

CHAPTER – IV

MAHARAJA JITENDRA NARAYAN

(1913- 1922)

**THE BENEVOLENT MAHARAJA OF
COOCH BEHAR**

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Maharaja Jitendra Narayan (1913-1922)- The benevolent Maharaja of Cooch Behar .

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan, one of the illustrious sons of Cooch Behar, ascended the throne of the Princely State of Cooch Behar on 1st September , 1913 after the death of his elder Brother Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan .¹ Maharaja Jitendra Narayan followed in the footsteps of his elder brother in taking benevolent measures . Like his elder brother , he was educated in England and the Western cul – ture motivated him to take advance modern benevolent measures as the ruler of Cooch Behar . His love for the people of Cooch Behar was deep and he took great interest in administration . He was unable to talk in the mother tongue, although as a ruler of the State he gave great attention to the development of the state . His mother Maharani Sunity Devi in her autobiography (*Autobiography of an Indian Princess – Memoirs of Maharani Sunity Devi*) shows that Jitendra Narayan’s great ambition was to make his state a model one and he was always eager to help forward its progress . He was an administrative as well as literary excellence .

As a ruler of Cooch Behar state his achievements were as follows :-

A) Benevolent measures in Social Field

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan during his rule of ten years , took some advanced schemes for the development of Cooch Behar on one side and followed the tradition on the other side . His benevolent thinking reflected in the following

aspects .

Education Maharaja Jitendra Narayan at first vividly monitored the actual development in the sphere of education in Cooch Behar and in sub - divisional area . In 1915 - 16 Maharaja implemented some measures towards this end , which may be summarised as follow –²

a) The system of Higher English Education received an impetus heretofore unknown and culminated in the steps taken for opening a new Higher English School at Tufangunj the nearby subdivision at the close of the financial year 1915 - 16) by the aid of liberal sub scriptions from the people supplemented by contributions from the Nripendra Narayan Memorial Fund .

Towards the close of the financial year owing to insufficiency of space in the local Jenkins School , an attempt was set on for opening an additional Higher English school in the Town of Cooch Behar . It was proposed by the leading gentry and others , whose sons or wards failed to secure admission in the Jenkins School . Sudder Model School was reorganized and the amount spent on it together with additional grant from the State (Cooch Behar) and sub - scriptions raised from the public , went a lot towards the fulfillment of the project .

b) The system of Middle English School also received encouragement during this year .

c)The system of Middle Vernacular Education also received its due share of attention and the number of Middle Vernacular Schools were set up by three , and proved their eligibility for such grants by year of good progress with local support .

d) The Primary Schools , too were carefully looked after during the year . The sanctioned provision of Rs . 1,000 out of savings , was fully utilised during the year as reported towards the upkeep of some of the important Primary and Secondary Schools . The redistribution of grants at the end of every six months also had the effect of promoting the interests of these Schools , as it led to the weeding out of useless institutions , that received aid and replacing them by successful unaided ones with new grants from the State (Cooch Behar) .

e) Female education made fair progress in this year. Dinahata Girls' School was in a particularly flourishing condition , and it was placed on the basis of superior organisation , when a good school house with necessary equipments was provided to it . A teacher and a mistress were appointed for the first time to give the girls an all round education . Suitable quarters constructed for the staff at considerable expense , the bulk being met from local subscription . The last twelve months counted a period of further progress for the school , when definite steps were taken to enable the girls to acquire some knowledge of English . It is worth of note that of 32 departmental Primary scholarships 4 were won by the girls in open competition with the boys .

A further impetus was given to Female Education by the keen interest Her Highness Maharani had shown in laying the foundation stone of the Mekhligunj Girls' School and presiding over the prize distribution ceremony at the time of Maharajas' visit to the sub - division . His welfare attitude also led to the

steps for construction of a separate building for the Tufangunj Girls' School , for which a contribution of Rs. 125 was granted from the State and for the inauguration of a yearly prize system, styled as the 'Ila Prize' named after the princess Ila Devi .

f. Mahomedan Education continued to receive the warm support from the royal authority as the earlier case .

