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Title: Need to declare the Nabadwip city in West Bengal as a National Heritage City.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): Nabadwip city in Nadia district in West Bengal under my constituency Ranaghat is situated on the western bank of the Bhagirathi river. It was a centre of learning and philosophy in medieval India and is still noted for its traditional Sanskrit schools. The great Vaishnava saint, social reformer and an important figure of the Bhakti movement, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born here, making this place an important pilgrimage centre in Bengal. Many devotees from worldwide who adhere to Gaudiya Vashnavism come to Navadwip for pilgrimage on the auspicious occasion of the Birthday celebration of Shri Mahaprabhu on the Phalguni Purnima (i.e. on the Full moon day of the March every year), and for various festivals in relation to Leelas of Shri Mahaprabhu like Sri Nabadwip-Mandala Parikrama and other festivities like Dol jatra, Ras purnima and Gaura-purnima.

Nabadwip was the capital of Bengal Empire under the regime of Ballal Sen and Lakshman Sen, the famous rulers of the Sen Empire. Nabdwip and Nadia were great centres of learning and intellectual progress. For five centuries, it was referred to as "Oxford of Bengal".

In the 2011 census, Nabadwip Urban Agglomeration had population of 175,474 and Average literacy rate of Nabadwip city is 87.75 percent. State government helps in many ways with its limited resources. Considering all these, I urge upon the Central Government to come forward to declare Nabadwip as National Heritage City. Sufficient funds under different Central Government schemes should be given to Nabadwip to improve all ancient heritage infrastructures and modern amenities for better life.