

*CHAPTER – V*  
**MAHARAJA JAGADDIPENDRA NARAYAN**  
**(1922 -1949 )**  
**- THE INNOVATIVE RULER OF**  
**COOCH BEHAR**

## ***CHAPTER – V***

### **Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan (1922 -1949 )**

#### **- The Innovative Ruler of Cooch Behar.**

The history of Cooch Behar specially its development reaches the peak of success during the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan (1922 – 1949) . Due to his minor age , he was under the guidance of Rajmata Indira Devi and the Cooch Behar State Regency Council from 1922 to 1936 . During this period Cooch Behar State Regency Council looked after the State's affairs on behalf of minor Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan .

In fact his period can be divided into two parts . First, The Regency Councils' activities on behalf of minor Maharaja and after 1936 when Maharaja attained maturity and followed the tradition in social , cultural and economic field . Secondly, he implemented some new and modern innovative schemes . Maharaja like his father was a benevolent ruler . One of the special features of his nature was that most of the time during his day to day activity , was spent on the queries of the smooth running of the administration . He always wanted to make his people happy and for that reason gold - silver trophy, certificates were given to the people . Never the less his period was a golden era in the history of Cooch Behar .

Let us now explain the role of the Cooch Behar State Regency Council which may be discussed under the following heads :

**A. Development in Social field** This arena covers the educational , medical , veterinary , P.W.D , Railway System etc. , which were as follows :

**Education** During his rule important measures were taken by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council towards the spread of education . In 1922 – 23 the Education Committee of Cooch Behar implemented a further impetus towards the improvement of the sub - divisional Higher English Schools and the issue was that there must be a trained B.T teacher in each of the Higher English Schools . As a result, permission was obtained from the syndicate , Calcutta University , to send up candidates for the Matriculation Examination in Hygiene from the Dinhata Higher English School with effect from 1924 and the Tufangunj Nripendra Narayan Memorial Higher English School also received permanent recognition from the University.<sup>1</sup> A scheme for the improvement of the pay and prospect of the pundits of all the Primary and Secondary Schools in the State was submitted.

Subsequently it was sanctioned by the honourable Cooch Behar Regency Council , offering better inducement for works to the teacher and giving scope for suitable men in the department .<sup>2</sup> In this year another proposal was introduced in the undergraduate education and it was to open B. Sc. Class in the Victoria College . Since the formation of the Victoria College , the academic stream was only for arts subjects . This proposal was submitted and sanctioned by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council and side by side the recognition of the Calcutta University was applied for . In response to this application the University Inspector paid a visit to the college.<sup>3</sup>

In 1925 implementation had been made on admission and transfer rules for students in higher English Schools.<sup>4</sup> The formation of Schools for the spread of education was on going under the guidance of State Council. Thus, the number of schools were increased to 344 ( Primary and Secondary School ).<sup>5</sup> In 1928 such number was increased to 350, which indicates that spread of education in Cooch Behar was phenomenal.<sup>6</sup> On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1930 one state model school was converted into a Middle English School.<sup>7</sup> In 1931 Sunity Academy ( girls' school ) was recognised by the Calcutta University with permission to present candidates for the Matriculation Examination to be held on 1933.<sup>8</sup> Such implementation indicates that girls' education received a warm support in Cooch Behar. Similarly, in 1932 another issue was implemented regarding the admission of girl students in the High English Schools of the State of Cooch Behar. The Regency Council accorded provisional sanction to the admission of 5 girl students for co - education in the Mathabhanga and the Mekligunj High English Schools. It was directed that the Managing Committee of the Schools concerned would make suitable arrangements for retiring rooms for the girls and that the Head Masters and other teachers of the Schools would accept the responsibility involved in this new departure.<sup>9</sup> During his reign ( Jagaddipendra Narayan ), girl students were admitted in the Victoria college to spread undergraduate education among the girls'.<sup>10</sup> In 1934 Cooch Behar State Regency Council framed new rules for the grant of free studentships in state institutions. Here it is to be noted that these grants were open to the Cooch Behar subjects, sons and daughters

of the State Servants ( Cooch Behar ), and other permanent residents of Cooch Behar , eighty per cent. being reserved for Cooch Behar subjects .<sup>11</sup> In this year apart from Middle English Schools, State Model Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools, Primary Schools, Upper Primary Schools , Lower Primary Schools , Night Schools , Girls' Schools ; the Industrial School which was under the instruction of Cooch Behar Bayan Silpa Vidyalaya , the only technical school in Cooch Behar , got financial support from the authority .<sup>12</sup> In 1937 under the revised regulations of the Calcutta University , elementary scientific knowledge has been made a compulsory subject and accordingly steps have been taken for imparting instruction in this subject. A special grant of Rs. 376 was sanctioned by the Cooch Behar State Council for the equipment of the science room . The necessary apparatus , chemicals , charts and specimens of rocks and minerals have been purchased . A demonstration room , too , had been fitted with a sink and water connection .<sup>13</sup>

Besides all these, Cooch Behar State authority also took active initiatives in the sphere of education . The following comparative statement shows the receipt and expenditure for the year 1939 – 40 , the average cost of educating each student in under graduate section and the state share of cost per capita :<sup>14</sup>

	Rs.	A.	P.
EXPENDITURE{			
1. Establishment -----	40,320	0	11
2. Contingencies -----	3,278	15	0
	-----		
Total----	43,598	15	11

RECEIPTS {	1. Receipts from fees etc. -----	19,578	0	0
	2. State grant -----	24,020	15	11
	3. Cost for education of each student per annum --	143	4	2
	4. State share of the cost for each student per annum –	78	14	10

In addition to that it is to be noted that the privilege of free tuition was granted by the Maharaja to all State (Cooch Behar) scholars .

In 1940 Maharaja took initiatives for the Mahomedan students of Cooch Behar . He made a grant for the Madrasah and Muktabs . The following chart shows that what amount of initiatives taken by the State authority in this arena : <sup>15</sup>

<u>Statistics.</u>	<u>Table - 14</u>	
	<u>1939 – 40</u>	<u>1940-41</u>
a) Number of Institutions -		
Junior Madrasahs -----	10	9
Muktabs -----	29	31
	} 39	} 40
b) No. of pupils in Junior Madrasahs	668	699
c) Do in Muktabs -----	884	956
d) Total No. of pupils in all classes of schools	7,037	7,717
e) Pupil in schools reserved for mahomedans	1,452	1,655
f) Do. In the other schools -----	5,585	6,062
g) No. of girls reading in schools	---	220
reserved for Mahomedans		

**Source :** Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State (1940 - 41 ) ,p, 61.

Thus the education system of Cooch Behar moved steadily under the guidance of Regency Council on behalf of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan at the initial stages and later by the Maharaja (mature stage) himself.

