

## **CHAPTER - VI**

### **MONUMENT MOVEMENT - ITS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS**

The ethnic factor played a very vital role in the literature of the indigenous people in this region which acted as a driving force behind this process of mass mobilisation. The economic factors as deprivation, exploitation by outsiders, central's negligence, developmental aspirations also added new dimension. The leaderships of a movement, or the major forces in a movement in its bid to win the support of larger section of the people, try to include the socio-economic issues of their concern, the movement and the groups get secularised and politicised in the process.<sup>1</sup> To a great extent, NBCA may also be said to represent this trend.<sup>2</sup>

#### **North Bengal Cultural Association and its Monument Movement**

A socio-cultural and literary body, the North Bengal Cultural Association, founded in 1974 as a non-political organisation, was chaired by K.P. Narayan as a President, Shri Dharma Narayan Barman as a Vice President and Naresh Roy Sarkar as a Secretary, as was acknowledged as a registered association by the Government of West Bengal No. S/18720--1976-77.<sup>3</sup> Since 1974 NBCA has urged the Government to stop the outsiders influx in order to save the Rajbanshi Language i.e. Kamatabehari Language, Culture and economy.<sup>4</sup> During the stages, an act was adopted to preserve the valuables and antiquities of the Cooch Behar Palace. Combating against such demolition, more N.B.C.A./ took six point resolutions to appeal for execution of the Cooch Behar Palace for following purposes :

i. Introduction of the Museum centre of the North Eastern Zone of India ;

ii. Introduction of Research Centre for socio-cultural studies and empirical orientational library;

iii.. Open Tourist centre :

iv. Construction of Mini Zoo and Park;

v. A syntactical arrangement of Botanical garden and Zoological garden and

vi. Consecration for seasonal Residence of the President of India and other VIPs.<sup>5</sup>

On September 15, 1979 the Association presented a memorandum to the President of India seeking his help for immediate action to save the valuables and antiquities of the Cooch Behar palace in the context of declaration of the palace as a national Monument referring to Telegram No. A-8 dated the 19th September 1979 following events :

i. The total decorative articles of the Durbar Hall where the Maharaja's Durba's used to be held have been removed.

ii. All most all the Oil-Paintings by the Artists from Home and Abroad, the portraits of all the maharajas of Cooch Behar dynasty along with other a great man of ancient and modern ages are no more in the palace.

iii. Almost all the rare books and rare manuscripts of the Palace Library have been removed so far.

iv. Sculpture on tusks, marble slabs, iron oves, silver vessels and other metals etc, do not exist further to beautify the palace.

v. The Chinese cot of Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhub Bhandar, which is the emblem of ancient Sculpture and which is more than one hundred and fifty years of age has been removed from the palace.

vi. Beautiful ancient valuable furnitures are being removed from the Palace.

vii. Old rare coins specially Narayani coins aged more than three to four hundred years are apprehended to be lost.

viii. Ancient palace building which was built three hundred years ago and which was later used as the Garage of the palace from about hundred and fifty years back is being demolished..<sup>6</sup>

It is historically important to note that the Cooch Behar Palace was constructed by the 18th King, Maharaja Nripendra Narayan with the help of Cornel Hotton and his sub-ordinates, situated around the thousand bighas of land in 1887 AD. The total expenditure was Rs. 8,77,203. Mr. Martain was the architect and M's Marilier and Edward's were contractors of the palace. It was designed as similar as of the palace of Bakimhum is the marvellous comparatively than the other palace in West Bengal.<sup>7</sup> Built bricks in the classificalEuropean style this magnificent double storied building covering an area of 51309 squar feet was constructed by the Koch King Maharaja Nripandra Narayan in 1887 A.,D. It measures 395 feet in length and 296 feet in breadth.

Noted for a series of beautiful arcaded varandah in the front of this palace is slightly projected on the South and Northern end and an entrance to its Durbar hall is provided by the centrally projected porch. The Durbar Hall is topped by an ornate metal dome with a louvre type cylindrical ventilator surmounting it. The various apartments of the palace included bedroom, dressing room, drawing room, dining hall, library, billiard room, Toshakhema and the ladies gallery.<sup>8</sup>

Referring to the resolution of the Parishad dated the 16th December 1975 and the representation dated the 17th April 1975 regarding the protection of the historical relics and the place of the ex-ruler of Cooch Behar, a letter, D.O. No. M/5/3/76 - 1045 was sent to render cooperation during inspection of the palace and other monuments and assure the proposed date of visiting between 21.6.76 and 22.6.76 by Mr. Morira Khzaton, Dy. superintending Archaeologist, , Archaeological survey of India, Eastern circle; Narayani Building 27, Brabourne Road to the President of the NBCA on 6 June 1976.<sup>9</sup> During this stage, the railing of the palace was being demolished by antisocials on the one hand.<sup>10</sup> Micro station, Mini Bus stand, Housing Estate, acquisition of land for North Bengal State transport corporation and cricket field are being constructed by C.M.P.O. on the other.<sup>11</sup> For protecting the palace and land, a rally was assembled in front of the palace gate on Feb. 11, 1979 and its demonstration changed into fasting from Feb. 24, 1979. The Lok Dal was attached with NBCA's articulations during the 1979's general election.<sup>12</sup>

