

CHAPTER - I

Introduction

A Geographical Landscape of North-East India

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION: A GEOGRAPHICAL LANDSCAPE OF NORTH- EAST INDIA

The North Eastern part of India comprises with Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim including the Northern districts of West Bengal. But the geographical region of the present study confines with some districts of Assam (Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Bijni, Kamrup and Darrang), Meghalaya (Tura district), Tripura, some district of Bangladesh (Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi, and Mymensingh), Northern District of West Bengal (Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, North and South Dinajpur and Malda), some districts of Bihar (Katihar, Purnea, and Kishanganj) and some districts of Nepal (Jhapa and Morang). Except the princely state of Cooch Behar, the portions of Bihar and Nepal it was formerly known as Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Baranadi sets the Eastern boundary and the Brahmaputra rivers while the Tista- Karotoya and the Mahananda from the western boundary. On the North by the Himalayas, and confluence of the Brahmaputra and the Karotoya in Rangpur (Bangladesh) up to Padma considered as the southern boundary of this region.

1.1. Physiographic features:

The physiographical features of North Eastern part of India present unity, diversity, and integrity in the midst of diversity and variety. It has a great variety of natural features in different tracts. It stretches

from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Padma on the South, from part of the great Gangetic plain and is wholly alluvial, with the exception of a strip of sub-montane country in Jalpaiguri and of an elevated tract of quasi-laterite soil, known as the Barid, on the confines of the districts of Dinajpur, Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra. The general level of the country is very low especially in Rangpur and the centre part of Rajshahi, where the rivers have silted up and there is a network of moribund streams and watercourses. In extreme North, the Sinchula Hills in Jalpaiguri rise abruptly to a height of from 4000 to 6000 feet; but the tract lying south of this within the angles formed by the coverings channels of the Ganges and Brahmaputra is a river, alluvial country, which stretches North Eastwards from the Ganges and Southwards from the sub-montane forest belt, in an expanse of almost monotonous fertility, clothed with perennial turf, and well provided with water carriage.

The Northern part is adorned on her North by the highest mountain system in the world, the Himalayans with its majestic peaks, the Mt. Everest (29040 feet) and the Kanchanjangha (28,146 feet). In Darjeeling areas, tertiary rocks (soft massive sandstones) occur as narrow bands along the foot of the Himalayas. Further north, occur Goundwanas (Sand shine quartzite, Shale and beds of friable anthracite coal) over lain by a thousand feet of slates, philitely and quartzite. The higher slopes are formed of hard gneisses and mica-schist.¹ The eastern part stretches the Brahmaputra valley, which forms an alluvial plain about 450 miles long with an average breadth of 50 miles. About the centre of the valley, there is a tract of mountainous country known as the Mirik Hills, which covers areas of about 2000 square miles, and contains peaks upwards of 4000 feet in height. Low hill of gneisses rock are also found on both sides of the river in the neighbourhood of Guwahati and Goalpara, but elsewhere

there is little to interrupt the even level of the plain. The Brahmaputra, through the greater part of its course is bounded on either by side by stretches of marshland covered with high grass jungle. Further inland the level rise, and there is a belt, usually of considerable breath of permanent cultivation, and the staple crop rose being transplanted rice. In most part of the valley, this belt supports a dense population, but nearer the hill, cultivation again falls off, and grassy plains and forests stretch to their feet. The general aspect of the valley is picturesque. On a clear day, the view to both the North and the south is bounded by hills, while behind the lower ranges of the Himalayas snowy peaks glisten in the Sun. The rich-fields are interspersed with groves of feathering bamboos, and on every side there are rivers, woods, and pools. The slopes of the lower hills are clothed with forests, and the rivers that debouch upon the plain issue through gorges of exceptional beauty.

A mountain system known as the Assam Range separates the valley just described from that of the Surma. The range projects at right angles from the Burmese system, running almost due east and west. The Central portions consists of a fine table -land at an elevation of nearly 6,000 feet above the level of the sea; but on the east and west alike the hills as a rule, take the form of sharply serrated ridges. The highest point in British territory is Mount Japvo in the Naga Hills, whose summit is nearly 10,000 feet above the Sea- level. The Surma valley is flat pain about 125 miles long by 60 wide shut in on three sides by ranges of hills. The Western end of this valley lies very low, and as in vest of the Delta, the banks of the rivers are the highest portion of the country. During the rains, the greater part of Western Syllet the conditions of life are less unfavorable. Blue hills bound the view on every side, and the villages are surrounded by dense groves of fruit trees. The hill rises like a wall along

the northern borders, but on the south outlying ranges from the Tippera system project into the valley.

The southern portion of this part includes the delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, and is mainly alluvial; but on the confines of Dacca and Mymensingh the Madhupur Jungles a tract with a stiff clay soil resembling that of the Barind. It rises above the alluvium and in the southeast, the hill range that divides Assam from Burma projects into it. It is a great deltaic tract, enriched by annual deposits of fertilizing silt from a hundred interlacing rivers, and possessed of an abundant water supply. Owing to the annual overflow of the great rivers that traverse it, this tract remains practically under water for six months of the year, the villages stand on little mounds rising from the waste of waters and at this season, boats are the only means of communication. The alluvial rice fields cease as the rivers draw near the sea, and this portion of the delta is an intricate system of Sea- creeks and half formed island, densely clothed in many places with jungles and sparsely inhabited. On the southeastern frontier, a succession of low ranges covers the east of the Chittagong Division and Hill Tippera. None of them is of any great height, but the Sittakund Hill rises to 1,155 feet in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. They attain a greater attitude, the higher peaks being Keokradang (4,034 feet) and Pyramid Hill (3,016 feet).² These hills are covered by cultivated river valleys; a narrow strip of rice land divides them from the sea and to the south a series of low flat islands skirt the coast, while the shores have the same mangrove vegetation as in the Sundarbans.

The Himalayan foothills of North Bengal from a part of the Eastern Himalayas, and broadly consists of east-west trending strike ridges. These are dissected by North-South river gorges. The topography

is relatively more rugged in the eastern part, i.e. in the Duars. Of the major rivers there are broadly two sub-divisions—some of these ,e.g. Tista and Toorsa etc. originate from the Tibetan region and flow across the entire range, while others e.g. Mahanadi, Balason etc, originate somewhere within the hill ranges of North Bengal or little beyond.