**Medical** The medical system of Cooch Behar was a sound one during the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan. In Cooch Behar the main building of the Sudder Hospital being old and was in a very dilapidated condition and was unfit for further use as a hospital. Therefore, the State Regency Council of Cooch Behar, had been pleased to construct a two storeyed building to be built in the memory of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan.<sup>16</sup> For maternity cases in 1923 one midwife was employed at Dinhata and another employed at Mathabhanga.<sup>17</sup> In 1924 some measures were taken by the state authority to cure people of the disease of cholera. Temporary medical officers were appointed and a few hands from the existing permanent staff with compounders were sent to the mufussil to cope with the diseases. Two temporary dispensaries were opened in this manner, one at Kholta and other at Bhaiskhuchi. Anti-Cholera inoculation was introduced which proved successful. The police and the military forces and the sudder hospital staff were inoculated first as a preventive measures against cholera. A large number of tube-wells were sunk for the supply of pure drinking water in the cholera infected places. There were altogether 1,603 cholera cases out of which 1,113 ended fatally and 490 were cured.<sup>18</sup> In 1926 reports of cholera came from all the sub-divisions of the state and the disease threatened to spread in epidemic form. The disease was, however, checked in all the sub-divisions except Mathabhanga

where it broke out in an virulent form . The sub – divisions were divided into five circles with a medical officer and staff for each circle , to deal with the outbreak . A large number of tube – wells were sunk in the affected areas to supply pure drinking water .<sup>19</sup> Several taluks of Cooch Behar were infected by small – pox in 1927 . In order to cope with the disease , two temporary medical officers were appointed by the authority .<sup>20</sup> To improve the treatment facilities , Cooch Behar State Council permitted the civil surgeons of the sudder hospital to attend the All India Medical Conference .<sup>21</sup> The hospitals and dispensaries , sudder jail , sub – jails, police stations and out posts were regularly inspected by the Civil surgeon . Several schools were also inspected by him .<sup>22</sup> The health of the students of the Jenkins School was examined by the sanitary officer assisted by the Sanitary Inspector of the sudder circle .<sup>23</sup> Apart from that Cooch Behar State Council regularly monitored various other aspect in the sphere of medical treatment . The statement below shows the receipt under different heads of medical department for the last three years :<sup>24</sup>

**Table - 15**

<b>Heads</b>	<b>1927- 28</b>		<b>1928 – 29</b>		<b>1929- 30</b>	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1. Prescription fees	1,307	4 0	1,377	2 0	1,418	4 0
2. Sale proceeds of Medicine	1,039	15 6	1,083	9 0	1,112	0 3
3. Ditto bottles, &c.	72	12 6	82	7 0	90	8 0
4. House rent of Rajmata cottage wards	184	0 0	202	8 0	371	8 0
5. Subscription for the aided dispensaries	1,362	0 0	1,068	0 0	972	0 0
<b>Total -</b>	<b>4,016</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>13 0</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>4 3</b>

**Source :** Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State ( 1929 -30 ) , p, 67 .



In 1928 a clinical laboratory was formed by the Medical department of Cooch Behar for diagnostic purposes in the town, because at Cooch Behar Tropical diseases practically prevailed throughout the year. Hence since the beginning of the year 1928, a regular clinical laboratory was started in a miniature scale in the sudder hospital under a specially trained sub – assistant surgeon and every effort being made to improve it gradually. <sup>25</sup>

For the people of Sitai a cottage dispensary at Sitai was opened with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> august, 1932. For the maintenance of the dispensary monthly subscriptions amounting to Rs. 30 was available from local sources. It has been accommodated for the present in a private rent – free house and the Superintendent of vaccination, a sub – assistant surgeon was placed in its charge. Regarding vaccination, during the reign of Maharaja Jagadipendra Narayan, serious steps were taken by the medical department. In 1933 four vaccination inspectors and twenty - five vaccinators were engaged in vaccination work. A subsidiary center for anti – treatment was established at the sudder hospital on the 15<sup>th</sup> December in 1933. It was under an officer of the state medical department, who had previously undergone a course of training at the Pasteur Institute, Kasauli.

The State Council sanctioned a sum of Rs. 140 for the last months in 1936 for laying out a garden in the compound of the hospital. Under the direction of the Garden Superintendent of the state it was laid out and it had added considerably to the beauty of the hospital building and it was thought that

it had not been without beneficial effect psychologically on the more sensitive patients .<sup>26</sup>

In 1937 the medical department of Cooch Behar sent sub- assistant surgeon of Sudder Hospital at Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine for receiving training on anti – malaria work .<sup>27</sup> During this year a survey of almost all the houses of the town was made . The weeds and jungle in the tanks behind the Palace Stables were cleaned . Larvicides were sprayed on stagnant water in the town. The pucca drains on the eastern side of the town, the water troughs maintained for cows and buffaloes at the crossings of roads , unused wells, and stagnant water in drains by the side of hydrants , had been found to be the main breeding – places of mosquitoes , especially during the dry season .<sup>28</sup>

The other part of medical treatment i. e the veterinary department also developed very steadily during the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan . There was only one veterinary assistant surgeon in the service of the State . As he was in charge of the veterinary hospital in Cooch Behar town it was not possible for him to visit the rural area often , and in fact he used to go to the rural area and then there was a particularly bad outbreak of cattle disease . The Regency Council of Cooch Behar decided that the veterinary department should be strengthened , accordingly , a second veterinary assistant surgeon for touring was appointed in 1924 .<sup>29</sup>

Thus the Medical system of Cooch Behar under Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan was a commendable one .

**Public Works Department ( P.W.D )** During the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan the public works department ( P.W.D ) worked on the following schemes under the guidance of State Council -

**i) Head post – office** A two storied pucca building for the Post Office was completed in 1924 . Its main building consisting of two storeys . The ground floor has a big central hall measuring 55' x 40', for the post office proper with a treasury room 12' x 10' counter &c . To the right of the central hall was a telephone exchange Room . At the back a record room was provided . The other three sides were enclosed with 7' wide open verandahs . On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor were the quarters for the post and telegraph masters with separate entrances and staircases .<sup>30</sup>

**ii) Re decoration of rooms in Palace** In 1927 the following alterations had also been carried out :<sup>31</sup>

- a) Removal of Her Highness' staircase into His late Highness .
- b) Enlargement of late Maharaja Jitendra Narayan's Study room into a bigger sitting room by enclosing a portion of the next room .
- c) Removal of the northern central staircase into the passage to the west of the late father Maharaja's suite of rooms and conversion of the staircase room into a bathroom .
- d) Conversion of the library room into a sitting room , small drawing room into a bed room , gun room into a billiard room and the billiard room into a library .
- e) Providing a complete marble flooring to the new billiard room and marble flooring border to several of the rooms .

f) Replacing the old large doors with either etched and embossed glass panels or ground glass panels with a fan light on top .