To protect and preserve the palace, a few number of deliberative petition was submitted respectively to the Hon'ble President of India, Prime Minister, Governor and Chief Minister of West Bengal to seek kind perusal referring letter, D.O. No. M/5/3/76-1045 which was informed to the NBCA by

Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, West Bengal, NBCA asserts, inspite of appeal and protest against these anti-national activities to the Deputy commissioner, Cooch Behar, all valuable time-old architecture, building materials inseparable with the palace Building are being removed and demolished mercilessly at this juncture.<sup>13</sup> Under Article 49 of the Constitution the state is under the obligation to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest, (declared by or under law made by Parliament) to be of national importance, from spoliation, disfigurement, destruction, removal, disposal or export, as the case may be<sup>14</sup> Regardingly, it is added that the Central Government is the defacto and de-jure owner of the Cooch Behar Palace with its compound according to the sacred Agreement referred to D.O. No. F. 15(19), ;'49 date 30 August 1949 of the Ministry of state, New Delhi, between the Dominion of India and the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.<sup>15</sup>

Unfortunately, the committal of trespass and demolishing of all valuables and inseparable materials of the Palace were not only menaced by miscreants but also successor of the Ex-Rulers.<sup>16</sup> After the death of last Maharaja, Sri Jagaddipandra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, Surajit Biraj Narayan, successor has disposed of some of the palace properties for personal benefit.<sup>17</sup> The allogahons made in paragraph 6(six) of the petition are highly illegal in as much as the peitioners and persons including the alleged Maharaja Kumar Birajendra Narayan immediately on knowledge of the Central Government's decision, wanted to receive pecuniary gains and entered into business deals without having any authority, power and competence to do so over the properties specifically directed for preservation for future without power of alienation in terms of the said treaty dated 28.8.49. The said act of

business transaction is an act of 'sacrilege' in order to frustrate the decision of the Central Government to make the palace into an Ancient monument of national importance in as much as the so called garage and stable is not an ordinary one as is commonly understood but it first English School namely, Jenkins's school in recent time and before that the same was the Palace of Ancient Koch Kings until the new Palace was erected during the British period.<sup>18</sup>

In the circumstances, an application was sent to the Chief Minister of West Bengal for seeking forthwith action against the miscreants and steps, so that the over-night construction of the buildings, referring following grounds:

i. That, Biraj Narayan has made declaration in the court of Subordinate Judge Cooch Behar, regarding Money Suit No. 17 of 1972. In the said suit he declared in para 4 which runs as thus -

"The averments made in para 2 of the plaint are not correct. The defendant No.1 is successor-in-interest of properties and assets left by late Maharaja Jaggadipendra Narayan. Dependent No.1 succeeded to the Goddi of the Maharaja's house hold offline and by a vill late Maharaja Jaggadipendra Narayan bequeth all his properties and assets to the defendant No. 2."

ii. That the will of Maharaja Jaggaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur was granted by Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta to Georgian May Narayan, Known as Maharani Gina Narayan, and also known as Maharani of CoochBehar by occupation House wife. Testamentary suit No. 9 of 1971 and 114 of 1970 may be consulted.<sup>19</sup>

iii. That on the merit of the granting of probable by the Hon'ble High Court, consulted and that Notification may be taken into consideration in view of the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court.<sup>20</sup>

iv. That, in the connection, Land Reforms Commissioner, Board of Revenue, West Bengal letter No. 11946-E Dated, Calcutta, 2nd November, 1954, may kindly be consulted. This letter in question is related with West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act, 1953. This Act in question is not applicable in Cooch Behar State, as it was sovereign State.<sup>21</sup> That, a notification was published by Judicial Caveat.<sup>22</sup>

Therefore, all properties belonging to this highness or his successor should be protected under Article 362 of the constitution of India and be taken restricting miscreants from further committed of trespass and demolishing historical Palace which has got a Archaeological values. Application iterates that necessary action should be taken against the miscreants and overnight construction of the building, houses etc.<sup>23</sup>

For demand of nationalisation of Cooch Behar Palace, Mr. Prijuish Tirki, M.P. proposed in the Parliament proceedings was corroborated by Mr. Protab Chandra Chanda, Minister of Education of Janata Government and passed the Bill. So long after, according to condition of West Bengal Government Dr. Mrs. Debla Mitra Directorate General, Archaeological Survey of India announced to nationalize it and hanged the nationalisational importance notification in front of the Cooch Behar Palace in 1982 refuted NBCA.<sup>24</sup> After the notification of the Archaeological Survey of India, a deep debt of gratitude application was sent to the Honourable Prime Minister, that the Government of India in consideration of glorious reminiscence of past history and culture as submitted in the representation and resolution dated the 7th May, 1975 and 16th December 1975 had honoured the public opinion by setting up the Monument as a glory spot for Eastern India.<sup>25</sup>