Geologically North Bengal Himalayas can be divided into three zones- an outer belt of Siwalik frontal range, a medium narrow belt of Damuda range, and the inner range of the metamorphoses.³

The outer belt consists of northwardly dipping homoclinal to gently folded Siwalik formations, giving rise to low hill ranges whose altitudes rarely exceed 900 metres (3,000 feet). The hill ranges of the Damadu formation represent a low-lying range in between the higher hills of the Siwaliks and those of the metamorphites. They rarely exceed 750 metres (2,500 feet) .These two belts together usually constitute the sub-Himalayas. The hill ranges of the inner belt are usually about 1,000-2,500 metres (3,260-8200), this constitute the Lesser- Himalayas. In Darjeeling hills the outer zones of the inner belt is occupied by the Dalings, which gradually give place to the Darjeeling gneisses in structural levels towards the inner zone. In Duars the out zone is occupied by the Buxas.⁴

At the foot of the Himalayas, the Tarai region is covered with dense forests. Mainly valuable Sal (shores robust) trees clothe this Tarai area covering Jalpaiguri district and stretching about a quarter of the 2,000-s.q miles (5,180 km). As the mountain slopes down to the foothills, the density of forests becomes more and more gearing. The plains in the district of Jalpaiguri known as Duars (Duar-door)also abound with forest. The Duars forests densely wooded with evergreen vegetation are the

resorts of wild animals including the Royal Bengal Tiger, rhinoceros, elephants, antelopes and different species of snakes including the python. To the east, khasi Jayantia, Garo and Lusai hill areas are also covered with forests. Hence, mountain, hills, forests, jungles fertile plains tract and mountain passes are common geographical features of the North – Eastern part of India which are equally related to the mode of production, socio-economic and cultural format and political history of this region.

1.2. The River systems:

The river system is the heart of civilization of the North Eastern part of India. The rivers like the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, the Meghana and their tributaries have indeed built up the whole landmasses of Northern Bengal making it a region of most fertile alluvial plains for human habitation. The alluvial plains of Bengal may be conveniently divided into four parts – i) Western Bengal (old delta); ii) Eastern Bengal (New Delta) ; iii) Central Bengal part of New and iv) North Bengal (The Ganga- Brahmaputra Doab).⁵ We have to discuss the alluvial plain of North Bengal(The Ganga- Brahmaputra Doab).

The Ganges and the Brahmaputra Doab on the Delta of North Bengal extends from North to South between the towers spurs of the Himalaya and the Ganges. Along the banks of the Tista, the Brahmaputra and the Meghana, the river-silt deposits or silt- loams predominate. Sandy loams cover alluvial plains in the North. This soil has been derived from the mountain- regions of the Himalaya and this is carried by the hill-rivers like the Tista, Mahananda, Toorsa, Jaldhaka and the other tributaries. The soil of this area is acidic and poor in base.

The rivers which are numerous and followed north-south, originate from Sikkim, Bhutan, and Darjeeling hills (except Toorsa which originates from Tibet) and can be divided into two system namely the Brahmaputra river system and the Ganga river system. The Brahmaputra river system contains the following rivers; namely Tista (with its tributaries), Jaldhaka, Toorsa, Kaljani, Raidak and Sankosh, while the Ganga river system contains the Mahananda with its tributaries.⁶ The main rivers of the Northeastern part of India are as follows.

The Mahananda, originating at Chimla at an altitude of 20,060 m or 6763' in the Darjeeling district and flowing in a southern direction, alters its course slightly at Siliguri and then enters the Jalpaiguri district, remaining there for some distance. It has a total catchments area of 25,043 sq km,(9,669 sq miles at its confluence with Ganges out of which 6,755 sq.km.(2,608 sq.miles) lies in West Bengal.⁷ The river also goes by the name of Mahanadi, which is said to be a Bengali corruption of the Lepcha word 'Mahaldi'.⁸

Dr. Francis Buchanan Hamilton writing in 1809 thus narrates the course of the river within the district of Jalpaiguri. It has, indeed, a channel of no small size; day season the quantity of water is trifling, and even in the highest floods does not over the banks. It rises suddenly and falls quickly, so that boats do not attempt to navigate it; and even in the rainy season, it is only frequented by canoes, which ascend with difficulty but aid in floating down a little timber. In day weather, its stream is beautifully clear. The river also receives at various points- three small branches, which arises from springs in the fields of *Sannyasikatha*. They are called Trinai, Ronchondi and the divided course of Choker and Dank.

The Tista is the largest river of North Bengal and passes through the districts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. It originates from the glaciers of North Sikkim at an altitude of 6,400 metres. The parts of Sikkim and Darjeeling district from its catchments before it enter the plain near Sinok. It enters the district of Jalpaiguri at its North-west corner. It is formed mainly by the union of two Streams, Lachen and Lachung at Chunthang in Sikkim. It flows through Baikunthapur and by the east of Jalpaiguri town. It has been identified with the ‘Vedic *Sadanira*’⁹ though such identification cannot be fully accepted.¹⁰ It has been suggested that *Sadanira* formed the Western boundary of Pragjyotishpur (Assam) during the ancient days. The Kosala king fought with the Panis on its bank which was known as Karatoya in the *Puranic* days. Karatoya has been mentioned in the *Mahabharat* and that Mahasthangarh (now in Bogra in Bangladesh) was situated on the bank of the Karatoya .The Chinese Pilgrim Yuan Chwang crossed this river to go to Pragjyotishpur.¹¹ The Karatoya used to determine the western boundary of the ancient Kamarupa .¹² It was the natural frontier between the Mughal power and the Koch Kingdom.¹³ It is said that the Bodos named this river Tista or Dista as in the Bodo language ‘*ti*’ and ‘*di*’ stand for water. It has been suggested that *Sadanira* is rendered as Tista in the Bodo language. It is said that the Tista- Karatoya of the plain took the name of *Korto* when the Koches came down to Pragjyotishpur while the name of the river in the hill remain Tista. The socio-cultural format and economy of the western part of the Koch Kingdom were closely linked with the Tista. Many Rajbanshi peoples live in the banks of this river Tista. Some eminent linguists write their novel with this people like *Tistaparer Britanta* of Debesh Ray and some little magazine also named after Tista namely *Teestaparer Katha* edited by Arabinda Kar etc.

