

# Social and Cultural History of a Bengal District Jalpaiguri 1869-1994

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**Abstract – The locale Jalpaiguri, previously, had a discriminative character dissimilar to different pieces of Bengal since its origin considering different viewpoints, for example, financial statistic design, ethnic social orders, topographical area, land income reason and ultimately the qualities of laborers and agrarian relations. Jalpaiguri region was shaped in 1869 with the Western Dooars, arranged in the Eastern piece of Tista and the Sadar Sub-Division including with Baikunthapur Pargana, Chaklas of Boda, Patgram and Purbabhad, arranged in the Western Part of Tista. It ought to be noticed that on the eve of the development of the locale, the Dooars region was basically overwhelmed by the inborn individuals on the sloping zones and the individuals of Rajbanshi people group in the plain territories of the Dooars. The general public of the inborn individuals was essentially ethnic based. They were administered without anyone else's input by their lifestyle following their ethnic culture keeping themselves out of the ambit of the alleged city society. In the for all time settled bit of the region arranged in the Western piece of the waterway Tista and the plain zones of the Western Dooars the vast majority of the individuals were Rajbanshis and neighborhood Muslims in the pre-frontier and pilgrim period. There were numerous discussions with respect to the root or ethnic character of the Rajbanshi individuals. However, the majority of the researchers have conceded that the Rajbanshi individuals and the indigenous Muslims privately known as Nasya Sheik of the locale and the neighboring zones of Cooch Behar started from same gathering of human race for example Indo-Mongoloid race.**

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## INTRODUCTION

The present examination will investigate numerous basic parts of the socio-social state of the individuals of Jalpaiguri area in another measurement at the micro level-study. At the beginning, it very well may be said that the region, Jalpaiguri as a piece of North – Eastern district of India through the ages from pre – noteworthy period to the post-present day age has a socio-social and recorded significance and heritage. Disregarding that the standard students of history or educated people had not offered thoughtfulness regarding this district or the individuals, because of which numerous parts of various fields of the said area have not been developed. It ought to be referenced here that the composition of neighborhood history as that of Jalpaiguri locale isn't so natural on account of the scarcity of source materials and arranging far away from metropolitan city like Calcutta or Delhi wherefrom unpublished recorded sources can be utilized effectively. In spite of that, I have attempted my best to investigate numerous un-talked about and unexplored issue including recorded sources, Government and private report various sorts of composing – materials, for example, region gazetteers, statistics reports, diaries, periodicals, monographs, books, expositions and most dependable and bona fide sources that is oral

sources gathered from meet with different communities, political pioneers, laborers, Jotdars, chukanidars and adhiars of the time. The area Jalpaiguri, previously, had a discriminative character dissimilar to different pieces of Bengal since its beginning considering different angles, for example, financial statistic design, ethnic social orders, topographical area, land income reason and finally the qualities of workers and agrarian relations.

### Locale of high points and low points

The separation was likewise followed in the various locale of North Bengal. This area, generally from Karotoya to Brahmaputra was a piece of Pragjyotishpur, Kamrup, Kamtapur and Koch realm. Many high points and low points have occurred in this locale. In this locale not at all like different pieces of Bengal the impact of Indo-Mongoloid race was followed in the general public and culture. It is pertinent to examine the foundation of the locale, Jalpaiguri. Prior to the commencement of the locale in 1869, it was a piece of Koch Kingdom including enormous zones of North Bengal and Assam, established by Haria Mandal, a Mech pioneer in Chikna slope. Haria Mandal had two spouses in particular Hira and Jira and four children in particular Bisu, Sishu, Chandan

and Madan. It is debateable that who climbed the position of royalty in the Koch realm after the passing of Haria Mandal.

It is accepted from various sources that Chandan turned into the King yet he was not ground-breaking, the genuine power was in the hands of Bisu. After Chandan, Bishu turned into the King taking the title 'Singha'. Biswa Singha as a Koch King took acknowledgment from his mom's ancestry as a custom of the clans; in light of the fact that the ancestors of Biswa Singha from his dad side were Mech and from his mom side were Koch. Biswa Singha and his successors turned out to be bit by bit hinduised by receiving religion and culture.