## Plaint for Masonry Regtention

By reading "Princes Remember" which is written by Mrs. Grayati Devi, Mrs. Frangsoya, Director of the Documentaqry T.V. Film of Soffidoc, Belgium, wished to produce a documentary film on her life of emblazonry as a princess in Cooch Behar Palace and a dowager queen in Jaipur Palace of Rajasthan. The fervent of producing documentary film of Soffidoc T.V. was intended her and agreed to tread at her birth place. Drawing out the princes rememberances in the field of international inference she arrived at Cooch Behar along with the team of Soffidoc T.V. Film of Belzium on 18 November, 1996.<sup>26</sup> Landing on her birth place, she went to homage her hereditary Takur, Modanmohan. She was grieved after perceiving that Salgram is idolozed without Modanmohan idols, which were stolen mysteriously despite a constant and heavy security presence on 27 February, 1994.<sup>27</sup>

Violence broke out in Cooch Behar town on morning when a large crowd, angry over the theft of two idols from Modanmohan temple, went on the rampage. The mob attacked a police picket with stones, set a police jeep on fire and looted shops in the neighbourhood. Eight people were injured - two of them seriously when the police burst tear - gas shells and then fired to ward off the crowd which swelled as word of the theft spread. Prohibitory orders were imposed on the town and B.S.F. jawans deployed to assist the police. Trouble began when worshippers at the temple, which reportedly belongs to the royal family of Cooch Behar, found at about 9 a.m. that two metal idols and some gold ornaments were missing. News of the theft spread fast, creating tension. The police fired 15 rounds at the mob whose strength had swelled to about 10,000. Eight people with bullet wounds were taken to the North Bengal Medical College Hospital where the condition of two was stated to be serious.<sup>28</sup>

Tension is simmering as a large number of people here have turned against the police and the administration. Prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. remained in force, adding to the tension. The spontaneous bondh in the town after the police firing and violence continued three days despite efforts by the district administration to restore calm.<sup>29</sup> As passions cool down here following burglary of two idols from the Modanmohan temple, the consequent violence is increasingly being regarded as a "sinister ploy" to manipulate the religious sentiments of the town. The political parties, UKD, NBCA, meanwhile, are accusing one other of trying to draw mileage from the incident and ignoring the "grave import" of the attempt to whip up "religious frenzy". The flawless planning of the burglary, the theft of a wireless set at the airstrip, and the subsequent chain of events, indicated that the forces at work" had a larger design."<sup>30</sup>

Articulation for ..... (i) rescue two historical idols of Modanmohan and its Swarna Chhatra, which had been stolen from the temple, and

ii) ban a formal acknowledgement of alligiance of Rash-mala with out original Modanmohan idols ....., UKD begged to draw the District Magstration's attention on 10 November 1994. Dal asserted that administration had no obligation to arrange the Rash-Mala who was unable to protect it. Dal also iterated that without original idols, arrangement of Rash-Mala was completely smokary to the people of Cooch Behar as well as the people of North Eastern India. To proceed a mass-petition on 16 November, 1994 at 11 a.m. before District Magistrate the following agitations were submitted. These were : gana-andolan and street corner, postering, fasting, picketing and continuous bondh from 17 Nuvenber, 1994 at Cooch Behar.<sup>31</sup> Yet administration arranged the Rash-Mala with the convenience of the police formally but failed to gather

excitement of the excursionists and devotees without Modanmohan. In this way Rash-yatra and Doll Utsab were suspended by the people in 1994. In 1995 and 1996 Rash-Mala was also homaged without idols in constrained manner.<sup>32</sup> It is asserted that Mr. Ashim Bhattacharjee and Mr. Narayan Swami are the criminals charged for the theft of the idols from the Modanmohan temple remain in the Cooch Behar Jail. A Course of procedure in prosecuting a legal action has been being taken in the SDM court of Cooch Behar.<sup>33</sup>

To take a quick photograph of her at birth palace, a hindrance was come through archaeologists personnel.<sup>34</sup> It was painful to assert that she was assulted at age of old at her birth palace where she was born, without monarchical courtesy.<sup>35</sup> At the time of shooting for motion pictures, she felt down full of grief with tears when negligible greyish, annihilation was visualized of the palace and vituperated the Government for squandering it. She iterated the socio-cultural and historical importance of the Cooch Behar Raj Palace, Modanmohan Takur Bari, Sahitya Sabha, the state Library and role of other institutions were vital for sustaining identity of Cooch Behar natives. Seeing antique books documents, manuscripts, monograph, monogram, archives during Cooch Behar reign without preservation in the state library. She aggrieved and articulated these were rare documents in the world which were damaged by bookworm and moisture. Acquiring such distortion of impression of it, she exhorted to the governments, both centre and state in distraught the place of State Library and Sahitya Sabha should be transformed in the palace. She also requested the Governments to be accustomed it as a guest house for ascertaining to consume the North Bengal's natural greenary and accessory of historical pleasure for the president of India, Ministers and dignitories individual both nation and abroad.<sup>36</sup> Pertaining such preservation native people's revolutionary initiations should be endorsed. During the shooting, she aggrieved to see the uncouth scenary of palace and the plunder of wealth. She inflamed that a trend of spoiling the historical importance and a cause to wipe out the memory of archieve; Palace of the native people, have been drawn

by establishing burly foundations like personnel Housing (Sarkari Abasan), Woman College, P.H.E., Stadium, Tele-exchange Centre, mini-bus-stand, maxi-taxi-van-stand, Cooch Behar - Bus terminus etc. any where and everywhere of the palace boundary from the visions of oversight. By reasserting the evolutionary theory of preservation, she wanted the change of modernity through base of tradition, without kind Governmental preservation on sculptures, architectures, she aggrieved bitterly.<sup>37</sup>

