

## ‘Gangaridi Civilization’ in the Sundarbans: A Historical Research

**Dr. Sujit Mandal**

Assistant Professor

Dept. of History, Kalna College

Burdwan, W.B.

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Scholars and writers have explained the rivers of Sundarbans delta of that very time differently. But they are not unite about the course of the rivers. According to the foreign writers, the Ganga flowedin the borders of Praci, Malla, Tamralipta, Center Klinga etc. Perhaps it was in the East side of the pre-stated area. Many Scholars think that the ‘Gangaridi’ people lived in the last or border part of Gangaridi. Megasthenes, Diodorus, Ptlemy, Plini and many other scholars defined ‘Gangaridi’ as the last part of the ‘Ganga Basin’. Though river Ganges has many tributaries. The main stream flows upon the area of Gangaridi. The total description and the Map of ‘India Intra Gangem’ is clearly stated in the book ‘The Gangaridi Civilisation (Nation/ locality/ commoners) was flourished at the bank of the River Ganges. Geographike’ by Ptlemy. The Gangaridi race convuer the total delta region and their capital town was Ganga-Regia Royel City. Ptolemy satted that there were five openings or face in the estuary of the Ganges Basin. They are-Cambysvm, Antibola, Magnvm, Cambericvm, Psevdostmvm.<sup>1</sup>

The race of praciand Gangaridi was first described in Indica by Megasthenes. He stated that river Ganges was the eastern frontier of Gangaridi while he also stated that the Bhagirathi (Ganges) was the western bounders of Tamralipta, Malla region etc. Megasthenes and Ptolemy had also heard about the gangaridi without river Bhagirathi or the eastern part of the Ganges delta region. Researcher Kanan Gopal Bagchi said that ‘From the passages, it will be evident that Megasthenes in 300B.C. also knew the eastern most course as the Principal course of the Ganges.’<sup>2</sup> Ptolemy’s map shows us that in the lower part of the river Ganges, two tributaries CAMBYSAM and ANTIBOLA. Cambysam flow from western side to southern side and Antibola runs from East to southern and finally they met in the Bay of Bengal. Scholars and researchers said various opinions in identifying the five mouth of the Ganges. According to Nalinikanta Bhattasila Cambysvm is the Gangasagar region in front of Tamralipta but Hemchandra Roychowdhury said that it was Kashika or Kansai or kanshabati referred by Kalidasa.<sup>3</sup> According to James Renell, once upon a time the last section of river saraswati runs between Chanditala, Amta, Kalighat. Saraswati and primitive Saraswati farmed the last section of Bhagirathi. It is the original flow of river Ganges.<sup>4</sup> So, after comparing Ptolemy’s Map and current situation we can say that Combysvm is the Bhagirathi and Antibola is the old inlet of river Padma. Maghnvm is the main tributary in the southern east section of lower Combysvm. Nalinikanta said that Maghnvm is the main flow of river Ganhes or it is the opening point of Raimangal and Harinvanga while Hemchandra Roychowdhuri described it as the resent Basin of the river Bhagirathi-Hoogly.<sup>5</sup> Hemchandra’s conclusion seems actual Maghnvm means Great. The opening of the river Saraswati or river Hoogly in the largest ever in the western sect. So Hoogly river opening was called Magnum. Otilemay said about a port naming Palvra between combysvm and maghnvm. Though the local name of this port is still remain unknown, but Palvra was situated between the estuaries of river Kansavati-Haldi and river Hoogly. Perhaps it might be port Haldia or any frontal port.

Cambericum was another tributary in the southern sect. of Magnvm. The very last section of the three river openings of river Ganges Basin was the Cambericum. According to Nalinikanta, Hemchandra and Nihar Ranjan cambericum was the meeting point of Kumar-Kumarak and the Haringhata. But the opeing of river Haringhata meets the Bay of Bengal as the last part of river Madhumati- a tributaryof the river padma. The Psevdostmvm reffered in the Ptolemy’s map was the meeting point of river madhumati and Haringhata. Now it is the opening point of dho blata canal. Cambericum or the original Ganga is the last opening or mouth of the southern most part of river Bhagirathi which is the western tributary of river Ganges. So it can never be the opening point of Haringhata. According to Jageshwar Chowdhury cambericum or the third basin was situated in coastal region of the main streams of the Ganges, it was not the estuary of river Kumar.<sup>6</sup> As the water of Adi-ganga uses in ausspicious purpose, so it bears a great significance.