In 1916 after implementing the above mentioned measures , some of the also taken steps as follow were also taken by Maharaja Jitendra Narayan .³

First , Tufangunj Middle English School was converted into a High English School .
Secondly, a similar action has been mooted regarding the Haldibari Middle English School .

Thirdly , effective steps were taken for furtherance of female education specially improving the condition of Tufangunj Girls' School, to level it with the girls' school at Mekhligunj and Mathabhanga .

Maharaja took active initiatives in educational field , which helped Tufangunj Nripendra Narayan Memorial Higher English School in receiving provisional affiliation to the Calcutta University for two years with effect from 1st January , 1917, and application for its permanent affiliation was submitted to the Registrar of Calcutta University at the close of the year .⁴ The Primary Schools also received due share of attention and five Lower Primary Schools were raised to the upper primary status , and one Upper primary school to the Middle Vernacular status . More importantly it is to be noted that an amount of Rs. 1,000

, was granted by the State authority for the maintenance of a number of Primary and Middle Class Schools in Cooch Behar.⁵

During the year 1917, a Boarding Institution, named after Maharajas' late elder brother Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan was opened exclusively for the sons of recognised Rajguns. The institution was under Maharajas immediate control.⁶

In 1918 in an Educational Conference, held under the presidency of the Principal, Victoria College to discuss various educational matters where following resolutions, were passed (a) uniformity of text – books in the various High English Schools, (b) the introduction of Vernacular as the medium of instruction in the junior classes of Higher English Schools and (c) the adoption of transfer rules, which were in force in the Government Districts.⁷

Maharaja had a great concern for the agricultural development of the State. Cooch Behar was mainly an agriculture based princely state. Keeping this in view agricultural books were introduced in Primary educational curriculum by the Educational Committee of Cooch Behar in 1921 and in the same year history of Cooch Behar was introduced as a subject of study in the Primary educational curriculum.⁸ In the same year another step was taken for establishing a Sanskrit Tole at Khagrabari. To the end Brahmin pundits were appointed to teach the willing students. It was also projected that the students who turned out well from the Tole could be sent to Nabadwip and Venaras to complete their education, and on their return they may be engaged in various capacities in the Debuttar Depart

-ment (eclectic department) .⁹ Here it need to mention that the Sanskrit Tole sent up only one candidate for the Temple Scholarship Examinations , who passed and was awarded the scholarship .¹⁰

Maharaja also appointed an Education Committee to know the day to day condition of educational progress in Cooch Behar . During his reign there were some boarding institutions in Cooch Behar , such as – College Boarding , College Hindu Hostel , Rajgun Boarding Institution , Moslem Boarding institution .¹¹

Medical In the field of Medical service for the people of Cooch Behar , the contribution of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan deserves a special mention . The general health of the people of Cooch Behar during the year 1913-14 was good in comparison with the sub – division areas of the State . Even the visiting officers of the Company also contributed to the development of the State . One of the chief features of the year was the laying of the foundation of the new Carmichael Wing by Lady Carmichael who gave a donation towards the further equipment of the Hospital operations .¹² During this period another measure was implemented by the state authority, in which it was stated that all medical practitioners attending infectious cases should report them to the Civil Surgeon (proper preventive measures might be taken) .¹³ In the year 1913 midwives attached to the medical department attended 89 cases and at the same time it is to be noted that due to the available medical facilities there was no premature death caused by maternity in Cooch

Behar.¹⁴ Such an attempt indicated that the medical system of the State took care of women's health and Maharaja was lot more concern for women's health. Maharaja issued a notification, dated 23rd of January 1914 about successfully dealing with the origin and spread of infectious diseases in Cooch Behar.

It was directed that all that practitioners in medicine who were likely to know about the occurrence of any case of an infectious disease in any locality situated within the jurisdiction of the Cooch Behar Town Committee, such as cholera, small-pox, were required to report it forthwith to the Civil Surgeon of the State (Cooch Behar).¹⁵ On 15th February, 1917 the proposed Carmicheal Ward was ready for service and on the occasion state authority also opened extra accommodation for dispensary, library medical store, bed arrangement for female patients and out-door department of the Sudder Hospital.¹⁶ On 16th February, 1918 Governor of Bengal, Ronaldshay came to Cooch Behar and was graciously pleased to lay, at an open durbar of Cooch Behar, the foundation stone of a ward named, Ronaldshay Ward at the Sudder Hospital of Cooch Behar.¹⁷ In 1919 the following measures were implemented towards this end :-¹⁸ (a) appointment of temporary Medical Officer for the Quarantine of passengers coming up to Cooch Behar through stations like Dinhata, Cooch Behar, Changrabandha, and Haldibari; (b) appointment of special officers to help the Medical Officers for the purpose; (c) the building of temporary huts for the segregation of suspected cases close to each of the stations mentioned above; (d) introduction of vaccine-