The Toorsa originates in the Chumbi Valley in Southern Tibet at an elevation of 7,060 metre. It flows for about 144 km in West Bengal. On leaving West Bengal, it flows through Bangladesh and joins the Brahmaputra near Nageswari in the Rangpur district. The Raidak and the Sankosh reivers join it on its left bank in Bangladesh before merging into Brahmaputra. The river bifurcates into two courses namely; Chaur Toorsa (West) and Sili Toorsa (East) just before the Hashimara road bridge. The two courses coverage near Patlakhawa forest in Couch Behar district. Before 1954, Sili Toorsa, the easatern course, used to carry the major portion of the discharge, but after the floods of 1954 chaur Toorsa, the Western course, began taking a greater portion of the discourse. At present, however, Sili Torsa is the major channel.

The Toorsa or ‘toya-rosha’ meaning ‘angry water’ has been the “ Sorrow of Cooch Behar” for over two centuries and still shows no signs of having been appeased ¹⁴. The river is so capricious that any description of its course may becomes only a matter of history by the time the ink is dry . It has so frequently changed it course during the east two hundred years that the entire northern portion of Mathabhanga police station is a country laid waste by its caprice. Prosperous villages devastated and abandoned and the whole country is full of innumerable abandoned channels of the river covered with sand banks. Rich fields of tobacco and paddy were made barren by thick deposits of sand.

The river rises outsides India and flows through Bhutan where it receives the name Amo Chu ¹⁵. The river enters Cooch Behar from North between taluk Natabari in Paragana Mathabhanga and Bakshbos –Putimari in Paragana Cooch Behar and flows nearly south with a few fortuous bends up to the north of Barabhatta. Here the stream

bifurcates and one branch goes eastwards under the name Toorsa and other stream goes southward under the name of Dharla. The eastern branch of Toorsa proper now carries the main current. It passes by the south of the town of Cooch Behar and turning south –east. It receives the Ghangharia on its right bank after passing Mathabhanga and falls into the Kaljani in *taluk* Balarampur west of Tufanganja town. The southern branch under the name Dharla flows on in various turns and bends and passing about two miles west of Dinhata town falls into the Singimari in *taluk* Balarampur. The southern branch of this river is now in feeble current. Once it was a navigable river of the capital of the Kamata Kingdom established by the *Khenas*, Kamatapur the capital city of the *Khenas* and early Koch rulers was developed on its bank.

The only tributary of the Toorsa is the Ghangharia, which comes from the North West. It is formed by the union of two small streams outside the district in the western Duars. It enters the district in *taluk* Shibpur by the Northeast. After a flow of two miles by east of the *taluk*, it receives a small rivulet of the name Harimara which rises in the western Duars. It has a narrow steep channel; it may become turbulent at the height of the monsoon. Important political centre including the capital of the Koch Kingdom and cultural centre had been flourished on the bank of the Toorsa.

The Kaljani, Raidak, Jaldhaka, the Mansai, the Gadadhar and other small rivers flowing from Bhutan to southward are the tributary to the Toorsa. The Sankosh and the Brahmaputra are closely connected with the societal format of the western part of Koch kingdom.

The Mechi river forming the Indo-Nepal boundary rises at an altitude of 6,250 feet (1905 m) south of the west facing Rangbang a spur of the Singalia range at about 260 55' North, flows through a deep gorge throughout its hilly course and descends into the Bhabar tract where the bed suddenly widens to about 1,100 feet (335.30 m). Below this point, there is a long stretch of loose and water-worm gravel interested with water channels. Terraces flank the Mechi as well as Balasan at the point where the Sigalila slopes abruptly on to the plains. The Mechi flows past Loharghur, or 'iron hill', which lies in a dense forest. Its plain –ward flanks are very steep and covered with scattered weather –worn masses of ochreous and black iron- stone, but does not affect the compass. The Mechi eventually joins the Mahanada.¹⁶ In winter season water dry up in the Mechi river and huge people cross the river by walk through Galgalia(The Indo-Nepal border).¹⁷ Bhadrapur, the Rajbanshi dominated area of Jhapa district of Nepal is located on the bank of the river Mechi. As it flows through an international boarder, it played an important role in the socio-economic and cultural development of Bhadrapur and the adjacent areas of India.

The drainage system of North Eastern part of India particularly the Assam valley, the Brahmaputra has the most dominant control offering a unique example when considered along –with the other large rivers of India .¹⁸ The upper course of the Brahmaputra lies in the Tibet where it is known as the Tsangpo. It rises in the Kailas range of an elevation of about 5150 m. ¹⁹ The River is called the Dihang when it enters the Siang Division of NEFA in a southwestern course. At a point near Sadiya the Dihang from the north joins it and the Lohit from the east and it is from this point that the waters of the three streams flow as the mighty Brahmaputra. The Brahmaputra river system was the heart of

socio-political and economic life of the region. The Brahmaputra receives more than 35 major tributes from the northern bank, such the Subansiri, the Bharaeli, the Baranadi, the Pagladia, the Gadadhar, the Champamati , the Saralbhanga, the Manas, the Sankosh etc. Its notable tributaries from the south bank are the Noa- Dihang, Burhi-Dihang, the dishang, the Digaru, the Kulshi, the Singra, the Jiniram, Dudhnai, the Jhanji, the Kapili, the Dhansiri and the Krishnai etc.²⁰ Important centers of political power religious, cultural and trade and commerce mostly developed along the banks of the Brahmaputra system.

The net work of rivers of this region had significant role in the formation of states in the region since the beginning of the historical period. As the natural frontier, the river system had pertinent role in the defence of the territory. Floods as regular occurrence in the rivers had protected the region from the aggression of the hostility from Bengal.²¹

The rivers largely dominated the cultural format including animism of the tribal people. The *Kalika Purana*, complied in the region has highlighted the river system of Kamrupa and important religious cities at the river bank which is still existed in present time.²²

Foothills, hills and hillock of Western Assam and Duars (Mountain Pass) to Bhutan of sub-Himalayan Bengal were closely associated with the cultural format and mode of production of the people of the region. Total eighteen duars around Bhutan were the main trade route to Bhutan from Bengal and Assam.²³ These Duars had political role too.