***To guidance of the imperial executives and for this activity Dhairjendra Narayan***

Since 1773 the real went under British Dominion, in any case, twelve rulers administered the realm close around 400 years which was a radiant sign throughout the entire existence of North Bengal and Bengal as a whole. The Koch realm was bit by bit being flimsier since the rule of Upendra Narayan (1714–1763) due to shortcoming and clashes of the Koch rulers because of which the Bhutanese involved the outskirt territories of Bhutan and Koch Behar, to be specific the regions of Dooars. After the passing of King Upendra Narayan, Debendra Narayan just an offspring of 4 years rose the position of authority; the regulatory work really was led by the clergymen educated by regal mother with respect to the ruler. Be that as it may, following two years, at six years old years, the lord was killed by a Brahman named Rati Sharma because of a trick of Rajguru Ramananda Goswami. The security powers murdered Rati Sharma on the spot and Ramananda Goswami was condemned to death by Bhutan Raj.

Dhairjendra Narayan, the third child of Kharga Narayan turned into the King in 1765. Following climbing the honored position, King Dhairjendra Narayan murdered Dewan Rama Narayan for the abhorrent guidance of the imperial executives and for this activity Dhairjendra Narayan was captured and held under Bhutanese control, and Rajendra Narayan, the senior sibling of Dhairjendra Narayan rose the royal position. After his passing in 1772 Dharendra Narayan, the child of Dhairjendra Narayan turned into the lord. Yet, Bhutia lord was not happy with this crowning ceremony, so the Bhutanese attacked Koch Behar. In this basic circumstance and defenselessness, the Nazir Deo appealed to God for help to the British and at last a settlement was marked between Col.

Warren Hastings and the King on the fifth April, 1773. By the arrangements of the bargain Koch Behar turned into a piece of Bengal Presidency and transformed into a tributary state, they involved the regions from the Bhutanese and the captured King Dhairjendra Narayan was protected by the English.<sup>3</sup>

The forceful exercises on the individuals of Koch Behar by the Bhutias was passing by pillaging different things, riches and abusing the individuals of Koch Behar. The Bruisers were not ready to energize the Bhutia Kings as a result of their business enthusiasm with Tibet through Bhutan. For their expanding forceful frame of mind to Koch Behar especially over the Dooars, the Britishers couldn't be quiet; they sent a crucial Esley Eden in 1863. Be that as it may, the Bhutia regal power offended Eden massively in the royal residence of Bhutan and he had been constrained to sign an arrangement which was defamatory to the Britishers. So they attacked Bhutan and began second Anglo – Bhutan war which finished with the arrangement of Sinchula in 1865.

After control of the Dooars, the present area was shaped with the Western Dooars since 1865 and the Jalpaiguri and Rajganj Thanas of Rangpur locale since 1869. The region along these lines, framed in 1869, limited in the North by the Darjeeling locale and Bhutan, in the East by Assam in the South by 4 Rangpur area in Bangladesh and Koch Behar region and in the West by Darjeeling region and part of Bangladesh. The separate territories of the two subdivisions of the locale Sadar and Alipurduar have changed from decade to decade.