**iii) Police barracks at Cooch Behar** The work of constructing a two storied pucca building for the police barracks at Cooch Behar was in progress throughout the year 1928 . Rs. 47,647 was spent during the year .<sup>32</sup>

**iv) Construction of a dispensary at Bamanhat** A corrugated iron roofed building on steel trusses and 10" pucca walls consisting of 4 rooms viz. - one doctor's room 17' x 12', one operation room 12' x 8' , one store room 12' x 8' and one dispensary 9' x 8' with two side verandahs . The whole work was completed in 1928 .<sup>33</sup>

**v) Building for Cooch Behar State Press** A pucca building 181'- 5" x 35' - 9" having 7' wide verandah in front and two sides were constructed in 1930 at a total cost of Rs. 39,968 with exception of steps and surface drains . The building consists of 7 rooms viz. , one Bengali composing room 35' - 4" x 25', one English composing room 67'- 3 ½" x 25' , one printing machine room 25' x 23' , one clerks' room 25' x 12' , one record room and other officer's room each measuring 12' x 12' - 3 ½" .<sup>34</sup>

**vi) Construction of a Circuit House in Cooch Behar Town** In 1930 a two - storied pucca building having in the ground floor two rooms 20'x 18' each one to be used as dining room and the other drawing room , 2 office rooms 12' x 8' each , 2 bath rooms one 13'- 3" x 8'- 6' , another 8' x 8' , one stair case room 10' x 20' , one pantry 10' x 8' , one store room 10' x 8' and two small verandahs in back 13' - 6" x 8' and 6' x 8' and a verandah 8' wide in front and the two sides . Besides the above

there is a carriage porch at the front . In the first floor it has two bed rooms 20' x 18' each , 2 dressing rooms 12' x 8' , 2 bath rooms 8' x 8' each and another bath room 13' – 3" x 8' and 8' wide verandahs in front and back .<sup>35</sup>

**vii) Construction of Khas Mahal building** The following buildings were constructed at a cost of Rs. 3,582 in 1938.<sup>36</sup>

a) A corrugated iron roofed building with two rooms measuring 12' x 12' and 12' x 10' with 4 ft. wide verandah, pucca plinth , wall and terraced floor , was constructed at Mekhligunj .

b) A corrugated iron roofed building with two rooms measuring 12' x 12', each with 4 ft. wide verandah and pucca plinth , wall, terraced floor, constructed at Mathabhanga .

c) A corrugated iron roofed building with two rooms , one measuring 12' x 12' and the other 12'x 10' on wood posts and frames and with mat walls were constructed at Haldibari .

**viii) Construction of the military barracks** In 1938 a new barrack was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 7,488. This barrack was totally reserved for military force.<sup>37</sup>

**ix) Communication** In this avenue there were a lot of schemes implemented by the Public Works Department which were as follows :

In 1923 P.W.D took the following works (construction of bridges and culvert) regarding communication in Cooch Behar.<sup>38</sup>

1. Four feet span pucca culvert in the 1<sup>st</sup> mile of Baneswar to Natabari road .
2. Eight feet span pucca culvert in the 6<sup>th</sup> mile of the road from Cooch Behar to Garodhat .

3. Four feet span pucca culvert in the 9<sup>th</sup> mile of the road from Cooch Behar to Garodhat .
4. Five feet span pucca culvert in the 10<sup>th</sup> mile of the road from Cooch Behar to Garodhat .
5. Six feet span pucca culvert in the 7<sup>th</sup> mile of Patlakhawa Road .
6. Five feet span pucca culvert in the 5<sup>th</sup> mile of Patlakhawa Road .
7. Four feet span pucca culvert in the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile of Shahebgunj - Bamanhat Road .
8. Strengthening the Iron Bridge over the Girja river in the four mile of the village path from Dewangunj to Chilahati .
9. A timber bridge in the 17<sup>th</sup> mile of the Cooch Behar - Sitalkuchi Road .
10. Adding a span to the wooden bridge in the 21<sup>st</sup> mile Dinjata - Mekhligunj Road .
11. A 20 feet span bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup> mile of Cooch Behar – Sitalkuchi Road .
12. A masonry bridge in the 45<sup>th</sup> mile of the Emigration Road west of Cooch Behar .
13. One feet span masonry culvert on the Haughton street in the town of Cooch Behar .

In 1925 the following culverts and bridges were constructed by the P.W.D. <sup>39</sup>

1. One 4' span pucca culvert on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> mile of Patlakhawa Road .
2. One 5' span pucca culvert on the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile of Kakina Road .
3. One 4' span pucca culvert on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> mile of Kakina Road .
4. One 6' span pucca culvert on the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile of Janaki- Tiwary Road .
5. One 12' span timber bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> mile of the Changrabanda - Jamaladah Road .
6. One 6' span pucca culvert on the 7<sup>th</sup> mile of the Phulbari – Chilkiguri Road .

7. One 3' diameter corrugated iron culvert on the 14<sup>th</sup> mile of the Cooch Behar – Sitalkuchi Road .
8. One 3' diameter corrugated iron culvert on the 13<sup>th</sup> mile of the Katamari – Mana - bari Road .
9. One 12' span iron bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup> mile of the Lowkuti Road .

In 1926 a few works were constructed , which were as follows :<sup>40</sup>

1. One 5' span pucca culvert in the 6<sup>th</sup> mile of Rangpur Road .
2. One 6' span pucca culvert in the 6<sup>th</sup> mile of Dinhata - Baxirhat Road .

In 1927 the following work was in progress :<sup>41</sup>

1. 20' span iron bridge on the 14<sup>th</sup> mile of Baneswar- Pundibari road.
2. 40'span iron bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> mile of Latkabari- Chowdhurirhat Road .
3. 3' diameter corrugated iron bridge on the 10<sup>th</sup> , 11<sup>th</sup> , 12<sup>th</sup> mile of Mathabhanga - Moranga Road .

In 1928 -29 P.W.D took the work of metalling the roads in Cooch Behar town namely Nripendra Narayan Road, Sunity Road , Kameswari Road , Smith Road .

Apart from continuous work under P.W.D in 1938 with a view to improving inter – communication with in the state, and with the neighbouring British territories , the Cooch Behar Darbar worked out a scheme of road development in the state (Cooch Behar) in collaboration with the Road Development Officer, Government of Bengal and in consultation with the railway authorities . The project would extend for 10 years and included the cost of metalling all the important roads in the state (Cooch Behar) connecting all important hats ,bundars etc.<sup>42</sup>

In 1939 - 40 the following village paths were joined through bridges -<sup>43</sup>

1. 75 ft. wooden bridge ( 5 spans of 15' ft. each ) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile Chenakata – Bairagirhat village path .
2. 60 ft. wooden bridge ( 4 spans of 15' ft. each ) at the 1<sup>st</sup> mile of Dowaguri – Nayarhat village path .
3. 40 ft. wooden bridge ( 3 spans ) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile of Okrabari village path .
4. 40 ft. wooden bridge (3 spans ) on the 1<sup>st</sup> gap at the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile of Rajarhat village path .
5. 20 ft. span wooden bridge at the 4<sup>th</sup> mile of Dewanhat - Chilkirhat village path .