The above geographical landscape in respect of hills, rocks, forest and distinction seasonal and climatic variations, excluding of course her rivers system which was form by gone days undergone considerable changes in regard to the river courses, dying out of rivers and emergence now outlet, of drainage. The physical features as outlined above have made North Bengal a well-fortified geographical entity having at her disposal all vital recourses need for human existence and progress. Alluvium, fertile soil and adequate seasonal rainfall have made Bengal *Sujala* and *Suphala* with bountiful agricultural crops and fruits. Accepting some days for cold and humid summer, all other seasons of North Eastern part of India are not only smoothing and pleasant, but also invigorating. Besides, the rivers of these regions perennial and non-perennial have been through countries the very life streams of her people providing all primary needs of man and other subsidiaries to be mated by human efforts and machinations. The natural beauty and other material recourses along with the seasonal and climatic characteristic, North Eastern part of India has been formed remote antiquity the most coveted and much sought for refuge for human settlements. It also became a veritable centre for the advancement of the creative facilities of man and their enrichments by adopting assimilating and synthezing new also by moulding them in her own fashion and thereby giving them a distinct stamp of Bengalese, Nepalese, Bhutias, Rajbanshis, Koches, Rabhas, and Bodos etc.

1.3. Historical background of Northern Bengal:

There is a popular history of Northern part of West Bengal since ancient time and this territory is popularly known as Uttar Banga. The British divided the state into some particular regions for

administrative purpose e.g. Madras Presidency, Bengal Presidency and Bombay Presidency. Before independence of India, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi and Pabna of Rajshahi Division were included into East Bengal. After Independence Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Malda and Western part of Dinajpur district were included with West Bengal and East Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi and Pabna of Rajshahi Division were remain in East Bengal. In 1949 on 12 September, an agreement has been signed to merge the Princely State of Cooch Behar under India Government.²⁴ The Government of India announced finally on 28th December 1949, that Cooch Behar should be merged with India Government by this agreement and the people of the state will be benefited and at the same²⁵. Finally, Cooch Behar was merged with West Bengal as a district on 1st January ,1950. In 1992 on 1st April the West Dinajpur district has been divided into Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur²⁶. Now, Uttar Banga consists of six districts of West Bengal i.e. Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda. On the other hand, the rest districts of Rajshahi Division –Rangpur, East Dinajpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, and Pabna included with East Pakistan and later in 1972 it became to known as Bangladesh.

The Rajbanshis are the indigenous people of Northern Bengal and they are the largest section of the Hindu population in the state of West Bengal. Swaraj Basu²⁷ had accepted this view while he says the Rajbanshis are the indigenous people of North Bangal and they are the 3rd largest Hindu Caste of West Bengal. The Rajbansi people have been living since ancient period in North Eastern part of India particularly in North Bengal (Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, the plain of Darjeeling District, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda),Rangpur, East Dinajpur,

North Eastern Part of Mymensingh district, Northern Part of Rajshahi and Bogra district of Bangladesh, Assam (Goalpara,Northern Part of Kamrup and western part of Naogaon dsitrect),Meghalaya, Eastern part of Purnia district, Katihar and some parts of Kishanganj district of Bihar. The Rajbanshis are found in Tripura and Nepal. According to Census Report of 1961, the Rajbanshis have been living all over West Bengal except Purulia district.²⁸ Therefore, it is cleared that the Rajbanshi people are living not only the present North Bengal of West Bengal but also in Bangladesh, Nepal,Assam, Meghalaya ,Tripura and Bihar. The present study would like to be highlighted the problem of Rajbanshis in North- Eastern part of India and Nepal and Bangladesh.

1.4. Historical Name of the North Eastern Part of India:

The ancient scriptures viz *Puranas*, *Yoginitantra*, *Mahabharata*, *Copper plates*, foreign travelers accounts and historical and anthropological evidences have recorded different names of this region viz. *Pragjyotishpur*, *Kamrup*, *Pundrabhumi*, *Louhitya*, *Goudabhumi* or *Barendra Bhumi*, *Kamatapur* and *Kamata Cooch- Behar* etc.²⁹

1.4.1.Pragjyotishpur:

In the scriptures like *the Ramayana*, *the Mahabharat*, *the Haribansha*, *the Brahma Purana*, *the Vayu Purana*, *the Matsa Purana*, *the Shrimad Bhagbata*, *the Mahapurana*, and *the Raghubansha* it has been mentioned that North Bengal is popularly known as ‘PRAGJYOTISHPURA’.³⁰ The *Brihatsanhita* indicates the name

“Upjyotish” and in the *Mahabharat*, it has been indicated as “Uttarjyotish”.³¹ Narakasura was the ancient king of this region. His successor Bhagadutta established his kingdom called Kamrupa (Present Assam). The copper plates of Indrapala indicate as ‘Pragjyotishpura’, ‘Uttarkula’ and ‘Durjaya’. Ratnapala established himself as ‘kamrupa nandi’ and “Pragjyotishpati” in his copper plate. Kalahan’s³² *Rajtarangini* indicates the name “Pragjyotish” and “Strirajya”.

1.4.2.Lohitya:

In the *Mahabharata*, the *Kalikapurana* and the *Markandeya Purana* it has been mentioned that this territory is known as ‘Lohitya’³³. Another name for Brahmaputra was ‘Lohitya’. It is considered as a sea due to her largeness. ‘Lohitya’ has been described in the *Kalikapurana* as “Barnashaya Dakshinasat Lohitya name Sagara”. The term ‘Lohitya’ is common to the *Raghuvamsa* and the *Brihat-Samhita*.³⁴

1.4.3.Kamrupa:

In the *Brahmapurana* it has been mentioned that the region is known as ‘Brahmakundu’ and ‘Kamakshya.’³⁵ *Vishnu Puran*, *Kurma Puran*, *Brahma Puran*, *Kalika Purana* and *Raghubansha* mention the mane as ‘Kamrupa’. Ashoka’s inscription at “Prayag” mentions the name ‘Kamrupa in connection with Skanda Gupta’s Victory over this region. Copper inscription of Bhaskara Barman (7th century from Karnrsubarna) also indicates the name Kamrupa. “Kamrup” has also been mentioned in Hieun Tsang’s account “Si-u-k i” and Banabhatta’s *Harshacharita*, *Tabaqut-i-Nasiri etc..* In fifteenth century, the coin of Hussain Shah of