One significant question is the reason have I picked such kind of point and the region of research like Jalpaiguri locale? Right off the bat it is applicable to make reference to here that the examination chip away at social and social level either in national level or in territorial level is dismissed still at this point. The majority of the famous researchers and students of history are anxious to include themselves in the composition of national and worldwide history, however as of late a few researchers are coming to investigate different parts of society and culture at miniaturized scale level. Be that as it may, it is additionally obvious that the standard students of history or researchers have not approached to investigate the historical backdrop of society and culture of the region, Jalpaiguri, however it is generally especially advanced. Also, there is no locale conceivable in the state just as in the nation like Jalpaiguri where numerous multi-dimensional statistic example and culture is existed for which the region might be designated "Scaled down India". So investigate the disregarded and undiscussed parts of the social and social history of the region Jalpaiguri, I have picked the present subject. We have no book or thorough work about this theme of chronicled significance; however we got just a couple of compositions in a few papers and diaries. An examination investigation, in this manner on "The Social and Cultural history, of a Bengal region, Jalpaiguri: 1869-1994" is most extreme important.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Preceding the development of the area in 1869, it very well may be talked about the historical backdrop of the district partitioning in pre-notable and memorable period. In the ancient time frame this territory was under Pragjyotishpur, a huge tract limited on the north by the kunjagiri, on the east by the slope, Himalaya and on the west by the Korotoya and it extended southward to the extent the intersection of the Laksha with of 26 the Brahmaputra.4And comprising with present Assam, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Manipur, Jayantiya, Kachhar, Shreehatta and some piece of Mymensing locale. The occupants of this locale were Indo-Mongoloid race, Known as Kirata and the tract was administered by Bhagadatta who participated in the clash of Kurukshetra is referenced in the Mahabharata.5The character and the exercises of the 'Kiratas' has likewise been referenced in the 'Kiskindhya Kanda' of 'Ramayana'. Later on, Bodos, the network began from Indo-Mongoloid race settled and ruled around there through significant stretch and from that point the noteworthy time of this tract was begun, however the insights concerning them and their district has yet not been established as a result of the scarcity of the sources. In the Historic time frame, the ruler Bhaskar Barman (2012) was one of the significant and most prominent rulers of the North Eastern locale of India in 7<sup>th</sup> century A. D. He was contemporary of Harshabardhana, a conspicuous ruler of Thanesar in North India and Shashanka of Gaur.

Bhaskar Barman (2013) founded the realm in a bigger zone of North Eastern locale of India comprising with Brahmaputra Valley, portions of Surma Valley and the Northern piece of Bengal. Bhaskar Barman as a lord from his notoriety, exercises can be put throughout the entire existence of every single Indian setting. He had the option to make collusions with Harsh Bardhana, (2012) the celebrated lord of North India, however the connection between Bhaskar Barman and Shashanka of Gouda was not ideal. After Bhaskar Barman, the historical backdrop of this district is bleak, as the historical backdrop of this tract isn't known till the establishment of the Koch administration. All can't help thinking that the Aryan culture went into this tract after so extensive stretch than different parts of India. It is established in Oitereya Brahman that rulers of five tradition of non-Aryan managed this area roughly 1000 B. C, in particular Pundra, Sabara, Pulinda, Andhra and Motiva's and they all were Dravidian race.

Baidyadeva, the military official of Ram Pala attacked and involved Kamrup around in 1127 A. D and controlled this territory as medieval lord. After the demise of Ram Pala, Baidyadev proclaimed opportunity and administered his realm as an Independent king.6 The successor of Baidyadeva, Prithu climbed the position of royalty of Kamrup in 1195 A.D. In supreme Gazetteer of India, Vol, XIV, it

is referenced "there are broad remainders at Bhitargarh, which is said to have framed the capital of Shudra lord named Prithu.

"7 Prithu shielded this domain from the intrusion of Bakhtiar Khalji. After the destruction of Prithu in the clash of Panchagar, his child Sandha Roy came into a partnership with Nasiruddin, vowed to give tribute. However, in the wake of leaving the spot Sandha turned out to be free and moved his capital into Kamtapur in 1228 (A.D. rough). After Sandha Roy his child, turned into the lord of Kamtapur. During his rule Sukpha, the lord of Ahom realm attacked Kamrup. After the demise of Sindhu, Rupnarayan, the child of Sindhu rose the royal position and after his passing his child Singhadhawaja turned into the lord of Kamtapur in 1300 A. D. He was killed by his priest Manik and Manik turned into the ruler taking title 'Protapdhawaja'. After the unexpected passing of Protapadhawaja, DharmaNarayan acquired from Baidya administration caught control and moved the capital from Kamtapur to Dimla (present day Rangpur) and after Dharma Narayan the realm was involved by Durlav Narayan, the successor of Protapdhawaja in 1330 A.