She charged the archaeologist personnel without seeing the cannon or reign artillery which was placed in front of palace and impeted the summoning the people of Cooch Behar to take the active part for preservation of historical heritage culture, sculpture and wealth not depending any declension. She also iterated to aware about decaying historical sculptures, temples, illegal possessioning of pond.<sup>38</sup>

The proposal of converting the palace as a guest House was accepted by different kinds of organisations like NBCA, UKD and distinghished nobel persons, voluntary organisations, side by side it was also requested to inaugurated the centre for museum.<sup>39</sup>

### ACQUAINTANCE OF MODANMOHAN

In the book titled "Rajbansabali" Durga Das Majumdar wrote that according to consultation of Sankar Dev, Maharaj Nornarayan founded an idol of Vishnu offered its entrust with worship to prest Kalandi and alluded to it as Modanmohan an alias 'Laximi (Radha is not homaged along with Krishna). So, Modanmohan is only worhsipped unaccompanied with Radha in Cooch Behar. In the 17th century, in the book "Alamghir Nama" and "Stourt's History" deal with Cooch Behar's guardian deity is homaged in the name of "Narayan".

According to a great saint of Vishnav, Vishnu is praised as Narayan is conjectured so. After the invasion of Nawab Nirjumla, God was acquainted with Modanmohan."<sup>40</sup>

According to Durga Das Majumdar 'There were two idols, 'Narayan' and 'Modanmohan', once was worshipped as Laxmi Narayan and other 'Modanmohan' in Cooch Behar State. During the reign of Rup Narayan these were newly reprepared into a sole image of God except allurements and a jar of water symbolising the infilling power of God in nature. In course of time, losing His own image of 'Narayan' was praised and acquainted with 'Madanmohan'<sup>41</sup>.

The metropolis of the Cooch Behar State was changed and displaced at different places at different reigns of kings. The tutelary deity of the Cooch Behar King family was simultaneously with the voyage. Finally, the tutelary deity of a family, Modanmohan was ascertained during the reign of Harendra Narayan, when he established his palace at his old dwelling place and founded a temple with the boundary of its, at the final stage and established the image of a deity.

After the Maharaj, Harendra Narayan, the successor, Sibendra Narayan ascended a throne of the Cooch Behar State. After this Narendranarayan ascended it. After the death of Narendranarayan at an inauspicious time, the throne of the Cooch Behar State was sprinkled by his infant, Nripendra Narayan. All processes of developments and advancements had come during his reign. The classical European style of palace was constructed at 1900 feet far from his old dwelling place. The temple of Modanmohan was within the boundary of its important sight. Mr. King, Superintendent of Botanical garden of Calcutta

was brought to prepare a contrivance for making gratification elysium of palace. According his recommendation, "By the side of palace, the temple of Modanmohan would be unlikeñess and a leer" The then Engineer superintendent of Cooch Behar reported similarly. According to the report, "The necessity of removing the mass of old building without of any architectural pretenneous which constitute the Thakurbaries from a prominent place in the palace compound was felt for long time."

For collecting finance to re-construct the temple, the prudent of Roy Bahadur kalika Das Dutta, watchful sentry of Cooch Behar Raj-Laxmiu was important to assert that Rs. 7472.90 and Rs. 3000 from selling gold ornaments and gifts of Modanmohan and bricks, materials of the old temple respectively. To built it, total expenditure was near about Rs. 19,510. Total abatement was about Rs. 9037 which was fulfilled from current revenue of state.

On 9 July, 1889 Maharaj Nripendra N arayan laid the foundation of temple on wide land composed of 7 bigha 15 katha by the northern side of Bairaghi pond (Dighi) and Jail road and Eastern and Western of Bazar road and Gopal Babu road respectiy along with a dightful ceremony.

In the middle of March 1890, the construction of temple was completed. The embankment was surrounded by 1210 running feet wall. On 21 March, 1890 Raj mata Nishimaya I. Debatu aroused the temple with a delightful splendour ceremony. In the Eastern side of Modanmohan temple, Maharaj Nripendra Narayan aroused Anandamaiya Dharmasal. The temple was constructed long and breadth 73' - 4' X 37" - 4' feets including 5 rooms. In

the centre room was settled for Modanmohan. It was composed of 15' x 12' and 28' height.

Every devotee of Cooch Behar knows that there was two idols, one is gold idol and other eight metals idol in the temple. In 1978, "Cooch Behar Zillar Pura Kirthi" edited by Amiya Kumar Bandhpadhya and Prof. Sudhir Ranjan Das adopted that there were three touchstone idols. After constructing the temple Maharaj Nripendra Narayan created a department of land dedicated to the service of God. All kinds of liabilities and property were handed over to the Department. This department subsequently is transformed into a "Debata Trustee Board". According to the Board record, only the umbrella of idol was 28 tola in weight.

