and Raja Probhat Chandra Barua took the leading part in organizing the Association. After that public leaders and members of the legal profession including Tarun Ram Phukan, Nabin Chandra Bardoloi, Kuladhar Chaliha, Chandra Nath Sarmah, Padma Nath Gohain Barua were intimately joined with it.

After the end of the First World War in 1918, the political base became agitated throughout the world. In India after the Great War, the start of Khilafat Movement in 1919 and the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920-21 was the important event in the history of freedom movement of India. To counteract the movement, Rowlatt Acts was passed and Martial Law was promulgated by the British Government.

The year 1915 was very important in the history of India, because Gandhiji has returned to his homeland from South Africa. The participation of Gandhiji in the Indian politics was the very momentum event in the history of modern India. His policy of
peace and non-violence was the main guideline of the freedom movement of India.

The Nagpur session of Indian National Congress was held in 1920 and this session the Non-Cooperation resolution had accepted by CWC. After that the historic Non-Cooperation Movement had started all over the country under the able guidance of Gandhiji. Assam had also fully participated in this calling of Gandhiji. In 1921, APCC had established and the people of Assam hardly joined this movement. People of Nalbari and Barpeta had also participated in this movement along the people of Assam and India. Follow the call of Gandhiji like the other parts of the country, in Nalbari and Barpeta area also lawyers had suspended their practice and the students also give up their studies and joined the movement. Nabin Chandra Bardoloi, Chandra Nath Sarma and Kuladhar Chaliha campaigned throught Assam, Police atrocities were increased and the people were arrested apd jailed. The campaigning were held against foreign cloths, Opium shops, liquor shops and Ganja Shops. In 1921-22 many Government employees resigned their jobs and joined the movement. Imprisonment and fines were the order of the day.

After the "Chauri Chaura Incident" (5 February, 1922), the Non-Cooperation Movement came to be halted by Gandhiji in 1922. After that leaders like Chitta Ranjan Das, Motilal Nehru and Madan Mohan Malaviya, with a view to caring struggle to the forum of the Legislature organized the Swarajya Party. Other leaders and Congress workers were devoted to constructive activities like Khadi and cottage industries. In Nalbari and Barpeta area also local leaders and workers of Congress had engaged
himself in the development of the *Khadi* programme and prohibition of opium.

After a long gap, in 1930 next phase of the struggle started with Gandhiji’s salt *Satyagraha*. At that time in Assam D.P.I. Mr. J.R. Cunningham issued a circular prohibiting joining of students in political activities. After this circular, the Assam Students’ Conference giving a call to students to boycott the Government educational intuitions and joined to the freedom struggle. The students of greater Nalbari and Barpeta area had also left school and joined the Civil Disobedience Movement vigorously. Although at first the picketing were held in the educational institutions, gradually it extended to the grass-root level. The students and Congress volunteers had picketed before the shops of foreign cloths, Ganja, liquor and opium. The jails of Assam were filled by the trial prisoners. The movement continued till 1934, with a temporary suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement in 1931 from March to December as a result of Gandhi Irwin Pact on March 4, 1931. After that Gandhiji joined the Round Table Conference at London, but he returned from R.T.C. with empty hand and was arrested on his arrival which was a signal to the country to resume Civil Disobedience Movement. In May, 1934 the Civil Disobedience Movement was virtually abandoned by the AICC.

After the first and second visit (1921,1926) in April 1934 he undertook Harijan tour and came to Assam as well. In his third visit, Gandhiji visited various places of Assam, viz. Dhubri, Barpeta, Tezpur, Guwahati, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. Gandhiji’s visit had inspired the people of Assam for jumping the struggle movement very vigorously.
The period 1935 to the 1939 was the time of social reform and strengthen the Congress organization in the Nalbari and Barpeta area. Congress volunteers were hardly engaged themselves in the constructive works.

During the Second World War, on August 8, 1942, the CWC adopted the famous ‘Quit India’ resolution at Bombay Congress Session. It was also called the August Revolution of 1942. After this resolutions on 9 August, 1942 the British Government had arrested Gandhiji, Nehru and other topmost leaders of the National Congress. In Assam also Md. Tayebullah, Fakaruddin Ali Ahmed, Bishnuram Medhi, Debeswar Sarma, Dr. Harekrishna Das, Liladhar Barua and some other leaders were arrested on 9 August 1942.

During the War-time the knocking of Japan at the eastern end of the country had threatened the situation of Assam. At that time all trains were captured by the British military and for mass people there were no train for communication. So, for the welfare of the laymen of the country the Santi Sena were organized by the instruction of the Central Committee of the National Congress. In Assam also the Congress organized Santi Sena to build up morals of the people and maintain internal peace. The Santi Senas were trained in semi military pattern and organized training campus in every village. Thus, during the period of Quit India Movement, Assam was filled with training campus and flooded with Santi Senas. This programme was started in 1940 and it continued till 1942. During the course of the movement the Santi Senas had played a very vital role in all over Assam.

2. Ibid.
At that time it was the aim of every one to hamper the British with war preparation. The Japanese Army gradually entering the boarders of Assam and Assam was partially going to a battle field. So, the British Government established Military Camps almost every important places of Assam. The Santi Sena, the students and the underground Congress workers influenced by the Jayprakash Narayan came out the hamper of the British War efforts.

In Nalbari and Barpeta area the underground movement had increased and it was very intensive in the Bajali, Nalbari and Tihu region where guns were stolen, bombs were hurled, railway sabotage was attempted and large scale arson restored to. On 26 August, 1942 a organized attack were held at Sarbhog under the leadership of Brojanath Sarmah. Under Sarmah's leadership a group of people made a mid-night raid on the aerodrome at Sapna (a village) on the bank of the river Beki. The mob destroyed military dumps, the MES Office, labourers sheds etc. This attack was the challenge before the British Government.

The death of Madan Chandra Barman and Rautaram Koch in Rehababri Police firings on 25 September, 1942 was a 'tragic incident' in the history of Freedom Movement of India.

In the last stage of freedom struggle of 1942-43, almost all the people men and women, students and peasants and leading persons of Nalbari and Barpeta region had fully joined hearty. Like Congress volunteers the Santi Sena of Nalbari and Barpeta districts had played a key role in the Quit India Movement of 1942-43. The remote areas of Nalbari and Barpeta region were also alert for the mass upsurge. 'Do or die', 'Bande Mataram' were the main

slogan of these people. The people flows the usual methods on struggle on a large scale. Police violence grew and people's power of resistance increased.

Participation of Nalbari and Barpeta in the freedom struggle of India is note-worthy. These two districts of Assam were not lagging behind from the freedom movement. It is quite very significant that these two districts were more active in the field of freedom movement than many more cities or towns in India. The people of these two districts were brave and courageous to face any kind of atrocities and danger. The students were more conscious to take part in any type of situation regarding taking active part in boycotting cloths, all the British law and order during the period of freedom movement. They had full support to their leaders under the guidance of Father of the Nation, Mahatmaji. Nationalist feeling grew in such a way that everyone march together under one roof—that is the roof of humanity without having any bitterness of caste, creed, religion etc. Only aim was to achieve the golden fruit of Indian Independence. Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Ishai all united together with the feeling of struggle movement and only goal to achieve 'freedom' of India. Nalbari and Barpeta also followed same sentiment and most of the people scarified their precious lives for their motherland with sacred heart.

In conclusion it is found that these two small districts of interior place of North East India, people were with nationalistic mind and genuinely participated in the national freedom movement with pure heart to give honour with sacrificial courage at the alter of the motherland along with the people of India.