Gouda also indicates the name Kamarupa. In Pandunath, according to the *Pauranik* legend, the *Ausaras* Madhu and Kaitabha were killed and Brahma worshipped *kali* for the destruction of Keshu, another name of Asura. This place came to be more widely known as ‘*Kamakshya*’ from the legend of a part of the body of *Sati* having fallen here.³⁶ Kamrupa is another name of ‘*Bhagabati*’.³⁷ Another belief inclined to derivation from the tribe ‘Khambo’ of Assam; yet another, that because Madan and Kama, after being destroyed by the fire from Shiva’s eye regained His body (Rupa) this place name- became ‘Kamrupa’.³⁸ *Allahabad Prasasti* of Samudra Gupta (c.325- 76 A.D.) mentioned that ‘Kamrupa’ was a frontier kingdom.³⁹ However, the *Raghuvamsa* of Kalidas, produced in the Gupta empire (Fifth century) mentioned two names of the region viz. ‘Pragjyotish’ and ‘Kamrupa’.⁴⁰ But Kamrupa became the general political identity of the region since the fourth century particularly with the rise ‘Varmanas’ as ruling dynasty. During the reign of Vaskarvarman (600-650 AD) Kamrupa emerged as a significant political power. During his reign Yuan Chawag, the Chinese traveler, visited Kamrupa. In Yuan Chawng’s account, Kamrupa has been described as Kia-Mo-Leo-Po situated in the eastern side of the Pundravardhana after a great river (the Karotoya).⁴¹ The natural boundary of Kamrupa was,however, defined in the *Yogini Tantra*(a late medieval sanskrit text) that Kanchangiri was the northern boundary, the Karotoya was the western frontier, the Dikar Basini formed the eastern boundary and the confluence of the Brahmaputra and the Lakshya rivers stood as the southern frontier of Kamrupa.⁴² During the medieval period, western part of Kamrupa was depicted as Kamata. The Khens ruler established a kingdom in the fifteenth century with its capital at Kamatapur.⁴³

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16 OCT 2011



1.4.4.Pundrabardhan:

“Pundrabardhan” is also a popular name of Northern part of West Bengal. The *Mahabharata*, the *Puranas* indicate that “Pundra State” was extended up to present Rangpur of Bangladesh, Dinajpur (Eastern), Bogra and northern part of Rajshahi, up to eastern part of Karotoya river. It is situated to the south of Kamrupa. In fourth century Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang reached at Pundra, the small state after travelling Kamrup. We come to know from Hieun Tsang’s account that from fifth century to eighth century some *Kshatriya* people fled from Pundradesh, reached, and settled at Ratnapith of Kamrupa State. Ratnapith was situated at the adjacent area of Jalpesh Temple of Jalpaiguri. Basudeva, the Kshatriya King of Pundra and the last king of this dynasty along with his kins took shelter to escape from danger of Buddha kings of Mahapadma.⁴⁴ This view is also supported in the *Kalika Purana*. Mahapadmananda, the son of Nandi was the king of Mahastangarh in Bogra district of present Bangladesh, is popularly known as Parshurama, the wrath of Kashtriya. The Kashtriya people of “Pundra State” settled in “Ratnapitha” to escape the wrath of Parshurama, gave up ‘kashtriya status’, and identified themselves as ‘Rajbanshi’. The second *patala* of *Bhramari Tantra* reiterates that the sons of Vardhana of Paundradesh discarded Kshatriya practices, sheltered in Ratnapitha (Kamrupa), and were known as ‘Rajbanshi’. ⁴⁵ The later successors extended their inhabitation in this region. There were some Rajbanshi kashtriya vassal kings in present Rangpur district of Bangladesh (Dimla and Donar) such as –Manikchandra, Gopichandra, Harish Chandra and it was their enlightens the songs of *Gopichander Gan*, *Mayanamatir Gan* enhance the *Rajbansi* or *Kamatapuri* literature.

1.4.5.Varendra Bhumi:

The history of Varendra is coeval with the ancient history of Bengal, so to say. It now forms a part of Eastern Pakistan (now Bangladesh) of the present day. The tract is commonly known as ‘Barinde’, ‘Barind’, and ‘Barendra’ corrupted from of Varendri. Sandhyakar Nandi, who styles himself as *Kalikala Valmiki* (Valmiki of the Kali Age), in his Sanskrit *Kavya Ramcharit*- describes Varendri as a tract lying between the Ganges and the Karotoya. “Varendri” has been described as the ‘Janakabhu’- Father land of the Palas- and in the *Kavi Prasasti* Sandhyakara Nandi, the author of the *Ramcharita* has eulogized ‘Varendri’ as ‘Basudhashiravarendri Mandalchuramani’, the chest Jewel of the earth” and as ‘*Punyabhu*’, ‘the land of holiness or bliss’. ⁴⁶ It includes the portion of Rajshahi, Malda, Dinajpur, Bogra and Rangpur districts. Varendra occupied a section of the country of *Pundra* or *Paundra* situated in a country, which went by the general name of Gouda.

Varendri was intimately connected from the earliest ages with Mithila, Magadha, Utkal, Sikkim and Bhutan on the North; and the kingdom of Karaka beyond the Karnataka on the East. By land as well as by sea it was in touch with various foreign countries relics of ancient connection have now come to be discovered and recognized during the Buddhapala dynasty. The early history of Varendra, therefore, is intact the history of the Northwestern part of the present Bangladesh. ⁴⁷

1.4.6.Kamatapura:

Kamatapur was one of the popular names of present North Bengal of West Bengal. The Sena rulers of Gouda and the Ahom kings

both of them extended their power to Northeastern part of Kamrupa simultaneously and a political conflict had been occurred in this region. Taking this opportunity Niladhawa belonged to *Khen* Dynasty established capital at Kamatapur on the west bank of Dharla at Gosanimari of Dinhata subdivision about 14 miles south-west of Cooch Behar district.⁴⁸ The ruin of this kingdom is known as “Kamateswar garh”. During the period of Chakradhaj and Nilambara, the Kamatapur state has been extended from Goalpara district of Assam to the North and South-West of Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Malda, Bogra, Rajshahi, Pabna districts with the help of local Rajbanshi *Kshatriya* soldiers. According to *Gosanimangal*, the Mughals defeated the last king of Kamata called Kanteswar and the king however, managed to escape himself from the Mughals. Thus, Kamatapur state came to an end.