How terrible apathy is of us about history ..... says KJrishnendu, therefore, history perhaps does not sacrifice us.

The theft was intruded a few years ago when the gold necklace of Mata Anandamai was stolen away. So, this time not only ornaments but idols were stolen away on 27 February, 1994. In this way, Bhagodata's "Sakti Kabachh (energy armour) was stolen away from Goswami Mandir in 1969.<sup>42</sup>

The Trustee Board and Cooch Behar administration took initiation to re-establish Modanmohan idol on 12 November 1997 in the temple. Bankim and Academic Prize owner and novelist, Amiabhusan Majumder protested against it. He articulated, "There is no right to re-establish idol of the District Administration as well as Trustee Board", was published in Uttarbanga Sambad on 16 September, 1997. On the basis of news Ld session judge,

Sasibhushan Muhuri pronounced the stay order to set up new idol and order to Mr. Majumdar to submit oath petition regarding publication of news service on 29 September 1997.

Trinamul Congress, District Chatta parisad, All Rajbanshi Youth Association urged to publish white paper and protest against the re-establishment of Modanmohan idol.<sup>43</sup> It also articulated same by NBCA<sup>44</sup> On the basis of court of verdicts Mr. Amia Bhusan Majumder, Successor Anilandra Narayan and Bikash narayan submitted the Writ petition in the court of District Session Judge.<sup>45</sup> The Ld Judge, Sasibhushan Muhuri sentenced to re-establish new idol nearby the salgram Sila that was purchased on amount of Rs. 3.70 lakh including gold umbrella. On the basis of court of verdict, idol was re-established on 12 November 1997 with delightful ceremony and the Minister of urban development inaugurated the Rash-Mala on 14 Nov. 1997.<sup>46</sup>

In this way, the Government of West Bengal diluted the sensitive issue of Modanmohan, the people of Cooch Behar overwhelmed with grief but not revolt.

### **MISC. APPROPRIATION OF DEVELOPMENT FUND**

In 1950 the monarchical form of government of Cooch Behar state was abolished when Indian Independence Act, 1947, was passed, it declared the lapse of suzerainty and paramountery of the crown, in S.7(1) (b) of the Act.<sup>47</sup> In January of the same year, it was the merger of Cooch Behar with the state of West Bengal (See chapter III ) Even the day of irresistible abolition of monarchy, Maharaja Jagadipendra Narayan laid by Rs. 1,78,46,825 for

benefits of Cooch Behar people.<sup>48</sup>

In arrangement, there was an important condition of the king that the amount of rupees should be deposited permanently at Cooch Behar Bank. All kinds of developmental achievement should be done with the help of Rupees of Interest, which would be drawn per-annum. The other condition was that the government of of state should be abstained from expending the capital fund. Only the elected members of Legislative. Assembly of West Bengal would expand for developmental works within his/her constituency from the interest which would be drawn annually. To partain, it has a committee which is regarded as "Cooch Behar Development Fund Committee."

The Development Fund Committee of Cooch Behar consists of Chairman, D.M., and MLA(s) of Cooch Behar. Generally, the Minister is to act as the Chairman of the Committee of Cooch Behar. The Fund will not be an Act of the committee unless and until it receives the assent of the state legislature.<sup>49</sup>

But so recent a charge was arisen against the mise appropriation of Development Fund. The Minister of SC/ST welfare purchased IFCI band Rs. 1.4 crore from capital Fund without consultation of Committee<sup>50</sup> Some alligation was raised by SC/ST organisation, NBCA; Rajbanshi Youth Organisation. AKSU against it, Gayetri Devi articulated that there was no any developmental activities done in Cooch Behar at all.<sup>51</sup>

**DAZZLE AS MODEL TOWN**

Very recently, the Minister of Urban Development, Mr. Ashok Bhattacharja asserts, it has annals in nomenclature of Cooch Behar and has 300 years honoured precepts to act of framing of modern Cooch Behar. In middle of Seventeenth century, a Map of Cooch Behar was sketched by Von Dan Broock as Ragiawerra - Cos Bhaar. In the same century Olandas unknown sailor (accompany of Nawab Mirzimla) wrote "After a long march, we entered into Kosbia, a country lying between the kingdoms of Bengal and 'Azo, of which the general easily became master."<sup>52</sup> To develop it Maharaja of Cooch Behar took contrivance with the help of foreign engineer is laudable. There is no any other pre-contrived city in West Bengal and in India as good as Cooch Behar and Chandigarh respectively. The Map of Cooch Behar has attached alongiwth it (Map No. 6.1 & 6.2).

In public statement of Ministry of Urban Development, the government of West Bengal is going for a plan to make Cooch Behar as a "Model city", in West Bengal. In his direction, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri Development Authority is to establish contract with Cooch Behar District Planning and Development Authority for adopting strategy to re-construct it.<sup>53</sup> It is criticised by NBCA and AKSU as Dazzle.