tion and re - vaccination , specially in Dinhata and Sudder Sub – Divisions , and disinfection and segregation of cases as promptly as possible on the notification of an outbreak in any locality before the disease could spread in an epidemic form . Maharaja also continued the anti – cholera and anti – small pox project in Cooch Behar .¹⁹ Thus the medical service during Maharajas' rule was truly remarkable one . Very few States of the time took such special care for medical facilities to the subjects .

Public Works Department (P.W.D) During the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan, this department work on the following projects as implemented under the recommendation of Maharaja -

a) Boarding house at Mathabhanga The construction work for a boarding house at Mathabhanga started in 1915 and it was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,442 .²⁰

b) Nripendra Narayan Hostel A project of Hostel construction started in 1914 and the final estimated work was completed in 1915 at a cost of Rs. 3,400 . It also decided by the P.W.D that the total amount to be paid by the Nripendra Narayan Memorial Fund .²¹

c) Boarding house at Dinhata In 1915 - 16 a corrugated iron roofed boarding house at Dinhata 100" x 14" with 6 rooms , built by the Department at a cost of Rs. 1,588. In this connection it is to be noted that out of the estimated budget, Rs. 1,588 was paid by the Secretary of Higher English School .²²

d) Construction of Post Office The construction work started in 1917 and its project plan was estimated at a cost of Rs. 25,079 .²³

e) Communication

During the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan , Communication work was at a peak . In 1913 - 14 a project work taken by the P.W.D consisted of the following area :²⁴

1. A Girder bridge on 8th mile , Baneswar – Natabari Road of one span of 20 inch pucca abutment ;
2. A Girder bridge on the Dewanhat – Chilkirhat Road, 2nd mile, similar to the above in all respect ;
3. A Girder bridge on the Dinhata – Mekhligunj Road , 6th mile , similar to the above in all respect ;
4. A Girder bridge on the Dinhata – Mekhligunj Road , 21st mile of 2 spans of 22 ½ inch each .
5. Moranga Road :- This road plan extend from Mathabhanga to Moranga area .

Regarding the construction of timber bridge and culverts P.W.D implemented the following project in 1917 :²⁵

1. One 5 inch ft. pucca culvert on Bhetaguri Nazirhat Road;
2. 1 pucca culvert 4 inch ft. diameter on Chowdhurihat Feeder Road ;
3. 1 pucca culvert on Kalighat road ;
4. 1 wooden bridge on Dewanhat Balarampore road ;
5. 1 corrugated iron culvert 3 inch diameter on Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar ;
6. 1 timber bridge on Dinhata Mekhligunj road ;
7. Ghargharia bridge on Lowkuti road ;

8. Bura Teesta Bridge on Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar ;

9. 1 wooden bridge on Patgram Bhutan road .

In 1918 – 1919 P.W.D work on the following proposals , which estimated at a cost of Rs. 11,743 :-²⁶

1. Wooden bridge 18 inch long in the 19th mile of Dinhata – Mekhligunj Road ;
2. Wooden bridge 60 mile long on the Changrabanda Feeder Road ;
3. Pucca culvert 4 inch span in the 41st mile of Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar ;
4. Wooden bridge 80 inch long in the 18th mile of Cooch Behar – Sitalkuchi Road ;
5. Pucca culvert 4 inch diameter in the 10th mile of Gadhadhar Road ;
6. One wooden bridge 10 span in the 26th mile of Lowkuti Road ;
7. & 8. Two wooden bridge in the 2nd mile of Ratherdanga Road ;
9. One wooden bridge 43 inch long in the 9th mile of Falakutta Road ;
10. Pucca culvert 4 inch diameter in the 6th mile of Bhetaguri - Nazirhat Road ;
11. Wooden bridge 15 inch span in the 2nd mile of Chilakhana – Bhatibari Road ;
12. Pucca culvert 4 inch span in the 8th mile of Cooch Behar - Garodhat Road ;
13. Pucca culvert 5 inch span in the 9th mile of Cooch Behar - Garodhat Road ;
14. Wooden bridge 60 inch long in the 22nd mile of Cooch Behar – Garodhat Road .