In order to maintain projected plans a Special Road Development Fund was introduced in 1940 for communication in Cooch Behar during the rule of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan .<sup>44</sup>

**Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Prajabatsal Chikitsalaya** In 1923 the former sudder hospital was renovated with various equipments and facilities . Among the whole scheme Rs. 20,000 was granted by the Maharani Sahiba ( mother of Jagaddipendra Narayan ), Rs. 12 ,000 was deposited in the Imperial Bank of India . Rs. 12 , 384 was spent during the year for the purchase of some materials . The new hospital building's name was given in the memory of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan . Thus the hospital building known as Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Prajabatsal Chikitsalaya .<sup>45</sup>

**Transfer of management of Sunity Academy** With a view to improving the condition of the Sunity Academy for the education of girls (1925), in which Maharaja takes a great interest of the management of the institution, which was an aided one,



was transferred to the Education Department of the State of Cooch Behar.<sup>46</sup> It was decided that the existing Committee of Management should continue to function and assist in giving effect to the decisions of the council on the various questions involved, and that the standard of the Academy should, for the present, be so raised that it might teach up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of a High English School. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was allotted for providing additional accommodation for the academy, of which Rs. 5,000 was provided by the Cooch Behar State authority and the balance was met from the funds of the Academy. A ford motor bus was also provided for bringing some of the girls to the Academy and taking them back to their homes.<sup>47</sup>

**Water Supply Scheme** The water supply scheme is estimated to the cost of Rs. 2.5 lakhs. It was decided to spread the expenditure over two years – Rs. 1.25 lakhs being provided in 1926 – 27 and Rs. 1.25 lakhs in 1927 – 28. It was also decided that sum of Rs. 45,000 would be appropriated from the accumulated surplus of the pound fund towards the capital cost of the scheme and that a sum of Rs. 80,000 would be provided for the scheme in the budget for 1926 – 27, thus making up the total sum of Rs. 1,25,000 sanctioned for the expenditure during 1926 – 27. The north – west portion of Narendra Narayan Park, which was in the center of the town, was selected for the location of the water works and power house. A provision of Rs. 25,000 has been made in the Public Works Department budget, 1926 – 27 for the construction of the new power house. The whole

scheme will be carried out under the supervision and direction of the chief engineer, public health department, Bengal. The proposal of the chief engineer, public health department, Bengal, in connection with rural water supply were also approved by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council and an experiment was being carried out in the shape of sinking tube wells in 25 taluks (villages) close to Cooch Behar town with a view to seeing, after the experiment had been given a proper trial, whether it would be feasible to introduce a tube well scheme on a large scale throughout the state with a view to providing the population in the rural areas with a good water supply so far as may be possible.<sup>48</sup>

**Re – organisation of Fire – Brigade** As the arrangements for dealing with fires in the town of Cooch Behar were wholly made quite for the purpose, the Regency Council sanctioned a scheme for the reorganisation of the town fire brigade submitted by the vice-president, Regency Council. The scheme is briefly as follows:<sup>49</sup>

- i) The purchase of a Dennis Motor Trailer Pump ( as used by The Calcutta Fire Brigade ) which is connected to , and drawn by , a Motor Lorry .
- ii) The purchase of a one – ton Ford Lorry Chassis fitted with a body specially designed by the Chief Officer of the Calcutta Fire Brigade.
- iii) The construction of a garage for housing the Ford Lorry and Trailer Pump .
- iv) A crew of seven men drawn from the Police Force , who will be trained with the Calcutta Fire Brigade .

**Motor watering car** To meet the difficulties experienced in watering the roads of the town of Cooch Behar , the purchase of a Motor Watering Car

at Rs. 3,150 was sanctioned by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council in 1926.<sup>50</sup>

**Narendra Narayan Park**

An important order was issued by Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1926 regarding the modernisation of Narendra Narayan Park . The important clauses of the ordinance were as follows :<sup>51</sup>

1. To carriage motor car , motor cycle , bicycle or tricycle shall be driven or ridden in the Park at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour . They are permitted to be used in the metalled roads only inside the Park .
2. No person shall ride on horse – back in the Park .
3. No person shall bring a dog into the Park .
4. The following acts were strictly prohibited –

The plucking , gathering or digging up of anything growing in the Park , the felling of trees the breaking of benches or plants , the cutting of names or marks on trees or on the branches , the disfiguring of furniture , the removing or disfigure -ing of labels or marks attached to trees or plants , pie – nicking , shooting bird – nesting , the grazing of horses or cattle and fishing , or polluting the water of the tanks . No bathing was allowed in the tanks after 2 p.m .

5. The playing of football , cricket , hokey , tennis or other out door games in the park is also prohibited .
6. No person should commit any nuisance in the Park ground or molest or annoy any person or person – resorting to it .
7. Any person convicted of a breach of any of the above rules shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 20 .

**Electric supply** In 1926 – 27 a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided for the expanding the electric system of Cooch Behar . In addition to this a sum of Rs. 25,000 was provided in the public works department for that year for a new Power House . An additional amount of Rs. 37,000 was sanctioned for the construction of Electric godown in Cooch Behar .<sup>52</sup>

**Public Health Department** For the purpose of better combating epidemic diseases – more specially cholera ,small – pox , kala – azar and malaria , the Regency Council accorded sanction to the formation of Public Health Department for the state consisting of one sanitary officer ( assistant surgeon ), three sanitary officer (sub- assistant surgeon ) , twenty –five vaccinators , three medicine carriers and three sweepers with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> October , 1927 .<sup>53</sup> The total cost of the scheme was Rs. 15,800 a year including traveling allowance , disinfectants and medicines , contingencies and house allowance . The sanitary officer was given one sanitary inspector in reserve whom he could send out in case of emergencies to any particular place . For the purpose of proper administration of the department , the Cooch Behar state was divided into two divisions : (I) Sudder Cooch Behar, Dinhata , Tufan-gunj ; (II) Mathabhanga , and Mekhligunj .<sup>54</sup> To each of the two divisions – one sanitary inspector was posted . Owing to the formation of this department ; the existing provisions amounting to Rs. 4971 under ‘vaccination’ and ‘sanitation’ in the Medical budget were no longer required . Deducting this amount from Rs.15,800 which was the total cost of the scheme , the extra cost per annum for the department was Rs. 10,829 or Rs. 11,000 approximately .<sup>55</sup>

**Cooch Behar Subject** On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1932, the Cooch Behar State Regency Council implemented an important issue on the identity of natives. The State Council successfully abolished the so called term “Native of the State” and “Domiciled Native of the State” and adopted single classification namely, “Cooch Behar Subject”. Such privileges as had before been accorded to “Native” and “Domiciled Natives” were accorded to “Cooch Behar Subject”.<sup>56</sup>

A Cooch Behar Subject has been defined as one :<sup>57</sup>

1. Who owes allegiance to His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, his heirs, successors, and assigns and renounces all claims to the status of British Indian Subject or the status of subject of any Indian State.
2. Whose great – grand – father, grand – father and father have continuously resided in the Cooch Behar state.
3. Who has no home or permanent abode without the limits of the Cooch Behar state.

**Agricultural Officer** To assist the Revenue Department with expert advice regarding adoption of improved methods in Agricultural Operations and to do propaganda work amongst cultivators, an Agricultural Officer in the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, was appointed on Rs. 100 per month for a period of one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1933.<sup>58</sup>

## **B. Development in Cultural Field :**

In cultural sphere the following measures were implemented during

the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan .

Shooting arrangement in the reserve forest was also continued as following the step of the forefathers . In 1927 a shooting camp was organized at Takoamari . During this year Lord Lytton, the Governor General of Bengal visited Cooch Behar for a five day shoot at Takoamari .<sup>59</sup>

In 1925 a significant decision was made regarding the graveyard of Maharajas which once again shows that the outlook of the Maharaja and the royal family was modern . Since the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan graveyard was placed at the Palace ground . During the rule of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan, Cooch Behar State Regency Council took measures to remove the royal graves from the Palace Compound . These were re – erected at the Keshab Ashram and the construction can be summerise as - a corrugated iron roofed shed 34' – 6" x 34' – 6' constructed for the purpose at a cost of Rs. 5,422 . The shed was built with wooden roof trusses supported on Rolled Steel joist posts and had wire – netting walls on all sides , pucca plinth and floor with artificial stone paving.<sup>60</sup>

In 1925 a new kind of party emerged in Cooch Behar which helped the people of rural areas to cope with the thief's . Maharaja was a cultured man who knew that it was not possible to protect the people of distant part of Cooch Behar from thief's , rather it was good to form a village defense party which can protect the rural people from the recurrent crisis . This scheme proved to be useful in dealing with dacoits .<sup>61</sup>

Cooch Behar royal authority took active part in

allround cultural development of the state of Cooch Behar . In 1940 – 41 the students of Jenkins school actively participated in scout movement i.e a social volunteers squad . This scout continues to progress satisfactory . It had a unique format which can be summarise as - the cube pack and the two scout troops had the full complement of twenty – four units each . Apart from that it was true that there had been many vacancies in the troops caused by senior boys leaving the institution ; and these were soon filled by younger one . As a consequence the number of new recruits have become large . The scouts continued their work of social service wherever required .<sup>62</sup>

In 1933 a scheme implemented by the state authority of Cooch Behar regarding the preservation of replica , idols of Hindu gods and goddesses , memorable tablets scattered all over the place at the historic site of Gossanimari .<sup>63</sup>

In this way the cultural atmosphere of Cooch Behar set an example of classical period under the royal patronage .

### **C . Development in Economic Field**

During the reign of Maharaja Jagadipendra Narayan radical changes were notable in the economic field of the State of Cooch Behar which were as follows -

**Revision of rates for town and bunder (port) lands**      On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1927 the Cooch Behar State Regency Council implemented an order regarding the revision

of rates for town and bunders lands and the classification of the several bunders in Cooch Behar State were as follows –<sup>64</sup>

1. period of settlement - The period would be fixed at 10 years .
2. classification - Cooch Behar town should be treated separately from the other towns and bunders . For bunders lands in the town of Cooch Behar there will be only two rates , viz.-

Class I - For the entire frontage Rs. 1 – 4 ( Rupee one and annas four only ) per cubit or Rs. 400 per bigha . Back holding Rs. 10 ( Rupees ten only ) per bigha . The existing rates are Rs. 400 (Rupees four hundred only ) a bigha for the frontage and Rs. 8 ( eight only ) a bigha for the back holding . All lands comprised in the block of which boundaries are given below come under Class I :-

Two hundred forty – five feet west of centre of Dalton Street and 107 feet Nripendra Narayan Road .

One hundred and seventy seven feet east of centre of Smith Road and 107 feet north of Nripendra Narayan Road .

Junction of Sunity Road with kutchha road east of Smith Road .

Junction of Sunity Road with kutchha road west of Dalton street.

Class II - For the actual frontage occupied by the shop As. 12 ( annas twelve only ) per cubit ( 20 cubits deep ) or Rs. 240 (Rupees two hundred and forty only ) per bigha and Rs. 8 ( Rupees eight only ) a bigha for the back holding as at present . All lands not included in the Class I block come under this class .

It is to be understood that houses other than shops in the



block comprising the lands in “Class I” will bear a ground rate of Rs. 10 (Rupees ten only) a bigha and in “Class II” Rs. 8 (Rupees eight only) a bigha .

3. For the towns and bunders in the state of Cooch Behar , there will be three rates only viz. –

Class I . – Rs. 100 (Rupees one hundred only) a bigha for the entire frontage, occupied or unoccupied , and Rs . 5 (Rupees five only ) a bigha for the back portion of the holding .

Class II. – Rs. 80 ( Rupees eighty only ) a bigha for the actual frontage occupied by the shop and Rs . 4 ( Rupees four only ) a bigha for rest of the holding .

Class III. – Rs. 4 (Rupees four only ) a bigha for the whole area ( bunders ) , occupied or unoccupied .

For houses other than shops in all the three classes, there will be an uniform rate of Rs. 4 (Rupees four only) a bigha for the whole area , occupied or unoccupied .

The following is a list of the Mofussil towns and bunders Classified according to the rates given below –

**Class I**

Dinhata , Mathabhanga , Haldibari

**Class II**

Dinhata sub - division

Chaudhurihat , Gossanimari , Mekhligunj , Bhetaguri , Sitai ,

Bamanhat , Bakshirhat , Sahebgunj , Gitaldaha .

Mathabhanga sub – division

Siberhat , Nishigunjhat , Ghoksadanga , Sitalkhuchihat .

Mekhlignj sub – division

Mekhlignj , Dewangunj , Jamaldah , Ranirhat , Changrabandha .

Cooch Behar sudder sub – division

Baneswar , Dawanhat , Pundibari .

Tufangunj sub – division

Bakshirhat , Balarampurhat , Ranirhat (Tufangunj town ) ,

Bhaiskhuchi , Bara Mahadeva Bundar , Krishnapur , Ghoramara , Natabari .

**Progressive enhancement of revenue and rent**      On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1927 the Cooch Behar State Council made the following orders regarding the enhancement of revenue and rent in Cooch Behar : <sup>65</sup>

1. When the maximum jama (rent of revenue ) as settled now does not exceed Rs. 5 or the increase does not exceed 75 per cent of the old as well as the existing jamas , the increase is to take effect once , in which the new settlement for a term of 30 years is to come into force .
2. In other case the maximum jama settled now is over 75 percent of the old as well as existing jamas , 75 percent of the higher of the last two jamas ( viz. the old and the existing jamas ) subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 in any case is to take effect at once and of the remainder of the increase , one half is to take effect in the third year and the remaining half in the fifth year .
3. The jama of no under – tenure will be made progressive unless gradual enhance –

ment is allowed in the case of the jote (or tenure) comprising the under – tenure .

4. As regards the under – tenures of different grades , no under – tenant’s jama will be made progressive unless the enhancement of the jama of his immediately superior landlord is made gradual .

5. In the case of progressive enhancement the amount annually payable during the first four years will be separately shown in the terijes ( final record of right ).

