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Title: Need to conserve the historical sites in and around Plassey and turn these into a heritage-cum-tourism circuit.

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (KRISHNANAGAR): Plassey village is in Nadia, West Bengal. It is famous as the site of Clive's victory over Siraj-uddawala, Nawab of Bengal on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1757 in the battle of Plassey that laid the foundation stone of British empire in India. Fort William was attacked on 19th June and British surrendered on 20<sup>th</sup> June. The English became aware of the might and military feat of Siraj. So they hatched a conspiracy to dethrone Siraj. On 01/05/1757, the Fort William Select Committee approved a plan to raise a revolution in Bengal to replace Siraj.

On 13/06/1757 Lord Clive started with troops to face Nawab. On 22/6/57 Clive reached Plassey grove, crossing Bhagirathi and he also received a communication from Mir Jafar etc, his secret allies confirming their support. Nawab's force was persuaded to retire, by Mir Jafar, Siraj's Chief Commander. Though patriot Mohanlal did not turn back, but he was also directed by Siraj to retire. Valiant Mir Madan & Bahadur Ali Khan laid down their lives during the battle. The inglorious battle was won by English through treachery.

In 1883, the imperial government erected on the spot a monument to commemorate the battle. The inscription upon it consisted of one word Plassey. This was later replaced by an Obelisk.

Heritage of a nation need to be preserved. Battle of Plassey which gave birth to our freedom struggle was the greatest and longest peoples movement in mankind's history.

So Plassey Monument and its surroundings be preserved and turned into a heritage-tourism circuit by the Union Government.