Khan Choudhury Amanatullah Ahamed⁴⁹ says that Hussain Shah of Gauda captured Kamatapur in 1493 A.D. He extended his empire not only to Kamatapur but also defeated the Ahom King of Kamrupa. The *Rajbanshabali* of Durgadas serves that Biswa Singh and Ahom King signed a treaty to defeat the Muslim ruler.⁵⁰ But in the later period, Dulal Gagi, the son of Hussain Shah of Gouda was defeated and killed in 1497 A.D. by the Ahom King Tsu-Hung –Smung⁵¹. Biswa Singh thus regains his heritage from the Muslim ruler.⁵² Because of Hussain Shah’s invasion at Kamatapur, huge number of lower caste Hindus have been converted into Muslims. There is a large number of Muslim society called ‘Nasya Shekh’ have been living in North Bengal of West Bengal particularly at Cooch Behar since ancient Kamatapur State. Their culture is same as the Rajbanshi *Kshatriya* people.⁵³

Though Nilambara was called to Khen –dynasty, he was originally belonging to one of the member of Rajbansi Kshatriya who had come to Ratnapitha of Kamrupa from Pundravardhana to escape from wrath of Parasuram.⁵⁴ According to the ‘*Bhramari Tantra*’, the *Kshatriyas* who had come from Pundrabardhan to Ratnapitha of Kamrupa gave up *Kshatriya* identity and recognized themselves as ‘Rajbansi.’⁵⁵ The word “*Kshatriya*” generally pronounced as ‘*Kshatri*’ and ‘*kshatri*’ is told as ‘*kshatri*’, ‘*kshe*’ from ‘*kshetri*’ and ‘*Na*’ from naught corresponds the word ‘*kshen*’. The paternal relation of this dynasty comes from ‘*kshetri*’ or ‘*kshatri*’ and maternal relation comes from naughty. This maternal and paternal relation corresponds as ‘*Kshatriya*'.⁵⁶ Thus, the Rajbanshis are related to the *Kshatryiya* indirectly or directly. From this point of view, some section of the Rajbansi people of the present North Bengal claim themselves as ‘Kamatapuri’. They are also organizing agitations and movements to establish ‘*Kamatapuri*’ language and culture and demanding separate Kamatapur state.

1.4.7.Kamata-Cooch Behar:

The latest name of North Bengal was Kamata Behar, which was popularly known as ‘Koch Behar State’ under the British rule. During the reign of Nilambara, Kamatapur state has been extended through out the completely Northeastern part of India but after Kamateswar the last king of Kamatapur, it gradually becomes delineated and its kingdom Gosanimari also faced to ruin.

Dr. Charu Chandra Sanyal says⁵⁷ that the Koch tribe under the General Hajo defeated the Khens and ruled the western portion of Kamrup from 1510 to 1587 A.D. Some scholars say Koches had been in

Assam since 1205 A.D. It is said that they belonged to the great Bodo tribe who came to North- Eastern Assam through Patkoi range along the Noa-Dihang River. The Kingdom of Hajo included Assam eastern half of Morang (Nepal Terai) and the lands bounded on the east by Dhaneswari river, on the West by Konki river on the North by Dalim Kotte hills (formerly in Bhutan now in the district of Darjeeling, West Bengal and to the south up to Ghoraghat (Now in Pakistan) . This formed the boundary of Hajo's Kingdom at that time. Hajo's policy was to coalesce with the Mech and the Kacharis to be able to oppose the Koch and the Tephus who occupied Bhutan at that time.⁵⁸

Hajo had two daughters Hira and Jira; both were married to one Haridas Mech of Mount Chikna (in Goalpara, Assam). At that time Koch and Mech could inter-marry freely. Haridas was the head of the Mech Tribe of Goalpara.⁵⁹ Chandan and Madan was the son of Jira while Sisu and Bisu was the son of Hira.⁶⁰ Chandan, the son of Jira defeated the Chikna and proclaimed him the King of Chikna and Madan was killed in the battlefield. The era of Koch Behar State starts from Chandan in the year 1510 A.D., when he was proclaimed king at Chikna, ruled for thirteen years, and after his death Hira's younger son Bisu named Biswa Singha become king of Cooch Behar.⁶¹ Thus on the ruin of the Kamata kingdom, the Koch and Mech tribe established the Koch Kingdom territorially which was almost identical with Kamata under the leadership of king Naranarayan (1540-87), the Koch kingdom got its highest territorial boundary and began to be known as 'Koch' or 'Behar'. However, Prof. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya called it as 'Kamata-Koch Behar'.⁶²

The western part of the Koch kingdom called Baikanthapur (Jalpaiguri) extending up to the present Siliguri, formed part of Bengal (Goud) from the time of Palas and Khens and Biswa Singh wrested this area in 1545A.D. from the Mohamadan King of Gouda soon after the death of Sher Shah. Biswa Singh took a fancy to this tract of land and was allowed to settle there. His successors were popularly known as the ruler of ‘Raikat’ dynasty.

The extended Kingdom of Biswa Singh was called Koch Behar. Afterwards Koch Bihar State became the British Feudatory State through the Anglo-Cooch Behar Treaty concluded between East India Company and Dharendra Narayan ,the King of Cooch Behar on 5th April, 1773 named ‘Kuch Behar’ under the British reign.⁶³ After Post Independent, an agreement was signed on 28th of August 1949 made between the Government of India and His Highness Jagadeependra Narayan, the Maharaja of Kuch Behar State to merge the state with India Government. ⁶⁴ Finally, the State has been merged with West Bengal as a district on 1st January in 1950.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. S.P. Chatterjee; *Bengal in Map*, (Orient Longmans Ltd. Calcutta, 1949), pp. 8,14.
2. *Ibid*, p. 4.
3. S.K.Acharyya; *Geological Framework of the Himalayan Foothills of North Bengal* in A.B. Chatterjee, Avijit Gupta, Pradip Kumar Mukhopadhyaya; (ed) *West Bengal*, (Firma K.L. ,Calcutta, 1st Edn. 1970), p.7.
4. *Ibid*, p. 6.
5. Radhakamal Mukherjee; *The Changing Face of Bengal: A Study in Riverine Economy*, (Calcutta, 1938), p. 100; Kanan Gopal Bagchi, *The Ganges Delta*, (Calcutta University,1944), p. 15.
6. Aboni Mohan Kusari and etel.; *West Bengal District Gazetteers : Jalpaiguri*, (Calcutta, 1981), p. 9.
7. S.K.Ray; ‘*Flood control*’ in *Advanced Course on Flood Control Drainage & Irrigation for Plytechnic Teachers June 1973*, *Jalpaiguri Polytechnic Institute*, Jalpaiguri, 1973 (Cyclostyled), p.4.
8. J.F. Gruning; *Eastern Bengal and Assam District Gazetteers Jalpaiguri*, (Allahabad 1911), p. 4,
9. C.C. Sanyal; *Tista –Kararoyar Ruprekha* (in Bengali) in Jalpaiguri District Centenary Souvenir, (Jalpaiguri, 1970), p. 358.
10. D.C. Sircar; *Geography of Ancient and Medieval India*, (Delhi 1960), p.45, “*Sadanira* cannot be satisfactorily identified”.
11. Yuan Chwang went from Paundravardhan to Kamrup in January-February of A.D. 639. Cunningham says “... I infer that the Capital visited by Huen Tsang was not Gowahati, in the valley of the Brahmaputra but Kamatapura in Indian district of Kusa-