**New Stamps in Cooch Behar** In 1929 it was decided to introduce into the state of Cooch Behar a new type of Stamps containing the altered Court of Arms of the state, that is, substituting the figure of tiger for that of lion . The treasury officer and the sub – divisional Naib Ahilkars were directed to destroy by burning in their presence all the old stamps that were in , and came to , their possession on the 1<sup>st</sup> April , 1929 , on which the introduction came into force and furnish certificates stating the number and value of the stamps thus destroyed . The stamp vendors also were directed to return on the 1<sup>st</sup> April , 1929 to the treasury or sub – treasuries all the old stamps in their possession and receive in exchange fresh stamps of the same value and denomination .<sup>66</sup>

**Relief of Jotedars and Tenants** In 1932 the Cooch Behar State Regency Council issued an order in favour of jotedars and tenants , which were as follows –<sup>67</sup>

1. For every jote for which the whole of the arrears and current demand has been satisfied with in the current revenue year 1932 , the jotedars would be entitled to a remission of one – third of the revenue demand on that jote due for 1933 .

2. For every jote for which the whole of the arrears and current demand up to and

including the kartick (name of Bengali month) kist ( installment ) of the current year was satisfied , the jotedars would be entitled to a remission of one – fourth of the revenue demand on that jote for 1932 .

3. Similar concessions were to shown to all the tenants and under Tenants by jote – dars and other superior land – lords (whether jotedars and superior land – lords have themselves received the above concessions or not ) in all cases where tenants and under - tenants have paid to their respective land lords all kists due up to the end of 1932 .

**Rent money order system** To facilitate the payment of rent by the state subjects ( Cooch Behar ) the postal authorities were moved to sanction the introduction of the Rent Money Order System in the state of Cooch Behar . Extension of the system to this state was granted with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1935 .<sup>68</sup>

**Land Revenue Policy** To mitigate the hardships to the subjects of the state of Cooch Behar attributable to the prevailing economic depression , remission of revenue were granted to the jotedars and similar concessions were extended to all classes of under tenants. Extensions of time for payment of kists (indebt ) were also granted .Of Jotes in respect of which default had been made for many kists , a small number were made khas (vested land) and brought under the Khas Mehal Department . The result of the policy followed has been on the whole satisfactory in as much as it gave relief to the jotedars to some extent while the revenue collections of the state showed a marked improvement .<sup>69</sup>

In this way developmental activities in Cooch Behar State sate an

example of a modern state . Such an advanced and technical way was possible only because of the state , under the supervision of the royal authority .

### **Innovative Schemes**

From 1936 to 1949 Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan implemented various schemes, which were can be called as innovative measures from the part of a royal authority . These innovative measures were as follows -

**1.Agriculture and Industry** In 1937 an important measure was taken by the Regency Council for improving the economic strength of Cooch Behar . For creating better up liftment, the Council took steps in agricultural and industrial fields . These steps were as follows :<sup>70</sup>

- i) An agricultural , Industrial and Public Health Exhibition was held in the month of November 1937 on the Parade Ground at Cooch Behar and lasted for ten days .
- ii) An Agricultural Farm for experimental and demonstration purpose was established during the year near the Cooch Behar Town .
- iii) As Cooch Behar was purely an agricultural state, forcible endeavours were made to encourage in the economic interest of the state , the establishment of factories and mills concerned in production ancillary to agriculture .

**2. Society for prevention of cruelty to animals** A public meeting was convened in 1937 by Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan to establish a branch at Cooch Behar of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to animals (Calcutta) . The society, during the first year of its foundation (Cooch Behar), rendered useful service to the cause of preventing cruelty to animals including the provision of automatic water troughs

for animals and an approved lethal chamber for the destruction of diseased dog .<sup>71</sup>

**3. History books on Cooch Behar** During the reign of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan a number of historical books on Cooch Behar was published by the royal state press . The name of the books along with their authors were as follows -<sup>72</sup>

1. History of Cooch Behar ( Part –I ) - Khan Chaudhuri Amanutullah Ahamed .
2. Rajopakhyan - Joynath Munshi .
3. Cottage Industry – Satyendra Nath Roy .

**4. Publication of Cooch Behar Darpan** In 1938 due to the effort of the royal authority a Bengali fortnightly newspaper namely Cooch Behar Darpan was published from the Cooch Behar State Press .<sup>73</sup> In this news paper all sorts of socio – cultural activities of the royal dynasty was noted . It helped the Bengali speaking people to know the benevolent measures of the Maharaja .

**5. Cooch Behar Model Diary** A model diary was started in the Cooch Behar Town in January 1939 with sixteen Hariyana cows purchased through the Union Dairy , Lahore . Its purpose was to supply the public with pure pasteurized milk and to maintain a level of purity .<sup>74</sup>

**6. Moderation of Cooch Behar State Palace Garden** The principal work executed in this section was laying out of a Nursery for the supply of plants in connection with the anticipated renovation of the Palace Gardens during the year 1938 – 39 .<sup>75</sup> This was completed and many thousands of plants have been raised from seed , cuttings and layers . The existing rose and annual gardens were been commenced and

plants was made where by this could be completed in the coming year . A new service road connecting the Palace with the existing municipal road on the north side of the Palace Compound , necessitating the felling of several large trees and bamboo clumps and the planting of trees along side the road , had been undertaken . The cunna beds on each side of the main drive to the Palace have been redesigned and low growing flowering trees planted behind these beds to make an avenue running the entire length of the main drive . The banks of the both jheels ( small pond in the palace compound ) were planted with flowering shrubs as well as the surrounding ground .<sup>76</sup> An oil – engine tractor belonging to Maharaja’s Shooting Camp has been transferred to the work of gardening and was being used for rolling and grass – cutting . So the tool compliment have been greatly increased .<sup>77</sup>

**7. New rule for Medicine** In 1945 The Cooch Behar State Regency Council implemented an order that the public may not have any difficulty in distinguishing the American from the German patient of the same name, retailers were hereby instructed to note that if the tablets are sold under the name ‘Atabrine’ and not under the general name ‘Quinacrine Hydrochloride’, the container in which the tablets are kept and sold must bear a prominent indication of the name of the manufacturer.<sup>78</sup>

**8. Cooch Behar Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 1945** It was a bill to amend the Cooch Behar Income Tax – 1941 . Whereas it was expedient further to amend The Cooch Behar Income Tax Act – 1941 , for the purpose here in after appearing ; It is here by enacted as follows –<sup>79</sup>

1. This act may be called The Cooch Behar Income – Tax (Amendment) Act of 1945 .

2. It shall , on publication in the Cooch Behar Gazette with the assent of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan took effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April , 1945 .

3. Cooch Behar Excess Profit Tax (amendment) Bill 1945 .

A Bill to amend the Cooch Behar Excess Profit Tax Act 1943 where it was expedient to Cooch Behar Excess Profits Tax Act 1943, for the purpose here in after appearing , it was hereby enacted as follows –<sup>80</sup>

1. This act may be called the Cooch Behar Excess Profit Tax Amendment Act of 1945 .

2. It shall on publication in the Cooch Behar Gazette with the assent of Maharaja , took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April , 1945 .

In the section 4 of the Cooch Behar Excess Profit Tax Act of 1943 , the words – ‘fifty percent’ shall be substituted in place of the words ‘twenty – five percent’ .