From 1920 to 1922 a huge number of bridge and culvert construction work taken by P.W.D . These plan of work consisted of the following measures :²⁷

1. Four feet diameter pucca culvert in the 13th mile of Changrabanda Feeder Road ;
2. Sixty feet timber bridge in the 21st mile of the Road from Cooch Behar – Garodhat Road ;
3. Thirty - two feet timber bridge in the 3rd mile of Chenakata -Bairagirhat villege path ;
4. Thirteen feet timber bridge in the 12th mile of Hazrarhat to Nayarhat and Bairagirhat villege Path ;
5. Seven feet timber bridge in the 2nd mile of Chilahati villege Path;
6. Three feet diameter pucca culvert in the 13th mile of Changrabanda Feeder Road ;
7. Six feet span pucca culvert in the 4th & 6th mile of Lowkuti Road ;
8. Four feet & six feet span pucca culvert in the 12th & 8th mile of Patlakhawa Road ;
9. A timber bridge in the 5th mile of Mathabhanga – Moranga Road ;
10. Construction of iron bridge on the Ghargharia river and Lowkuti Road near Marugunj ;
11. One span of pucca culvert on Houghton Road .

From the above analysis it can be concluded that Maharaja was

well aware about the easy communication system within the State and the continuous construction work moved steadily during the rule of the benevolent Maharaja of Cooch Behar .

Establishment of Dynamo House (Engine shed) During the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan, establishment of Dynamo House was a new type of scheme moved by the Public Works Department (P.W.D) under the recommendation of Cooch Behar State authority . In 1915 this scheme implemented at a cost of Rs. 11,333 . This house consisted of a hall 50 inch x 40 inch with a front verandah 6 inch width . There were two concrete beds 7 inch deep 22 feet 6 inch x 16 feet 6 inch each of the seats for Engines . The house is 3 inch high at plinth level and 27 feet at parapet level .²⁸ It was founded for supplying hot water to the Palace.

Nripendra Narayan Memorial Hall at Mekhligunj for meeting purpose

For meeting purpose a general assembly hall , named Nripendra Narayan Memorial Hall established at Mekhligunj on the recommendation of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan in February 1916 . It was estimated that an amount of Rs. 5,865 might be spent for the completion of the work .²⁹

Reopening of Veterinary Hospital for animal treatment In the field of medical treatment a new dimension was introduced through the re - opening of Veterinary Hospital for animal treatment in August ,1915 . It has a background history,which is as follows a Veterinary Assistant was lent by the Veterinary Department, Bengal , to take charge of the hospital . The institution was inspected by the Government Veterinary Department . This Department had equipments for surgery purpose of

the animals . This hospital helped the people of town and mofussil who would domesticate animals .³⁰

Arrangement of training of police officers and constables at police training

college Maharaja Jitendra Narayan took active initiatives for the training of police officers and constables . In 1916 one cadet was sent to the Police Training College at Sardah .³¹ At the same time it need to mention that Maharaja sanctioned Rs. 5,440 for improving the condition of the police force of Cooch Behar .³²

Introduction of various acts for Legislative welfare

In the sphere of administration some renovation introduced in 1921 in the Legislative act of Cooch Behar , which were as follows :³³ **(1)** Act – I of 1921 – The Cooch Behar General Clauses Act ; **(2)** Act II of 1921 – The Code of Civil Procedure ; **(3)** Act III of 1921 – The Transfer of Property Act ; **(4)** Act IV of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Limitation Act ; **(5)** Act V of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Majority Act ; **(6)** Act VI of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Registration Act ; **(7)** Act VII of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Guardians & Wards Act ; **(8)** Act VIII of 1921 – The Negotiable Instrument Act ; **(9)** Act IX of 1921 – The Criminal Tribes Act ; **(10)** Act X of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Interest Act ; **(11)** Act XI of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Suits Valuation Act ; **(12)** Act XII of 1921 – The Cooch Behar Bankers' Books Evidence Amendment Act .