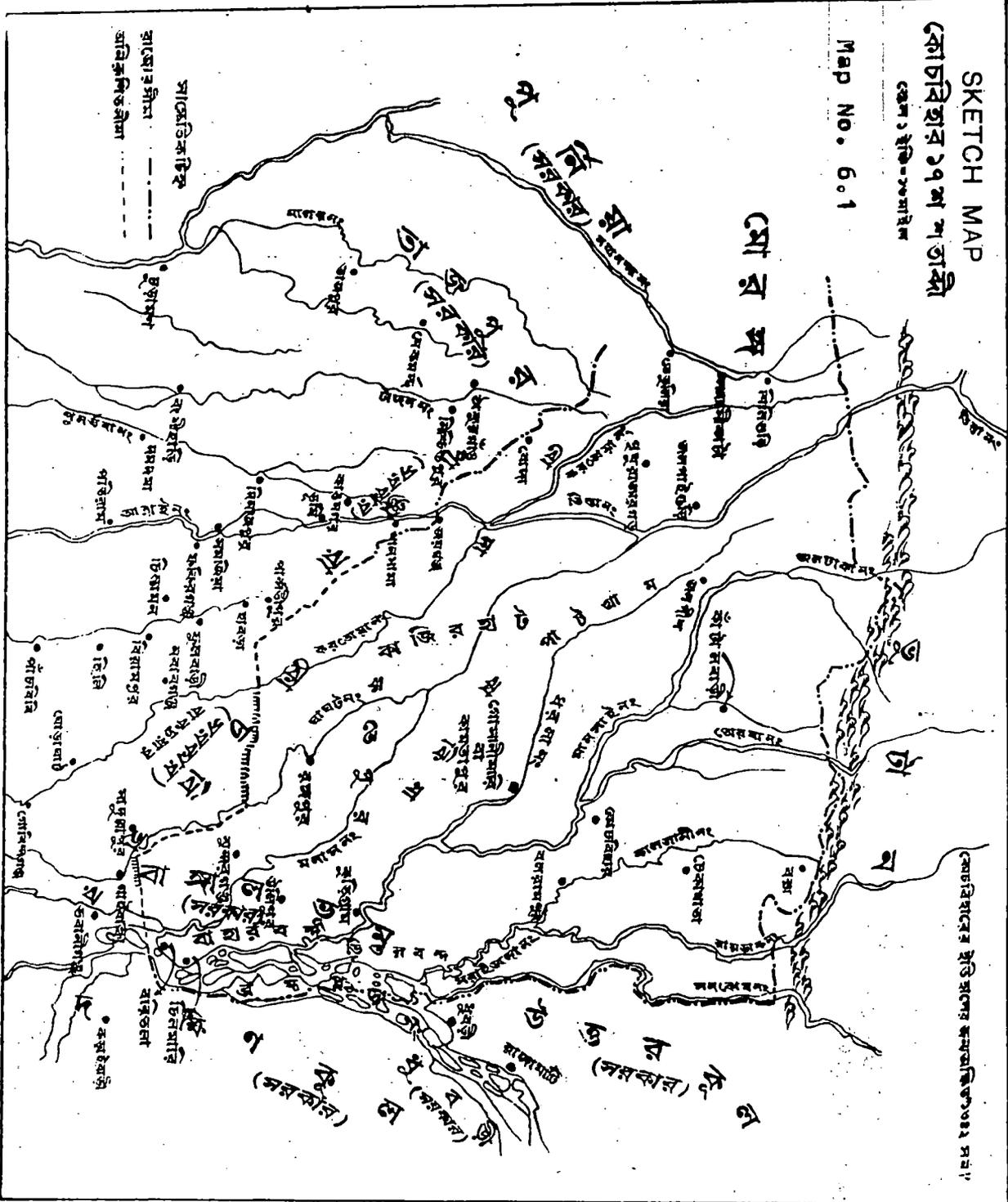
SKETCH MAP

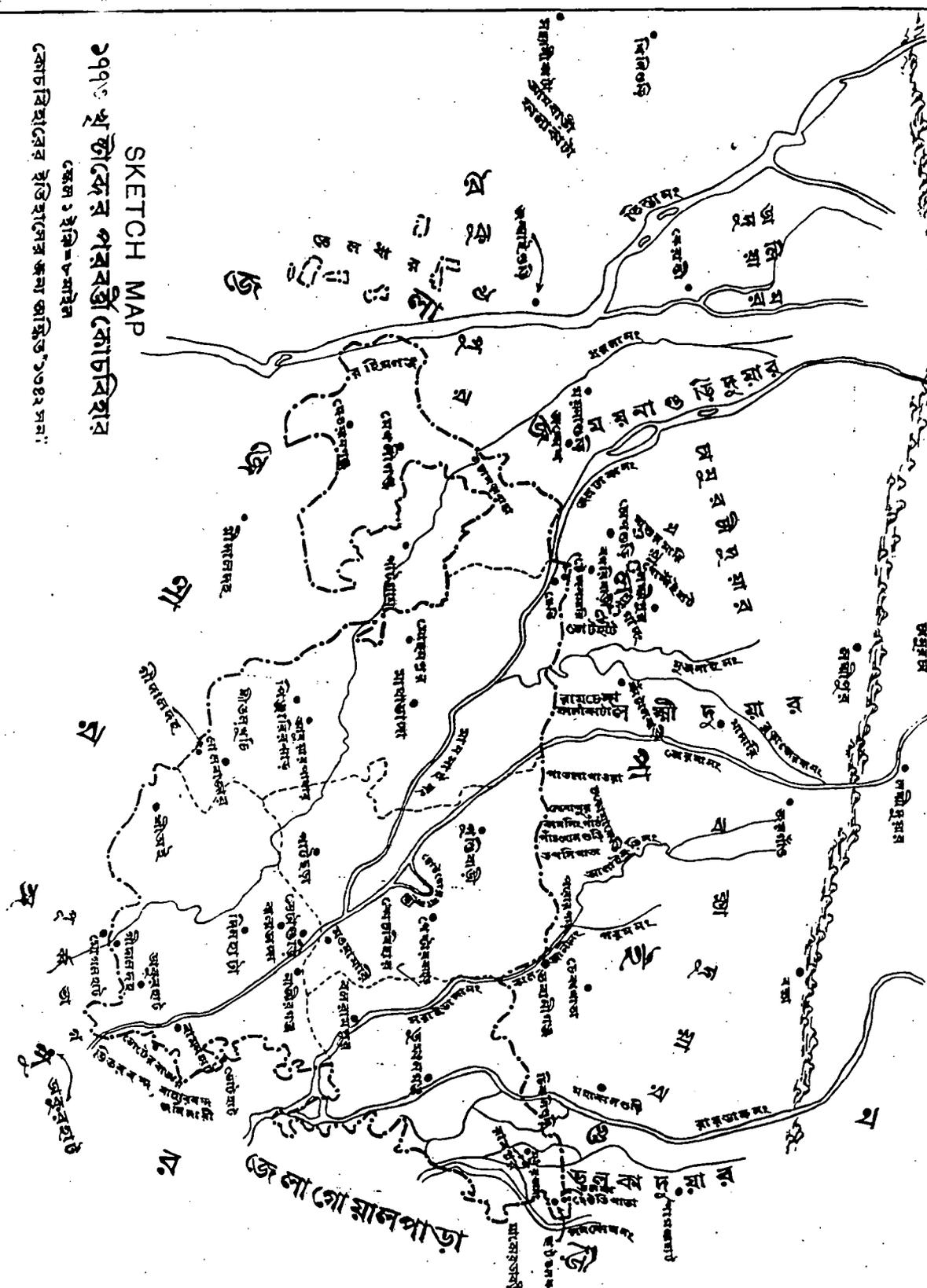
কোটবিহার ১৭ নং অতাকী

কোল ১ ইতি ০২০০ নং

Map No. 6.1

কোটবিহারের ইতিহাসের ভূগোলিক মানচিত্র ১৯৩১





SKETCH MAP  
 2993 ஆதிகைர பரவர்தி கோচবিহার  
 1:63,360  
 கோচবিহারের ইতিহাসের জন্য காঙ্কিত "১০৪২ নমঃ"

**NOTES AND REFERENCES**

1. A letter is addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, New Delhi by Shri Prohash Chandra Singh Sastri, Chairman of the Presidium of the UKD, on December 12, 1990.
2. A Special Application, a leaflet is deliberated by NBCA on Feb. 21, 1977; Jahnabee Lodge, Maharaja Harendra Narayan Road; Cooch Behar.
3. An interview was held personally on September 4, 1994 at Bikash Narayan's residence; Maharaja Harendra narayan Road, Cooch Behar from Shri Parbananda Das, Present Secretary of the NBCA about the formation and structure of the Association.
4. IBID.
5. A letter is humbly addressed to the Respective Ministers (Information and Communication Department, W.B.) for Protection and Conservation of the Cooch Behar Palace.
6. A memorandum to the President of India was presented by Dharma Narayan Balman for Secretary, NBCA, Cooch Behar on September 25, 1979 seeking his help "for immediate action to save the valuables and antiquities of the Cooch Behar Palace in the context of declaration of the palace as a national monument.