**9. Medical Training of Dhais ( midwives) and Nurses** On 8<sup>th</sup> February , 1945

The Cooch Behar State Regency Council implemented the following training facilities and eligibility for the midwife and nurses of Cooch Behar .<sup>81</sup>

1. At the sudder hospital of Cooch Behar, a class would be arranged for training of 6 (six) female personnel who would be taken through a regular course of theoretic-al lectures and practical training in general nursing and midwifery for a period of 2 (two) years to enable them to take up independent responsibility of the work as Dhai and nurse either as a state employee in any of the hospital in the state of Cooch Behar or in private capacity any where with in Cooch Behar .

2. The candidate should pose a minimum education of having read up to the Class



V in the primary school .

3. They should get a monthly allowance of Rs. 20 each during the training period and are to give an undertaking that they will serve the state of Cooch Behar at least for two years , after completion of the training if required .

4. The syllabus for the course of lectures and the practical training was drawn up by the civil surgeon . They would have lectures in elementary anatomy, physiology , midwifery, nursing , and hygiene . These lectures will be delivered by the civil surgeon, assistant surgeon and lady doctor .

5. They would undergo examinations at the end of the first and second year of their course and those who will pass the final examination at the end of the second year will be granted a certificate to enable them to obtain service in Cooch Behar or do private practice in the line .

**10. Fish culture in Cooch Behar** On 4<sup>th</sup> March , 1945 the royal durbar of Cooch Behar implemented an order for the modernisation of the fisheries of Cooch Behar . The fish culture of Cooch Behar turned into a new way as all the tanks , which were under the control of Cooch Behar Town Committee transferred to the development department . This order proved to be a successful one regarding the production and requirement of fishes in Cooch Behar.<sup>82</sup>

**11 . The Cooch Behar State Transport** On 27<sup>th</sup> March 1945, The Cooch Behar State Transport was formed for the people of Cooch Behar. It opened the easiest way of journey for passengers through bus .The Cooch Behar State Regency Council imple-

mented an order regarding journey through bus that the State Motor Transport Service should be opened with effect from the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1945, Soulmari – Falakatta to Cooch Behar.<sup>83</sup> From the middle of May, 1948 State Transport Department of Cooch Behar has made necessary arrangements for running a through passengers and goods service between Siliguri and Cooch Behar.<sup>84</sup>

**12. Motor spirit rationing order** On 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1945 an amendment was made in the Motor Spirit Rationing order, 1941 namely –

In the first schedule appended to the said order, for Form “F”. The following form shall substituted, namely:<sup>85</sup>

Form – F

License number

( In respect of motor spirit to be used other wise than in motor vehicles and motor boats )

( Name and address of license ) Mr. / Mrs.

Is / are hereby licensed to acquired motor spirit to the extent of – ( in words or figures ) upto ----- 194, subject to the following Conditions –

1. The maximum quantity to be acquired in any one calendar month should not exceed gallons ( in wards or figures ).
2. The motor spirit acquired under the license would be used for no purpose other than .
3. Motor spirit should be acquired from a supplier or dealer .
4. The license was not transferable and both the license and the book of receipt

forms shall remain in the custody of the license .

5. On expiry of the license both this license form and the cover of receipt book together with unused receipt forms would be returned to the office of issue along with if necessary , an application in another form 'm' for renewal .

**13. Implementation of Municipal Act of 1944** On December 1945 , The Cooch Behar State Regency Council implemented the Municipal act ( No. III of 1944) . In this act it was stated that from 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1946 , the Cooch Behar town , excluding the Palace and Cooch Behar State Railway Station areas , be treated as a municipality .<sup>86</sup> The number of commissioners for this municipality being fixed at 11.<sup>87</sup>

**14. The Cooch Behar Air craft Act of 1946** Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan was himself a trained pilot . He invented the scheme shorter and comfortable journey through airplane . The first plane landed at Cooch Behar in 1934 for trailing purpose . In 1937 – 38 the aerodrum was formed at Cooch Behar .<sup>88</sup> Nilkuty area was selected for flying and landing purpose .The State Regency Council passed the Cooch Behar Air Craft Act of 1946 , which helped to spread Air craft communication .<sup>89</sup>

**15. Construction of an ideal storage** In 1947 an ideal storage was constructed for preservation of foods and grains .This storage proved to be handy at the time of need . The floor should be concrete , wooden floor over soil should always be avoided .<sup>90</sup> If a bare soil must be used , the walls of the store house should be of brick or concrete with foundations ( including door space ) going to a depth of 3 ft. Doors should be fitted tightly ; no gaps were allowed . windows openings should not be

less than 3 feet from ground level and the wall below should have a smooth unless there is glass ½ inch wire netting may also be used .<sup>91</sup>

**16. Rule for Commercial crop ( Tea )** In exercise of powers vested under section 3 (2) of the Cooch Behar Special Exercise Act ( III of 1945 ) and Under section 2(2) of Cooch Behar Export Duty Act ( VI of 1941) , the Cooch Behar royal durbar declared on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1947 that Tea be enlisted as special excisable goods under the first Schedule of Special Excise Act of 1915 and also be treated as article of export subject to the levy of duty under the Cooch Behar export Duty Act of 1941 .<sup>92</sup>

**17. Maternity and Child welfare centre** From September, 1947 the maternity and child welfare center situated near Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Hospital was open to render all possible service and advice to all children (under 5 years) and to all expectant mothers free of charge .<sup>93</sup> A lady doctor attended the center every Saturday afternoon to give advice regarding pre – natal, natal and post – natal care and examines expectant mothers . The midwife in – charge goes out for house visit to contact expectant mothers and to give them advice regarding health. The name and address of all patients who may require help at confinements at their dwellings were registered at the centre long before expected confinement . The midwife in charge and her assistants conduct normal labours free of charge at the dwelling of such registered case .<sup>94</sup>

**18. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1947** In 1947 an Act was passed by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council for the preservation of ancient monuments and objects of archeological , historical or artistic interest . Where it was

expedient to provide for the preservation of ancient monuments , for the exercise of control over traffic in antiquities and over excavation in certain places, and for the protection and acquisition in certain cases of ancient monuments and of objects of archeological, historical or artistic manner .<sup>95</sup> It was here by enacted as follows –<sup>96</sup>

1. This Act may be called the Cooch Behar Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1947 .

2. It would extend to the whole of the Cooch Behar State .

3. It would come into force on publication in the Cooch Behar Gazette with the assent of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan .

Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan on the one hand an administrative person and on the other hand his sportsmanship spirit motivated him to implement various innovative schemes in the state . He like his father wanted to make the State a model State in British India .<sup>97</sup> He was the last ruler of Cooch Behar whose period was instrumental in bringing social , cultural and economic transformation . All sorts of news published in the news paper about the development of Cooch Behar . On 4<sup>th</sup> October 1948 Governor of West Bengal , Mr. Kailash Nath Kartzu explained the condition of Cooch Behar to Sardar Patel in which it was stated that “ Muslims from Eastern Pakistan were infiltrating into Cooch Behar and some reports went to the length of suggesting that there would be a definite attempt made to make Cooch Behar to join Pakistan and this movement would not be wholly repugnant to the ruling house .”<sup>98</sup> For that reason the Government of India decided that “many of the Princely States had a very discontinuous territory , thus making

smooth administration difficult, (2) many of them had cultural and linguistic affiliations with the neighbouring states and provinces, which made their separateness anomalous; (3) it was an unnecessary ornamental expenditure to keep numerous units of administration.”<sup>99</sup> In the mean time the matter of merger of Cooch Behar with India was in the air. On 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1949 a telegram sent by Sharat Chandra Bose to Sardar Patel which was published in the news paper ‘Nation’. In this telegram Bose said that “The people of Cooch Behar are 99 percent Bengali – speaking and there was no single Assamese there. Apart from linguistic reasons, other reasons such as cultural, geographical, administrative etc., support West Bengal’s claim to Cooch Behar and completely negative Assam’s claim to it. As you are the minister – in – Charge, I consider it my duty to draw your attention to the situation in Cooch Behar and the demands of the people there.”<sup>100</sup>

For getting better facilities, Maharaja wanted to conclude the Cooch Behar Merger Agreement in 1949 with the government of India. Regarding the question of Merger would be decided according to the wish of the people of the state. On 18<sup>th</sup> July 1949 a news published by the ‘Hindustan Standard’ in which it was stated that “on behalf of the different organizations functioning in different parts of Cooch Behar State, a telegram was sent on 16<sup>th</sup> July to the Prime minister of India and the Congress President reiterating the unanimous decisions of all sections of the people of the state for Merger of Cooch Behar with West Bengal.”<sup>101</sup> At last on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1949, Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan signed an agreement with the Government of India which was known as Merger Agreement. According to the

treaty the princely state of Cooch Behar was transformed into a Chief Commission-ers province under the jurisdiction of Government of India.<sup>102</sup>

During the governance of the Chief Commissioner, that is, from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1949 the administration in Cooch Behar remained the same as before. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1950 Cooch Behar was merged into West Bengal by a notification issued by the Government of India on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1949 entitled the States' Merger ( West Bengal ) Order, 1949.<sup>103</sup> A Deputy Commissioner and Administrator of Cooch Behar was appointed by the Government of West Bengal and from 1<sup>st</sup> January of 1950 Cooch Behar became a district of West Bengal. As Cooch Behar was a part of India and a part of West Bengal already on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950, the date on which the Constitution of India was adopted, the Constitution applied to Cooch Behar from the very date.<sup>104</sup>

Thus the princely state of Cooch Behar entered into a new vision in Independent India.

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46. A.A.R. of the C.B.S (1925 – 26 ) , p,3 .
47. *Ibid.*
48. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1925 – 26 ), p, 6 .
49. *Ibid.* , p, 7.
50. A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1926 – 27 ), p, 4 .

51. *T.C.B.G. (1926)* ,P – I, p, 56 .
52. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1926 – 27 )* , p, 4 .
53. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1927 – 28 )* , p, 3 .
54. *Ibid.*
55. *Ibid.*
56. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S.( 1932 – 33 )* , p, 7 .
57. *Ibid.*
58. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1932 – 33 )* , p, 13 .
59. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1926 – 27 )* , p, 2 .
60. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1924 -25)* , p, 34 .
61. *Ibid.*, p, 3.
62. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1940 – 41)* , p, 53 .
63. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1932 -33 )* , p, 4 .
64. Ganguli , Karali Charan - *Survey and Settlement operations in The Cooch Behar State (1913 – 1927)* , Cooch Behar State Press , CoochBehar , 1930 , p, 46 .
65. *Ibid.*, p, 37 .

‘Illustration :- (a) where the old Jama ( deposit ) was Rs. 100, the existing Jama is Rs. 85 and the Jama now settled is Rs. 200, the Jama payable in the first year of Re – settlement about to be concluded will be Rs. 175 ( i.e ., Rs. 100 plus Rs. 75 ) , the same amount in the second year , Rs. 187 – 8 in the third and forth years and Rs. 200 in the fifth year .

b) Where the old Jama was Rs. 1 – 8. The existing Jama is Rs. 2 and the Jama settled , was Rs. 6. according to the principle of illustration (a) , Rs. 2 plus Rs. 1 – 8 ( i.e. , 75 per cent of Rs. 2 ) or Rs. 3 – 8 would be payable annually in the first and second years , Rs. 4 – 12 ( i.e. , Rs. 3 – 8 plus Rs. 1 – 4 ) in the third and forth years and Rs. 6 in the fifth year but as the amount payable on this principle in the first year is less than Rs. 5, the latter amount (Rs. 5) should be paid in the first and second years , Rs. 5 in the third and forth years and Rs. 6 in the fifth year ’.

66. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1928 – 29 )* , p, 3 .

67. *A.A.R of the C.B.S. (1931 – 32 )* , p, 4 .

68. *A.A.R . of the C.B.S. (1935 – 36 )* , p, 3 .

69. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1935 – 36 )* , p, 4 .

70. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1937 – 38 )* , p, 17 .

71. *Ibid.* , p, 18.

72. *Ibid.* ,p, 129 .

73. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1937 – 38 )* , p, 18 .

74. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. ( 1938 – 39 )* , p, 126.

75. *A.A.R . of the C.B.S. ( 1937 – 38 )* , p, 129 .

76. *Ibid.*

77. *Ibid.*

78. *T.C.B.G ( 1945 )* , Part – I , p, 34 .

79. *Ibid.* , p, 39 .

80. *Ibid.*

81. *Ibid.* , p, 64 .
82. *Ibid.* , p, 84 .
83. Roy, Swapan Kumar – *Prachin Cooch Beharer Artho-Samajik Itihas* ,Baiwala, Kolkata , 2008 , p, 149 .
84. *Ibid.* , p, 150 .
85. *T.C.B.G (1945)* , Part – I , pp, 220-21 .
86. *Ibid.* , Part – I , p, 310 .
87. *Ibid.* .
88. Roy , Swapan – *op. cit.*, p, 150 .
89. *Ibid.*
90. *T.C.B.G (1947)* , Part – V , p, 12 .
91. *Ibid.*
92. *T.C.B.G (1947)* , Part – I , p, 80 .
93. *T.C.B.G (1947)* , Part – V , p, 55 .
94. *Ibid.* , p, 56 .
95. *T.C.B.G (1947)* , Part – II , p, 146 .
96. *Ibid.* .
97. *C.B.D (1938)* , P – 58 .
98. Ray, Swapan Kumar – *Prachin Kochbiharer Sampurna Itibritta ( Bengali)*,Boiwala, Kolkata , 2006 , p, 396 .
99. *Ibid.* , p, 397.
100. *Ibid.* ,p, 404 .
101. *Ibid.* , p,407.
102. *Ibid.*, p, 409 .

103. Majumdar , Durga Das – *West Bengal District Gazetteers ( Koch Bihar )* , Feb.,  
1977, p, 139 .

104. *Ibid* .