D. After Durlav Narayan, Indra Narayan reined the domain. After Indra Narayan, Arittam or Sashanka rose the position of royalty in 1335 A. D. As indicated by Scholars Arittam was acquired from Baidyadev Dyanasty. After the passing of Arittam, the realm was administered by the rulers specifically Gajanka (2014), Sukranka (2013) and Mriganka (2013). After Mriganka, Niladhawaja of Khen administration involved Kamtapur realm. After the passing of Niladhawaja, Kamtapur was managed by Chakradhwaja (2016) and Nilambar (2017). During the rule of Nilambar, Hussain Shah assaulted the kamtapur and Kamtapur lost her freedom for unexpected period. Kamtapur was re-involved by Nagadhakshya in around 1502 A.D.

The successor of Nagadhaksha was Durlavendra. He had the option to monitor a piece of Kamtapur. As a successor of Durlavendra Sucharu Chandra controlled the realm and he was vanquished by Nara Narayan in 1555 A.D and lost the power. During the last piece of fifteenth century, Hariya Mandal, a 'Sardar' or Mandal was a pioneer of the Meches and he was likewise a proprietor arranged around the Chikna slope. From the anthropological perspective Koches were a blended network of the Dravidian and Bodos.

Disregarding being a non-Aryan people group Koches acknowledged the Aryan language and culture in many regard. Haria Mandal in such a manner established the Koch realm 50 miles from Dhubri in Sonkosh to Champa River. Haria Mandal had two spouses to be specific Hira and Jira and

four children specifically Chandan, Madan, Bishu and Sishu.

After Haria Mandal, Chandan turned into the ruler and after Chandan, Bishu turned into the lord of Koch realm taking the title 'Singha' and caught Kamtapur for the shortcoming and destruction of the Khen tradition by Alauddin Hussain Shah. Dr. Subhajyoti Roy expresses, "It tends to be accepted that the start of the Koch majesty in the capacity of their progenitors to join under a type of a brought together initiative a few little faction based units which had occupied with moving development under the Mandals."8 Biswa Singh as a ruler taking the acknowledgment from his mom parentage generally speaking of ancestral custom in light of the fact that the forerunners of Biswa Singha from his dad side were Mech and from his mom side was Koch. Biswa Singha and his successors turned out to be bit by bit Hinduanised taking Hindu religion and culture. Indeed, even the title was not the first; he was signified with the Kshatriya title. Dr. Subho jyoti 2015 Roy expresses, "I will contend that the beginning of the Rajbanshi personality establish in the framework of the Koch realm, Under the Haria Mandal 29 and the progressive procedure of 'Hinduanised' of the clan under the more trademark ruler Biswa Singha and Naranarayan."9 Koch Kings were ground-breaking in the sixteenth and seventeenth century.

Mirzumla, the Subeder of Bengal under the Mughal attacked Cooch Behar in 1661. Taking cover in Bhutan Koch rulers battled against Mirzumla, therefore Mughal armed force had completely been severed and an arrangement was finished up between Koch lord and Shayastha Khan in 1665. Atabat Khan again assaulted Cooch Behar in 1687 and he entered four miles into Cooch Behar and involved Kaikana Chakla of Cooch Behar. In these conditions, Raikot lord of Baikunthapur got together with Cooch Behar despite having conflict between Cooch Behar and Baikunthapur and they made counter assault mutually against the Mughals, because of which a settlement was marked in 1699 between Alikuli Khan, the Mughal fauzder and Koch ruler Rupnarayan. As per the bargain Fatehpur, Kazir cap, Kaikana Chakla (a region of land) went under Cooch Behar.