As the Sundarbans delta of south 24 pgs. District is bounded by dense forest and risky animal; the archeological remains are still undiscovered. Paresnath Bandyopaddhyay said the Ganganagar is situated in the district of Jessore in the 14<sup>th</sup> page of his book naming ‘Banglar Purabritto. But Satish Chandra Mirta

said Ganganagar was situated in the be-Ganga of North 24pgs. in his book ' Jashare- Khulnar Itihaas.<sup>7</sup> The ruins of ancient Civilization found in De-Ganga . According to the daily journal of the unknown Greek Mariner of the *Periplus* is that, after the visiting place of Orissa, the ship must be taken to the eastern front and then left coast to reach the Ganga locality where the largest of the India, haming Ganga meets with the Bay of Bengal. By the side of this river, there is a trade Centre namingly Ganga where Corals, Pearls, Golds and Superfine Muslin Silks are available in plenty.<sup>8</sup> So in conformity with the Greek jack, Ganganagar was situated at the Bank of the main Stream of the river Ganga. But Jaggeshwar thinks that, the unknown jack's river Ganges was actually river Bhagirathi.<sup>9</sup>

According to Strabo, the map of Ptolemy and the discussion of Periplus, it can be assumed that Ganganagar might had been in the bank of river Bhagirathi and the main flow of the Ganges. The latitudes and longitudes measurements of Kalyan Rudra prove that Ganganagar might be the archeological place of Harinarayanpur.<sup>10</sup> So in the basis of all logics and information, we can come into the decision that Sagardip or the Ganganagar was the Adi-Ganganagar and it was the race called the Gangaridi.<sup>11</sup> Ugrasena or Mahapadmananda was the King of the Maghada in 400B.C. In that time the lower ganges was Captured by a Brave race, whose Capital was Ganganagar, a port in the bankof the Ganges. It is thought that, Dhananda the son of Mahapadmananda, signed a treaty with that race. Patliputra or Polibothra was the capital of this allied States. Alexander could not taken his journeyafter river Bias/Bipasha as he came to know that lower Ganges Basin was the home of an invincible race. The invincible race of lower Ganges basin was known as gangaridi in ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt and the people of Magadha were known as Prasi or Pracii.<sup>12</sup>

As the Gangaridai was famous for their fighting abilities, they were invited in battlefields by the foreigners also. Virgil, valorous and many other Roman poets appreciate the Gangaridi race for their fighting skill. They were skilled in Elephant battle and in Navies. In 300 B.C. megasthenese wrote that, Gangaradai race possessed a large number of war-trained elephant, for that purpose no one dared to attack their kingdom. In Bibliotheca Historicka , Diodarous said that the Gangaridi of the ganges Basin was the best. Diodarous came to know that the Ganges is the largest river of India and after it Pracii and the Kingdom of Gangaridi were situated from a king name Fegelus.Andramesh or Dhananda was the king of the gangaridi. He had 20,000 cavalrymen, 2,000 Chariots, 3,000 drained/Trained elephants, and 2, 00,000 infantry.<sup>13</sup> We must remember that, Pracii and gangaridi were separate race. Plutark also said that they were different. Dhananda was described as the king of Pracii and their capital was Patliputtra in the foreign journal. In that context, Pracii is Magadha and is situated in the district of Patna and Gaya in Bihar. Our own literature also proves this. The scholars Said different views about the gangaridi and their capital. Though the Greek and Roman writers tried their best to signify the exact location of gangaridi and the race but it creats many problems. But the Native literatures do not have much information about Gangaridi.

