

**THE PAST AND PRESENT
OF
KRISHNAGAR GOVT. COLLEGE, NADIA**

by

**D.N. Biswas M.Sc., Ph.d. (Cal)
an ex-student (1955 to 1959) and**

a former teacher (1962 to 1976 and 1987 to 1998) of the college

History of Foundation :

Krishnagar Govt. College started functioning from 1st January, 1846. Its original name was Krishnagar College. The foundation of a college at Krishnagar, Nadia, is an important event of social, cultural, educational life of medieval rural Bengal as the establishment of Hindu College in 1817 in Calcutta Society. The activities of teachers and taughts of Hindu College shook the Calcutta Society and shed new light on the thinking and way of life of the people of Calcutta, particularly of the forward looking people of Calcutta Society. Similarly Krishnagar College brought fresh air and new light in the age-old belief and social customs of rural life and injected slowly modernity in the thinking and activities of upper crust of rural society far away from Calcutta. And sowed the seeds of modern Arts, Literature, Science and Culture in Nadia and adjoining districts. As a result there emerged many stalwart persons in literature, music, drama, sports and games. The process of emergence of modernity in the area started with the involvement and efforts of local people for establishing a college at Krishnagar for modern education; as the history of foundation of Krishnagar College bears testimony of advanced thinking, selfless contributions, sincere efforts made by the public in general and leading personalities of Nadia in particular for the foundation of Krishnagar College in order to uplift the society through modern education. Their mission became successful to a greater extent. History of foundation of Krishnagar College bears also the testimony how in olden days the public institutions were established and maintained by close co-operation of public participation and involvement of the Govt. in contrast with the present practice followed in the development works after independence.

Long before the foundation of Krishnagar College Thomas Fisher, a Searcher of old records at East India Company House came across an old Minute dated March, 1811 where it was mentioned that after the establishment of Sanskrit college at Banaras in 1792 Lord Minto expressed desire for setting two more colleges in Nuddea and Trihoot districts. A committee was also formed to implement the plan. But the committee did nothing except preparing a report on the State of Education in Nadia. The report contained the facts that there were 46 schools with about 380 students of ages 25 to 35 years. The Government made further enquiries but no reply was received. So the plan was abandoned. Thomas Fisher compiled these facts into a Memoir in 1827. He added to his Memoir a supplement in which he mentioned that there were 25 toles where instruction was free. The Pandits received funds and grants from the Raja of Nadia and presents from Jaminders. The number of students in a tole was about 20 to 25. They were full grown men. The subject of studies was Nyaya or Logic.

The supplement along with Memoir was placed before the Select Committee of House of Commons on the affairs of East India Company as Minutes of evidence (Feb. to July 1832); but nothing came out of it before Ld. Bentinck.

Lord Bentinck decided in March 1835 that all funds left after making improvement of schools for oriental studies would be employed in imparting knowledge of English Literature and Science to the native population through English language. The Council of Education was formed for speedy implementation of the resolution.

