

Book on Pothorughat in Library of Congress



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The only book in English on the historic peasants' rebellion at a sleepy village at Pothorughat in Darrang district on January 28, 1894 which was took place much before the Jalliwanbalabagh Massacre, has finally found its place in the Library of Congress in America. The book written by eminent writer Arup Kumar Dutta was published by the Mangaldai based "Organizing Committee for the National Level Seminar on the Pothorughat uprising by Agricultural Peasants" and was inaugurated by prominent journalist and former Editor of The Sentinel Dhirendra Nath Bezbarua on September 28, 2010 in a well organized function in Mangaldai Natya Mandir in presence of Axom Xahitya Xabha President Rong Bong Terang.

Mention may be made here that a worthy son of Darrang Dr. Hiranya Kumar Nath presently working as an Associate Professor of Economics at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in Huntsville, Texas, USA has taken up the initiative in taking up the matter with the authority who after going through the book, readily agreed to catalogue it at the Library of Congress. The link for the Library of Congress catalogue record for the book is: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2012493997>. It may also be recalled here that Dr Nath has also instituted "Assam Scholarship" for the undergraduate students studying Economics and/or International Business at Sam Houston State University since 2009. According to Dr. Nath, in order to attract foreign investment in the global economy, it is extremely important that the host region or place (for foreign capital) is known to the prospective international investors and business communities. He has learned from his extensive travels across the globe that Assam is relatively unknown to the outside world and that is the first major hurdle as Assam strives to achieve economic growth and development in the current global economic environment. This scholarship is purported to increase awareness about Assam among students, faculty members, and parents in US universities and thereby to introduce Assam to the current and future generations of

international investors. The one-time scholarship of USD 500.00 will be awarded to every semester to a third/fourth year undergraduate student who demonstrates academic excellence.

On the other hand, though as many as 140 peasants belonging to Hindu and Muslim community had sacrificed their lives at the hands of blood thirsty tyrant British officers on January 28 of 1894 at a sleepy village of Pathorughat or Patharighat-16 km to the west from the district headquarter town of Mangaldai while raising their voice in a peaceful manner against the enhanced land revenue, yet this glorious chapter of the history of the freedom struggle of India is little known to the countrymen nor it got its mention in the national level. Though in that firing 140 peasants from both the Hindu and Muslims had sacrificed their lives at the hands of the British rulers in an open rebellion against the government, yet this tragic episode failed to find its single mention in the national history. The entire nation is well aware of the Jalliwana Bagh killing, but the same time the people outside the state of Assam are not aware of it. The Pothorughat rebellion is significant in many ways. It took place much before the Jalliwana Bagh massacre; the village farmers adopted the policy of non violence which was adopted by Mahatma Gandhi many years later and the entire rebellion was spontaneous without any specific leader.

Jayanta Kumar Das

Environmental journalist.

BY JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

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