In his, ' Jashar-Khulnar Itihaas' Satish Chandra Mitra says that, Ganganagar was situated at De-Ganga in the District of North 24pgs. As the ruins of ancient Civilization Discovered in De-ganga. The Greek jack of periplus Said that, after crossing thevisiting place of Orissa, keeping the Bay of Bengal in right hand and the coast in the last, the area of Ganga started in that way and here situated the river ganga –the largest river of India. The place is a trade Centre. It is assumed that the port Ganga was situated at the bank of the Ganges. Researcher Jaggeswar Chowdhuri said that, the Ganges of the GreekJack was river Bhagirathi. According to some other information we can say that, Sagardip or Ganganagar was the living place of the Gangaridi.

Ancient Travelers, Historians, Geographist /Expert of Geography, Sailors used the name of Gangaridi and it was well known in the World. So the Civilization of Gangaridi exists. The meaning of Gangaridi is Ganga Riddho (rich in Ganga) According to Greek Grammar, the Singular form of Gangaridi is Gangaridesh and the plural form is Gangarideai/ Gangaridai. Megathenes and other Greek writers used the terms of Gangaridesh and Gangarideai. Except of the terms of Gangaridi, Gangaddesh, Diodorous used the terms of Gangarihai and plutark used the term of Gangaritoi. The word ' Gandhar', ' Gandaridoi' of 'Gangaritoi came into exist. But 'Gangariddha'/ Gangarastra/ Gangahridi Gour are not the source of the word Gangaridh. There was a civilization in the south of poundra. It was named as Gangaridi. In the large part of Bengal peninsula, Many Free State Free State emerged under different power in ancient Time. The Gangaridi described by the Greek and [Roman](#) writer was such a free state under a brave fighter Class or Race. The word "Ganga" is used in various way. Such as, Town, Living Area or as a Race or sometime as a Kingdom. So the Gangaridi captured all the Ganga Basin in ancient time.

Megasthenes's 'Indica' is the only source of the History of the Gangaridi race. Though after Greek and Roman writers told Megasthenes a 'liar' but theyquate Megasthenes in their texts. Megasthenes was the first person to observe and realize the lives of Indians. Even rundown very small habits of the Indians.<sup>14</sup> Megasthenes had collected the information about the lower Ganges Basin from the folklores and legends.

There is no way but to quote Megasthenes and his sources write the history of Gangaridi race. The unknown sailor of Periplus also describe Ganganagar and Gangaridi race. According to Dr. Sukumar Sen, the example of '*Gangayang Ghoshh*' described by ancient Grammarian, meant the Basin of Ganga. The 'Karaheed Inscryption' of Krishna-III dated 958 A.D. had mentioned that the term the 'Ganga' such as 'Dwarasthanga Kalinga Jana Magadha utchittanj O schirong.' The using of the terms in that inscription, remained us that Ganga might be a place.<sup>15</sup>

In spite of debate, most of the scholars thought that 'Gangaridi was situated in the Basin of Ganges Basin. According to Megasthenes, the distance between Patliputra and the meeting point of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal is 6000 stadia/stadio or 738 Roman miles. According to Hlinee this distance is 638 Roman miles. The present difference between these two places is 729 K.M. by road. It is quite possible, the distances varied due to the change of the course of rivers. Coastal erosion can also make difference in distances. The meeting point of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal or the Ganganagar Sangama was far southern before as other sources says. The measurement of Megasthenes's water-ways is 1.5 K.M. larger than present road-ways. But these two measurements are quite similar and logical.