Lac cultivation in Cooch Behar was a preservative Cultivation

During the year 1918 Maharaja was pleased to declare the cultivation of the Lac insect and the production and manufacture of Lac within the State of Cooch Behar to be a State monopoly . No person could cultivate the Lac insect or produce or manufacture

Lac within the state of Cooch Behar without the permission of the Maharaja . Here it need to mention that all wild plum and palash trees in the state barring those growing on bonafide homestead land were also declared State property . Cutting , destroying or diminishing the value or utility of jujube or palash plants or anything done to the trees by which the capacity for multiplication of Lac producing insects is or may be injuriously affected has been prohibited and made penal under Maharajas' order .³⁴

Development of Industrial and Agricultural resources In 1918 Maharaja Jitendra Narayan introduced a new scheme for the development of industrial and agricultural resources in Cooch Behar . Maharaja decided to form a Board of Agriculture and Industry in Cooch Behar and appointed Mr. J.L .Hinds as the supervisor of the Revenue Department in 1st April 1918 .³⁵

Recognition of the Rights of the illegally settled tenants in Cooch Behar During the year 1918 the Dewan of Cooch Behar submitted a report on the number of illegally settled cultivators occupying lands in Cooch Behar dealing with their condition and the relation , they bear to the immediately superior landlords and submitting proposals for their protection from possible eviction . In view of the fact that these cultivators are liable to eviction and ejection unless they can establish their right in the Court of Justice . They had been holding such lands continuously for 12 years . Maharaja deemed it desirable and necessary , leaving out of consideration the length and duration of possession held by them . To protect them from ejection and to grant them such rights as would enable them to improve

and enrich the soil and cultivate it without disturbance except on reasonable grounds justifying eviction . Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was accordingly pleased to order that these persons be recognised in the Terijes (final record of rights) of the new settlement under the title of “Cultivating Rayat” and to declare in detail the incidents of their rights . Measure for prevention of illegal settlement in future are under Maharajas’ consideration .³⁶

Settlement operations in Cooch Behar under Royal guidance The settlement operations under the royal patronage had some sort of characteristic element in Cooch Behar . This segment (settlement operations) moved in a new way during the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan . The latest Revenue Survey map of Cooch Behar was one of 1868 - 70 . Here it deserve to mention that no fresh maps were prepared after the first Settlement of the state of Cooch Behar which was concluded in the seventies .³⁷ Hence it was decided to have a Traverse Survey as well as a Cadastral Survey of the state on the lines adopted by the Government of Bengal . The Traverse Survey began in 1912 - 13 and was completed in 1916 - 17 . The State of Cooch Behar was divided into 7 main circuits and 68 sub – circuits . Cadastral Survey (Kistwar) and preliminary record – writing (Khanapuri) began in 1913-14 . The soil classification adopted in the Rakamcharcha Settlement of 1889 was followed in the present settlement . For purpose of Kistwar and Khanapuri , the paraganas were taken up in the following order :³⁸

Table - 12

<u>Year</u>	<u>Paragana</u>
1913 - 14	Cooch Behar ;
1914 – 15	Cooch Behar and Mathabhanga ;
1915 – 16	Cooch Behar, Mathabhanga, Lalbazar , Dinhata and Mekhligunj ;
1916 -17	Dinhata , Tufangunj , Mekhligunj and Lalbazar ;
1917 - 18	Dinhata and Tufangunj .