- Vihara. The great river crossed by the Pilgrim would therefore be the Tista, and not the Brahmaputra" (Vide A. Cunningham- *The Ancient Geography of India*, Varanasi, 1963)reprint, p. 422.)
- 12.*Yogini Tantra*; (ed) and trns. By Swami Swami Sabeswarananda (henceforth Yogini Tantra) ,Calcutta, Naba Bharati Publishers, 1385 B.S.)ch. 13, vs. 16-18, p.114.
- 13.S.N. Bhattacharya; *A History of the Mughal North Eastfrontier Policy: Being a Study of the Political Relations of the Mughal Empire With Koch Bihar, Kamrup and Assam*,rept. (ed) ,Calcutta, R, N. Bhattacharya, 1994.,p.5..
- 14.Durgadas Majumdar; *West Bengal District Gazetteers*, Koch Behar, 1977, p. 11.
15. *Ibid*, p. 11
- 16.J.D.Hooker; *Himalayan Journals*,2 Vols, Calcutta, 1854, P.283 cf. *West Bengal District Gazetteers, Darjeeling*, Amiya Kumar Banerji and etel., (Calcutta ,1980) , p.15.
- 17.The author has own experience regarding this matter.
- 18.H.P.Das, *The Brahmaputra Drainage System, Journal of NEIGS*,I, 1969, 20, cf., *India:A Regional Geography* (ed) by R.L.Singh,(New Delhi, rept.1994) , p. 308.
19. H.J. Desai; "The Brahmaputra" Mountains and Rivers of India,(Ed) B.C. Law,21st IGC (India ,1968), p. 431.
20. R.L. Singh (ed); *India : A Regional Geography* , (UBS Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi, rept.1994), pp. 309-310.
- 21..The military invasion of Bakhtiyar Khilji in North Bengal and Lower Assam in the early thirteenth century was checked by the floods in the rivers of the region. Similarly, Mughal invasion in the region in 1661-62 under the leadership of Mir Jumla was also a sheer failure for heavy rainfall and flood in the rivers of the

Brahmaputra Valley. For details see Minhasuddin Siraj, *Tabakat-i-Nasiri* (ed) by H.C. Raverty, rpt.1970, Orient Books, New Delhi,(henceforth *Tabakat-i-Nasiri*), pp, 567-572; H. Blochman, Koch Bihar Koch Hajo and Assam in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries according to the *Akbarnamah*, the *Padshanamah* and the *Fathiyah-i- Ibrriyah*, JASB,71.1,1872,pp. 87-89.

- 22.Acharya Panchanan Tarkaratna (ed) ; *Kalika Puranam* ,(Calcutta, Naba Bharat Publishers, 1384 B.S.) (henceforth Kalika Puranam) ch. 77-80, pp. 784-837.
- 23.There are total eighteen duars between Bhutan and India. Dalimkote (Durling Jung), Zumirkote, Chamurchi, Luku Duar, Buxas, Bhulka, Bara, Guman, Ripu, Cherang (Sidli) and Bagh Duar, are the duars between Bengal and Bhutan. Buri Gumang, Kallig, Ghur Kalla Duar, Banksha, Chapaguri, Chapakhamar and Bijni are the duars between Bhutan and Assam.
- 24.Agreement dated the 28th August 1949 made between the Government of India and His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar. D.O.No. F 15(19)-P/49, Durgadas Majumder, *West Bengal District Gazetteers, Koch Behar*,op.,cit., pp. 40-42.
25. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*,29th December 1949
- 26.*The Census Report of India 2001, Uttar Dinajpur District*.
27. Swaraj Basu; “The Creation of Rajbansi Identity in Bengal” in *Bengal Communities, Developments and State* (ed) by Sekhar Bandopadhyaya; (New Delhi,1994), p. 46.
- 28.*The Census Report of India*,1961, The total Rajbanshi people in West Bengal was 1201706.
29. Khan Choudhury Amanatullah Ahmed; *Kochbeharer Itihas*(in Bengali) Vol. I,(1936,rpt. 2001, Modern Book Agency, Calcutta), p. 1.

30. *Ibid*; p.1.
31. *Ibid*, p.1.
32. Kalahana's *Rajtarangini; Taranga-II, 147, IV 171, VIII 2811* Trans. by Ranjit Sitaram Pandit,(1935,Third Reprint. 2002, Sahitya Academy, Calcutta.)
33. Khan Choudhury Amanatullah Ahmed; *op. cit.*, p.2.
34. Hiten Nag (ed); *A History of Cooch Behar* trs. from original Bengali Work of S.C.Ghosal; (N.L. Publishers ,Siliguri, First edn.1942, rpt.2007), p.2.
35. *Ibid*, p. 2..
36. *Kalikapurana*; Chapter 62 ,Vs.74, 77, p, 103; *Yoginitantra*; Part-I, Patala 15th, Vs.48,49.
37. *Kalikapurana*; Chapter 62 ,Vs.73
38. *Ibid*, Chapter 51, Vs.55-76.
39. H.C. Chaklada; *Geography of Kalidas, Indian Studies: Past and Present*, IV.3, 1963, p. 451.
40. *Ibid.*, For details about *Pragjyotisha* and *Kamrupa*, see Ichhamuddin Sarkar; *Aspects of Historical Geography of Pragjyotisha- Kamrupa* (Ancient Assam), (Calcutta, Naya Uddyog,1991.)
41. *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, (629-645 A.D.), Vol. II, pp. 185-186.
42. *Yogini Tantra,pt. I, ChapterII*, Vs. 16-18, p. 114.
43. A. Mitra, *Census Report Of India 1951, Cooch Behar*, p. xxiv.
44. *Bhramari Tantra*;-
Nandisuta bhayatbhita Poundra deshat samatgata
Bardhanasya panchawaputra:
Swajanaiarbandhabai saha ratnapithang bibishante-
Te sarbbe rajbanshiti kshyatra bhube.