Many signs of ancient civilization have been discovered in Deulpota/ Deulpota, Harinarayanpur, Mandirtala etc. in sundarban region. This evident prove that sagardip was the meeting point of the river Ganga and Bay of Bengal in ancient time. Plinee had written after quoting Megasthenes that the Kalinga race lived in coastal area. The Mondri and Malla race lived in the north of Kalinga and the Gangaridi race lived in the lower basin of the Ganges. Plinee had written about 101 races. He had mentioned the 'Makkokalinga' race as the 'Himaban' races they lived near the Himalayas. According to Ptolemy, the Andhra, the Mallo and the Tamralipta were situated at the north of coastal kalinga, while Gangaridi was situated in their eastern part. Plinee described the central kalinga as the Utkal of the southern part of Tamralipta. In the middle part of the kalinga and the Ganga-riddho kalinga, there runs the Ganges in the border of Utkal. In ancient time a tributary of the Saraswati or Cambysvm or Kangsabati runs from the southern Tamralipta to the Pingla, kharagpur, Narayangarh and Danton of midnapore and meet with the Bay of Bengal Srichaityana had reached in Narayangarh in water-ways from the Adi Ganga. So Central Kalinga was the almost Sub-Division of the Kanthi (Kantai). The nearer region of this part and the total deltaregion were the Madakalinga of Plinee. Plinee had described the Capital of Kalinga it was Portelis (Purbasthali or Burdhamaan). This Kalinga was Gangaridesh-Kalinga or the Gangaridh-Kalinga. The member of army of the Gangaridhs described by Plinee is as same as Salinus's description. It is probable that Gangaradai race lived in the middle part of North-east Tamralipta and Kalinga. This area is described in Ptolemy's maps the place of Gangaridi. Sometimes the total midnapore district is shown in the Kalinga. The Karbat state of the Mahabharat might be Gangaridi or Gangeyo Kalinga. Few researchers though Gangaridi as kalinga. But this theory is very weak to prove.

According to Plinee the capital of Ganga Basin Kalinga was portelis while Ptolemy and the sailor of Periplus said that Ganganagar was the capital of Gangaridi. So the existence of Ganganagar cannot be denied. Plinee, Ptolemy Salinus, Megasthenes had said that Kalinga, Andhra, Madhyo-Kalinga, Tamralipta were different state and different state also. Tamralipta and Mallo were included sometimes in Pracii or in Gangaridi state by the description of foreign travellers. No foreign ruler dared to conquer Gangaridi. Foreign sources said that Dhananda was the king of Pracii or Gangaridi. He might be the king of this two place. As the states were free, they had their ownnes. The Mallo race or the Tamralipta race could not be mentioned as the Gangaridi race or the Pracii race. The Ganga-ridesh kalinga referred the parts of Gangaridi and Kalinga where lived a race together. According to Ptolemy, the last eastern estuary of Ganga Basin or the Antibola/ the combined flow of the Padma-Buri ganga-Meghna were the eastern border of the Gangaridi. Diodorous also supported this opinion. In every foreign information, Gangaridi is explained as the last part of the Ganga Basin. In the map of Ptolemy, the Gangaridi is situated in the five estuaries of the river Ganges.

According to the native literacy sources, Somdutta was the ruler of Pundra in the time of Chandragupta Mouriya. Pundra was situated in the North of the river the Padma-Meghna. It was on the North Bengal and its capital was Pundranagar which was called Pudangal in local dialect. Banga was at the east of Pundra in that time. According to the Arthashastra of Kautilya, Satyananda was the king of banga. So except ancient Pundra and Banga, southern pundrabardhana the chandravidya were called Gangaridi. After discussing every source, it can be decided that, the south-western Maldah eastern part of Bihar, the eastern part of Murshidabad and Bardhaman, the river side region of Hooghly in the south-eastern part of Hooghly. Howrah-Midnapore north and south 24 pgs. Nadia Jessore Khulna, Faridpur and Bakherganj (districts of Bangladesh) together form the state of Gangaridi. It was also described in Ptolemy's map. Reseracher Narottam Halder thinks that the state of Gangaridi exists in Mauriyan period. With quotation from Megasthenes, Diodorous had written in 100 B.C. that, 'After flowing from north to south the Ganges meets

the Bay of Bengal and signifies eastern border of Gangaridi.' So it is clear that the lower Ganges Basin was the land of Gangaridi race and they had a prosperous Civilization. There was a large empire in ancient time in that area. It was called Gangaridi Civilization. Though it needs a lots or research. To prove the facts of the Civilization, lots of research might give light to the historical evident of that Civilization. Future generations will help in that fact. The delta of Sundarbans creates long after of the destruction of this Gangaridi Civilization.

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