Source : Ganguli , Karali Charan , Survey and Settlement operations in the Cooch Behar (1913 – 27) ,Cooch Behar State Press , Cooch Behar , 1930, P - 19

In 1918 Maharajas' Council has been pleased to order that³⁹ –

- a) The persons (illegally settled persons , continuously holding the land for 12 years should be protected from eviction) shall be recognised in the Terijes of the new settlement under the title of “Cultivating Raiyats ” ;
- b) The existing rents of Cultivating Raiyats are now recorded in the Terijes (final record of rights) as the legal rent payable shall not prejudicially affect the percentages of profit under the law heretofore by superior grades of tenure – holder;
- c) Tenant shall file a petition for recognition on stamp papers, fee being assessed at Rs. 5 per **Hal** or a portion of a **Hal** and another petition (if not filled already) on a paper bearing Rs. 2 stamp for copy of the map ;

Maharaja has been pleased to accord general approval to the three following points being left in abeyance to be settled when the assessment proposals and the question of new lease of Jotedars come up for discussion, the points left in abeyance may be originally quoted: ⁴⁰

“

1. Are we to insist on a Registered Patta being now given to all Cultivating Raiyats? If so, will the form there of be prescribed by the Dewan of Maharajas' & Council, in terms of the incidents of the tenancy?
2. What measures are to be taken to prevent a recurrence of the state of things which the present proposals are meant to remedy and put an end to?
3. To what extent, if at all, the rents of Cultivating Raiyats should be taken at the basis of assessment of the tenure holders above them?”

Apart from that regarding soil classification for the Rakamcharcha Settlement, it was divided under the following four heads: ⁴¹

- (i) *Awal* - (first class): Land which is called *dahala* (low and even land) falls under this class. It has a small portion of sand and fertile.
- (ii) *Duyem* - (second class): This was even land, higher than *awal* the portion of sand is greater and the crop-producing power less than *Awal*.
- (iii) *Sheyam* - (Third class): This is higher than *Duyem* land but not so even. The portion of sand and clay is about equal.
- (iv) *Chaharam* - (fourth class): This is *danga* or high land and contains a large portion of sand.

In a Resolution on 1st April, 1920, published in the Cooch Behar Gazette of the 26th April, the elimination of all redink entries and the restoration of the original classification of soil had been ordered. Thus the settlement operation under Maharaja Jitendra Narayan worked systematically.

B) Benevolent Measures in Cultural Field

In the sphere of Culture, Maharaja Jitendra Narayan's period was a remarkable one. These measures were as follows:

Publication of Paricharika Patrika – royal magazine in Bengali In 1917 Paricharika Patrika was published. Before its publication there was no evidence of published journal from the royal court of Cooch Behar. It was for the first time that a magazine published in Bengali and edited by a royal woman, Nirupama Debi wife of Maharaj - kumar Victor Nityendra Narayan (brother of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan). This journal explained on the day to day life style of women's in the palace and at the same time it inspired women's to take education for self confidence. Maharaja Jiten - dra Narayan sanctioned an amount of Rs. 655 for the purchase of fresh type ma - chine in the State press.⁴²

In 1918 Maharaja appointed an archeologist for the preser - vation of ancient icon, sculpture in Cooch Behar.⁴³ Apart from that Maharaja not only patronized Paricharika Patrika (magazine), he made grant for the establishment of Sahitya Sabha under the presidentship of his brother Maharajkumar Victor Nity - endra Narayan.⁴⁴

Maintaing Reserve Forests for the preservation of various trees Preservation of

trees was a passion of the Maharaja Jitendra Narayan and for it a number of forests regularly maintained by the Public Works Department . All the Forests ,maintained according to the particular needs of each . Such an attempt indicated that Maharaja wanted to maintain ecological and environmental atmosphere. The following chart of 1917 shows that preservation of various trees in the State was truly remarkable :⁴⁵