Numerous Chits (enclaves) of Cooch Behar made later on in these three Chaklas. Yet, Nawab Nazim of Bengal Suba denied the settlement and new fauzder Nizamattulla was named instead of Alikuli Khan and battle was begun. Sheik Yaar Mahammad involved the three Chaklas and he began to abide in the Cooch Behar outskirts. The laborers of the zone were abused by the military of the Mughals and broke out into a defiance. Understanding the circumstance, the Nawab of Bengal consented to give these three Chaklas to Cooch Behar by understanding or rent. Chhetra Nazir Santanu of Koch ruler took three Chaklas by rent. At this point towns of this region were involved by the Mughal

armed force. These towns became Chits or enclaves of Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) later on.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To discover the between square level outright dissimilarity based on social, financial and infrastructural pointers inside the region; and
2. To assess the general situation of the individual squares regarding level of improvement inside the region.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The general public of Jalpaiguri was shaped during the pioneer time frame. Here it is discovered that a multi-dimensional society was framed including indigenous individuals and moved individuals of different ranks, religions and classes. These individuals moved in the region, Jalpaiguri, especially in Western Dooars for different reasons for whom an enormous number of individuals came here for getting lands and became Jotdars or delegates. Also, an enormous number of individuals went into this tract for tea development of whom many were owners, chiefs and authorities of tea-domains and a significant bit were moved as a worker principally Santals, Oraons, Madesias and so on from Chhotanagpur and Santal Parganas. Other than these, an enormous number of individuals of Nepali people group additionally moved around there time to time. In this part an image of the social situation of the locale will be introduced. At the beginning, I might want to make reference to here that the social history of Jalpaiguri especially in the Dooars had an unmistakable character dissimilar to different pieces of Bengal, comprehensively talking about India for which the Jalpaiguri area is known as a "Smaller than expected India" still today, Sailen Debnath, in his book called attention to, 'North Bengal is the best case of pluralistic culture speaking to the social decent variety of the entire of India as a numerous India. The Bengalis of southern delta regularly unmindful of the pluralistic idea of North Bengal perpetually submit missteps underscoring much on supposed 'Bengali culture' even if there should arise an occurrence of North Bengal.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Thus, the moved individuals originating from East Pakistan (Present Bangladesh) settled in various pieces of North Bengal who take cover in the terrains of neighborhood Jotdars. Especially, in the area of Jalpaiguri gigantic number of displaced people relocated and settled in the various pieces of the locale. On the off chance that we experience the measurements of the statistic example of the

region, it would be cleared what number of individuals moved in the region from 1920s to 1970s as somewhere else in various pieces of West Bengal.

The following table shows the changing demographic pattern of the district

**Population of Jalpaiguri with variations, 1931-1951**

	1931	Variations 1921- 1931	1941	Variation 1931- 1941	1951	Variation 1941- 1951
Jalpaiguri District	739,160	+45,104	845,702	+106,542	914,538	+68,836
Sadar Subdivision	466,087	+15,262	524,884	+58,797	546,142	+21,258
Alipurduar Subdivision	273,073	+29,842	320,812	+47,745	368,396	+47,578

**CONCLUSION**

The present proposition has examined numerous basic and undiscussed parts of the socio - social state of the individuals of the locale Jalpaiguri. A great deal of changes had been occurred during the pioneer time frame in the field of society, economy and culture of the area. The region was basically partitioned into two tracts as per land income frameworks and agrarian economy specifically perpetual settled bit for the most part arranged toward the Western piece of Tista and nonregulated zones generally arranged in the eastern piece of Tista called Western Dooars. In the town society of the area the agrarian connection between Zamindars-Jotdars and tenant farmers assumed a critical job. In the Western Dooars, Government was the owner of terrains that implies every one of the grounds of the Western Dooars were leveled out of the Government. As a large portion of the grounds were miserable with brimming with wildernesses, some place populace were pitiful, so the Britishers caught every one of the terrains, began overview and settlement works since 1871 and after review and settlement works they utilized the terrains in three different ways – right off the bat they gave arrives by rent to the grower for tea-development, the first teagarden was set up in 1874 at Gajaldoba and from that point forward the quantity of teagarden expanded continuously as the tea-development was gigantic beneficial. Besides land was allowed by rent for rural purposes, at the underlying phase of making Jotes in the wake of clearing wildernesses, no expense or income was forced, however following not many years income was forced and the income expanded one after settlement. Be that as it may, there was no adequate individuals to develop the land, so cultivators or Jotdars had been urged to come and get land with least cost of income or lease because of which populace had been going up for the 265 migration of various sorts of individuals from

neighboring state Cooch Behar, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Nepal.

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