- 45.Cf., Khan Choudhury Amanatullah Ahmed; *op.cit.*, p, 39; *Proceedings of the Forth Conference of Uttar Banga Sahitya Sammilan*, pp. 189-191; In ‘*Prachina Kamarupa Puravritta*’ (the ancient history of old Kamarupa) printed in “*Kamarupa Burunji*”,(ed) S.K. Bhuyan,DHAS,(Guwahati,1930,2nd edn.,1958) king Niladhwaja is accounted a “Koch-vansi” (page 99). The ‘*Jalpesvar Mandirer Itivritta*’ records that Chandan ,the son of the Maternal aunt of Viswa Singha, married the daughter of Nilamvara the King of Kamata.
- 46.Kshitish Ch. Sarkar; *A Brief History of Varendra and Other Essays*; Jalpaiguri, p.2, year has not been mentioned .
47. *Ibid*; p.3.
- 48.A. Mitra; *op. cit.* , p. xxiv.
49. Khan Choudhury Amanatullah Ahmed; *op. cit.* P. 88
50. Durgadas Majumdar, *Rajbanshabali*;(in Bengali), P.-26 during the rule of Raja Harendra Narayan of Koch Behar (1783-1830). It contains a History of the Koch rulers up to Harendra Narayan; *Assambasti Patrika*,Prakashak, June 27th , 1901.
51. Hissabuddin Muhammad Talish;*Tarikhe Assam* ;P.59. Munshi Ghulam Salim, *Riyas-us- Salatin (A.D. 1786-88)*; Trans by Abdus Salam, Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1902,rpt. Delhi,1975 ,trns. (in Bengali) by Rampran Gupta, . p.126.
- 52.Ray Gunaviram Barua; *Assam Burunjee*; 1884, 4th Edn P. 55.
Prabhas Chandra Sen; *History of Bagura* (in Bengali),Vol.II,P.88.
- 53.Bajley Rahaman; *Sanrakshan Byabastha and Uttar Banger Muslim Samaj* Cooch Behar,2001, p.3.
- 54.Hiten Nag; *op.,cit.*, p. 43.

There is a Khen caste in this part of the country . Probably Dr. Buchanan Hamilton(1808 A.D.) was the first authority to

regard Niladhwaja as a khen but he was not quoted any source for the view. He had also heard that Niladhwaja was a descendent of Asura (Narakasura) and that the Rajbanshis claimed him as belonging to their caste. Thus-

“According to some, this servant (Niladhwaja) was an infidel (*Osur*), most probably from the mountains of Tripura....There is no trace of any earlier colony of Brahmans in Kamrupa than this from Mithila, and the great merits of the prince were rewarded by elevating his tribe called Khyen to the dignity of pure Hindu. It is indeed contended by the Rajbanshis that Niladhwaja was of their caste, and that the khen were only his servants begotten by Rajbanshis by prostitutes of Kshatriya tribe, but it seems highly improbable that the Raja would procure the dignity of pure birth for the illegitimate offspring of his servants, while his own family remains in the impure tribe of Rajbansi, the origin of which seems to me of a later date”

The Eastern India Vol. III, pages 408,409.

This opinion of Dr. Buchanan cannot be sustained, for the Copper-Plate inscription of Nidhanpur issued by Kumar Vaskarvarma (dated at least as early as 4th century A.D.) that Brahmans resided in Kamarupa long before this time has settled it beyond doubt. In the Ahom language, there are two words “kun” or “*khen*” the meaning of which is the same, viz. king, great, good etc. In the work ‘Ahom Burunji’ we find the expressions ‘khun Kamata’ and ‘*khun Kamateswara*’ (page, 47, 48, 50). Possibly these words ‘*khun*’ and ‘*khen*’ were subsequently used to denote a particular tribe (*khen*).

55. *Bhramari Tantra;- Second Patala*

Nandisuta bhayatbhime Poundra deshat samatgata

*Bardhanasya panchawaputra Swajanaiarbandhabai saha
Ratnapithang bibishante Kaladwipaira Sangamat
Kshatradhamadapakranta Rajbansi kshatri Bhribi.*

56. *Panchanan Barman, Uttar Bangiya Prachin Janajathir Bhasa Prasanga, (in Bengali), Calcutta, 1997, 9th September, (1404, B.S. 23 Bhadra)*, p. 6.
57. C.C.Sanyal; *The Rajbansi of North Bengal*, The Asiatic Society Monograph Series, Vol. XI, Calcutta, 1965, p.5.
58. W.W.Hunter; *The Statistical Account of Bengal Vol.X* 1876, rept. 1984, Delhi ,P.218.
- 59.(a)According to Gait, Bisu was the son of Hira and Sisu was the son of Jira (E,A,Gait ;*History of Assam 1905* , 2nd revised edn (ed) B.K. Baruah and H.V.S.Murthy; 1963 rpt., Calcutta, 1967 ,7th Edn., 1997 , p. 46.
- (b) Footnotes stated in C.C.Sanyal; *The Rajbansi of North Bengal* (P.5) that G. Sarbadhakshya an old State lawyer of Cooch Behar stated to write that the eastern part of Bhutan was called *Trwang*. It is now in the Kamling frontier division in the N.E.F.A Mar Indo-Tibetan border. One Sailapati was the King of Teang. His daughter was Hira. There was no man called Hajo. Hajo was an area of land in Kamrup comprising of Goalpara, Dhubri and part of Guwahati. Haridas was the *Sardar* of Hajo. This Haridas married Hira .Hira's first son was Sishu .Jira prayed to *Mahadeva* at Jalpeswara for another son and Bishu was born.
- (c) Khan Chaudhry Amanatullah Ahamed; *Cooch Beharer Itihas*, Vol. I(in Bengali),1936, rpt.,2001 says that at time of Damambu a King called Sailaraj was ruling in the Eastern Portion of Bhutan called Twang. His wife was Mirā. A daughter named Hira was born to her by Saila Raja (Sailapati) .Some one says that Sailaraja

62. P.K. Bhattacharjee; *Oitihasik Prekshapate Kamata Koch Rajbansha O Tar Kichhu Samasya* (ed), *The Kingdom of Kamata Koch Behar in Historical Perspective*, (First Published, 2000, Ratna Prakashan, Calcutta), pp. 38-49.
63. Harendra Narayan Choudhury; *The Cooch Behar State and its Land Revenue Settlement*, (Cooch Behar State Press, 1903), p,246; A.Mitra, *The Census Report of India, Cooch Behar*, 1951, p.xxxii-xxxiii.
64. Agreement of Merger of Cooch Behar State made between the Governor General of India and His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar on 28th August 1949. D.O.No. F 15(19))-P/49 Durgadas Majumder, *West Bengal District Gazetteers, Koch Behar*, op., cit., pp,40-42.

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