7. Pronay Kundu : "Cooch Behar Palace, "(Bangla medium); Desh Patrika, 1994 page, 73.
8. "Cooch Behar Palace" - signboard is placed in front of the palace.

9. An assuring letter, D.O. No. M/5/3/76-1045 for inspection of the Cooch Behar palace was sent to K.P.Narayan by Dy Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Narayani Building, 27-Brabourne Road, Cal-1, on June 10, 1976,.

10. A leaflet on election manifesto is published by Lok Dal, Cooch Behar District Branch; Sulakha Printing Works, Cooch Behar, Date 11-12-1979.

11. A leaflet, 'A prayer' to the people of North Bengal by the members of NBCA appeals to inform about destruction of Cooch Behar palace on April 6, 1979.

12. A leaflet, an election manifesto is published by Lok Dal, Cooch Behar District Branch; Sulakha Printing works, Cooch Behar Date 11-12-1979.

13. For Protection and preservation of the palace of the Maharaja and Ex-ruler of Cooch Behar with its compound etc, an application was sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi by K.P.Narayan, President of NBCA dated November 26, 1979 containing with 3 pages grievances itself.

14. A.K.S.; S.K.S. and S.L.M. ed. "Indian Constitution", City College, Calcutta 27 July, 1970, page 144.

15. An application was sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi by K.P.Narayan, President of NBCA dated November 26, 1979, page no.3.