Table - 13

Sl. No.	Locality	Class of Forests	Natural or Cultural	Areas.		
				B	K	Ch.
1.	Nilkuty	Sishu	Cultural.	125	0	0
2.	Do.	Do.	Do.	121	0	0
3.	Do.	Do.	Do.	2	15	0
4.	Peelkhana	Do.	Do.	0	13	0
5.	Charakerkuty	Do.	Do.	585	6	12
6.	GhegirghatNatuarpur	Do.	Do.	300	1	18
7.	Nababgunj Balasi Torsa	Do.	Do.	178	13	7
8.	Char Forest	Do.	Natural.	17	0	4
9.	Kholta	Do.	Cultural.	8	0	0
10.	Bogribari	Do.	Do.	10	0	0
11.	Gossanimari	Sal	Natural.	67	0	0
12.	Jigabari	Do.	Do.	1	15	5
13.	Natabari(charaljani)	Do.	Do.	57	0	0
14.	Charan Sathalee	Do.	Do.	67	0	0
15.	Chota Salbari	Do.	Do.	2	15	0
16.	Bara Salbari	Do.	Do.	50	0	0
17.	Nilkuty	Do.	Cultural.	1	0	0
18.	Do.	Do.	Do.	7	0	0
19.	Mathabhanga					
	Balarhat	Do.	Natural.	38	15	0
20.	Teldhar Bodeswary	Do.	Do.	261	2	0
21.	Garati	Do.	Do.	124	0	0
22.	Nilkuty	Teak	Cultural.	3	0	0
23.	Peelkhana	Do.	Do.	2	5	0
24.	Dowaguri	Do.	Do.	3	0	0
25.	Nilkuty	Do.	Do.	8	2	0
26.	Talliguri	Do.	Do.	3	0	0
27.	Kholta	Do.	Do.	6	0	0
Total				2050	19	9

Source: Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State(1917-18),p, 28 .

Introduction of Stamp with portrait of the ruler On 17th September 1915 ,(the date of the anniversary of Maharaja Jitendra Narayans' installation) Maharaja Jitendra Narayan implemented new adhesive Stamps , printed with the portrait of the ruler i.e the portrait of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan. Such kind of implementation was a symbolic measure on the part of the ruler .⁴⁶

Formation of Cooch Behari Chhatra Samiti for welfare of Cooch Behari (natives of the state) In 1920 Cooch Behar felt the heat of Non Co- operation Movement . But this movement created a little enthusiasm in Cooch Behar and one out come of this movement was the formation of the body namely, Cooch Behari Chhatra Samiti , composed entirely of natives of the State . Maharaja was gracious enough to become the patron of the organisation . Maharaja granted stipend and scholarship for the natives , those who wanted to educate .⁴⁷

Control of gambling in the State of Cooch Behar in fairs Gambling known as 'Triguti Khela' , allowed at fairs held in Cooch Behar under license issued to professional gamblers . It was held that gambling was not illegal in the state of Cooch Behar authorized by proper authorities under license issued in the usual form by the Town Committee in cases where the latter are in charge of the fair .⁴⁸

Fairs and festivals in the State of Cooch Behar The Princely state of Cooch Behar was famous for fairs and festivals . During the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan , fairs and festivals held at Garodhat , Phulbari , Mekhligunj and Changra-banda areas . There were fairs also held at Dinahata , Haldibari . In 1920 a fair namely , Gadadhar Mela was held in Taluk Ambari at a confluence of the Kalja

-nee and the Gadadhar rivers . During the reign of Maharaja , Debibari Mela and Rash Mela was also held at Cooch Behar . All these fairs were regularly monitored by the Town Committee of Cooch Behar under the guidance of Maharaja .⁴⁹ Apart from that the annual Pooneah ceremony and shooting camp at Patlakhawa organized by the State authority .

(C) Benevolent Measures in Economic Field Maharaja Jitendra Narayan followed the tradition of the predecessors in this field . The following measure adopted for the welfare of Cooch Behar .

Following the Tradition In following the tradition , Maharaja equally managed all the aspect of economic field. He maintained various funds, which were essential for management of the state (Cooch Behar) and also maintained annual budget in every year .

i) The main funds were as follows :⁵⁰

1. Anti- cholera Fund :- It deals with the work of protecting the people from Cholera which was epidemic disease .
2. Resettlement Fund :- It deals with the work of settlement operations . In settlement operations annual expense layout from this fund.
3. Children's Fund :- This fund providing the annual expenses regarding the education of the royal childe .
4. Special Fund :- In maintaining the prevailing situation , this fund laying the money as required .
5. Reserve Fund :- Cooch Behar State authority also maintained such type

of fund for annual savings from state income .