16. By Interview with Shri Dharma narayan barman, Vice President of NBCA, personally, Tufanganj, September 4, 1994.

17. A letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal by President, Uttar Bangal Sanskrit Parisad, Cooch Behar, December 19, 1975.

18. An affidavit is filed against the petition for an interference by the Hon'ble Court, Cooch Behar by NBCA.

19. "For Protection against distruction of the Cooch Behar palace which is a Monument of Natioinal Importance declared by parliament in accordance with Article 49 of the Indian constitution and various sections of the ancient Monument preservation Act, 1937 of the Government of India" - an application was sent to the chief Minister, West Bengal, dated the Cooch Behar, the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1980 by Prabhash Chandra Singha Sastri. On December 11, 1980, for Assistant Secretary to the Chief Minister is directed to a acknowledge receipt of his letter 2-1-96 addressed to the chief Minister, W.B. (It is included for further awakening at Annexure

20. The Statesman, March 21, 1972, "Notification of Legal Report.

21. An application was submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal by Probhash Chandra Singha Sastri, on January 2, 1980, page No.3.

22. The Statesman, Thursday, May 15, 1969; page 5, under the Caption, "rule issued on Government".

23. An application was submitted by Probhash Chandra Singha Sastri, on January 2, 1980.

24. Shri Dharma narayan Barma; President, NBCA; The role of NBCA to nationalise the Cooch Behar Palace (Bengali); Raidack Prakasan, Tufanganj, 26-1-98.

25. The notification .....” The Monument has been declared to be of National importance under the ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act 1958 ( 24 of 1958) whoever destroys, removes, injures, alters, defaces, imperils or misuses this Monument shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both ..... hanged in front of the Palace.

26. Uttarbanga Sambad: 22 Nov. 1996.

27. IBID : 20 November 1996.

28. The Statesman, 1 March, 1994.

29. Uday Basu : Lynching of Jawan adds to tension in Cooch Behar; The Statesman, 2 March, 1994.

30. IBID : Temple Theft bid to foment trouble; The Statesman, 4 March, 1994.

31. A resolution was taken undersigned by Madhas Ranjan Singha, President Cooch Behar Branch, UKD; addressed to the D.M., Cooch Behar, 9 Nov. 94.

32. 'Pabitra Das : "MODANMOHAN BIGRAHA CHARAI TRITIA BARAR JANAYA - COOCHBEHARRAR RASH-MALA SURU 25 Sa", Uttarbanga Sambad, 21 Nov. 1996.

33. Susanta Guha : New idol of Modanmohan founds in Cooch Behar within police security presence; Uttarbanga Sambad, 13 Nov. , 1997.

34. Uttarbanga Sambad; 20 Nov. 1996.

35. Basanta Barman : GRAYETRI DEVI ER JANYA BYADANA; Darkhamari, Matal Hat, Cooch Behar; Uttarbanga Sambad (Sanamat), 9 Dec. 1996.

36. Susanta Guha : BUK BHARA BADANA NIYA FIRA YARCHI" - GAYETRI DEVI; Uttarbanga Sambad, 22 Nov. 96.

37. IBID : 21 Nov. 1996.

38. IBID : 22 Nov. 1996

39. IBID : 12 Dec. 1996.

40. Khan Chowdhuri Amanatulla Ahmed: A History of Cooch Behar (in Bengali) [compilation]; Part I, Printed at the State Press and Published under Authority of the Cooch Behar State : 1936, page 128.

41. Durga Das Majumdar : Reign of Rup-narayan : "LAXMINARAYAN ARE MODANMOHAN KHAY CHARI PUNA KHAY KARILA GRAHAN SEHI PRAR HAYACHAN DANDA HANUMAN TOOP ARE GHAT KANI ACHAY PURAN.

(Idols were newly re-prepared into a sole image of God except illurement and jar. Narayan was praised and acquainted with Modanmohan).

42. Krishnandu Dey; "DEBOTAR BIDAYA", Uttarbanga Sambad, 10 July, 1994.

43. Uttar Banga Sambad, 20 September, 1997.

44. IBID : 21 September 1997.

45, IBID : 30 Sept., 1997.

46. IBID: 14 Nov. 1997.
47. "Durga Das Basu : Introduction to the Constitution of India, 8th edition, 1980. page 44.
48. H.N.Chowdhury : Cooch Behar State and its Land Revenue sttlement.
49. Uttarbanga Sambad, 9 August, 1996.
50. A charge was raised by Mr Mihir Goswami, MLA against Mr. Denish Chandra Dakua, Minister of SC/ST welfare and chairman of committee - is presented by Susanta Guha - "Misc Appropriation of Development Fund" Uttarbanga Sambad, 7 Sept., 1996.
51. An interview was arranged personally on 9 January 1998 at Cooch Behar when she was attent to inaugurated the centenary ceremony of Cooch Behar Club, Cooch Behar.
52. Khan Chowdhuri Amanatulla Ahmed ; A History of Cooch Behar (in Bengali) Part I, 1936, page - 3.
53. Governmental initiation to build Cooch Behar as "Model City ; Uttarbanga Sambad, 20 Nov. 1997.