6. Town Committee Fund :- This fund layout the annual expanses for the maintenance of sanitation in Cooch Behar .

ii) Annual Budget for Every year :-

Cooch Behar State authority maintained budget in every year , which helped the administration in managing the State and also motivated it to take more new welfare works . In budget Maharaja actively participated and recommend annual expenditure for education , medical , Public Works Department , Cooch Behar State Railway , various funds .⁵¹

As per the benevolent measures are concerned , the reign of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was a notable one . As a King of the State of Cooch Behar he played a dual role . On the one hand he activated all the traditional avenues of development (xerox copy) in Cooch Behar which were started by his father Maharaja Nripendra Narayan and on the other hand he implemented some benevolent schemes for the welfare of Cooch Behar . One of the passion of Maharaja was to preserve ancient icons . For that reason in the annual meeting of Sahitya Sabha he announced that the state authority would take immediate steps for the preservation of antiquities in the state .

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was an outstanding ruler, who gave a new momentum to the state in all the avenues as it was generated by his forefathers . Not only that , more or less it is true to sumup his period as a period of combination of traditional trend with that of culmination of new schemes .

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1913 – 14), p, 3 .
2. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1915 – 16), pp, 20-21 .
3. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1916 – 17), p, 32.
4. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1917 – 18), p, 35.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.* , p, 3.
7. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1918 – 19), p, 36.
8. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1920 – 21), p, 1.
9. *Ibid.* , p, 2 .
10. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1921 – 22), p, 3.
11. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1913 – 14), p, 33.
12. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1919 – 20), pp, 16-17 .
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.* , p, 8.
16. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1916 – 17), p, 49.
17. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1917 – 18), p, 3.
18. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1919 – 20), p, 36.
19. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1916 – 17), p, 32.
20. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1915 – 16), p, 26.
21. *Ibid.*
22. *Ibid.*

23. *Ibid.*

24. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1913 – 14)* , pp, 17 – 18 .

25. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1917 – 18)* , p, 32.

26. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1918 – 19)* , p, 32.

27. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1921 – 22)* , pp, 31 – 32 .

28. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1915 – 16)* , p, 25.

29. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1916 – 17)* , p, 30.

30. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1915 – 16)* , p, 18.

31. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1916 – 17)* , p, 2.

32. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1918 – 19)* , p, 2.

33. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1921 – 22)* , p, 2.

34. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1918 – 19)* , p, 2 .

35. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1917 – 18)* , p, 2 – 3 .

36. Ganguli, Karali Charan , *Survey and Settlement operations in the Cooch Behar State (1913 – 27)* , Cooch Behar State Press , Cooch Behar , 1930, p, 19.

37. *Ibid.* , p, 18 .

38. *Ibid.*

39. *Ibid.* , p, 20 .

“ The incidents of the rights of the *Cultivating Raiyats* Shall be -

- i) They shall be heritable and transferable .
- ii) Cultivating Raiyats shall not be ejected except in execution

of a decree passed on the grounds fully specified in the Tenancy Act in force, such as improper use of land rendering it unfit for purposes of tenancy or breach of condition or covenant consistent with the *Tenancy Law*.

iii) The tenancy shall be protected from extinction in case of sales of jotes for arrears of Revenue or of sales of, under-tenures under the operation of the law.

iv) There shall be merger in case of purchase by the immediate superior landlord.

v) The existing rent of all *Cultivating Raiyats* shall be recorded in the Terijes as the legal rent payable, and shall continue to be paid throughout the currency of the new settlement, and shall not be altered save by the decree of a Competent Court and in accordance with the provisions of the Tenancy Act in this behalf.”

40. *Ibid.*

41. *Ibid.*, p, 26.

42. *A.A.R of the C.B.S (1916 – 17)*, p, 50.

43. *A.A.R of the C.B.S (1918 – 19)*, p, 2.

44. *Smaranika , Khudra Patra - Patrika Parishad , Uttarbanga*, 17 – 18 th December , 2010 ; p, 15 .

45. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1917 – 18)*, p, 28.

46. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1915 – 16)*, p, 2.

47. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1920 – 21)*, p, 1.

48. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1922 – 23)*, pp, 3 – 4 .
49. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1921 – 22)*, p, 9 .
50. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1914 – 15)*, p, 76 .
51. Roy , Swapan Kumar , *Prachin Kochbiharer Sampurna Itibritta* (Bengali), Baiwala, Kolkata, 2006 , p, 298 .