

## DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that this thesis entitled “AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE DISTRICT OF MURSHIDABAD IN PRE-MUSLIM PERIOD” submitted to the University of North Bengal has been originally carried out by me. This thesis has not been submitted earlier for any other research degree in any University or Institution.

Date: 06.04.2023

Place: University of North Bengal

Mousumi Banerjee.

(Mousumi Banerjee)

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Accredited by NAAC with Grade A

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the present thesis titled “AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE DISTRICT OF MURSHIDABAD IN PRE-MUSLIM PERIOD” is the result of the original research carried out by **Mousumi Banerjee** under my supervision and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, neither this thesis nor any part of it forms the basis of any research degree either in this University or anywhere else.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE DISTRICT OF MURSHIDABAD IN PRE- MUSLIM PERIOD A Thesis submitted to North Bengal University for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy in History BY MOUSUMI BANERJEE Roll No. 229996520521 Registration No. 150002 of 2011-12 SUPERVISED BY DR. BIJOY KUMAR SARKAR PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY NORTH BENGAL UNIVERSITY MARCH, 2023

CHAPTER – I Introduction: Murshidabad (23 43' and 24 52' north latitude and 87 49' and 88 44' east longitude) lies in the middle of West Bengal and is presently in Maldah Division of West Bengal. The district is called after the name of the metropolis (on the eastern side of the river Bhagirathi), Murshidabad, which was the capital during the last days of the rule of the Nawabs of Bengal. After the battle of Plessey, Berhampur (six miles below Murshidabad and 117 miles from Calcutta) was first made a cantonment and, later on, the headquarters of the district. 1 The district has an area of 2,143 square miles and contains 5 subdivisions and 26 blocks. Historical Background: From the pre-historic period Murshidabad district has a glorious past which is evident from several archaeological exploration and the excavation reports and the artifacts found on the surface helps us to prove archaeological potential of the area and help us to prove that human habitation had excited here. The earliest site is that of Gitagram under Bharatpur police station with in Kandi sub-division. Huge number of Stone Age tools was noticed here and red wear, gray wear BRW also found during the exploration. In the year of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 the excavation conducted by Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, West Bengal in Hatpara with in Jangipur sub-division. During the excavation they discovered the Microlithic tools and the other artifacts which help us to discuss the pre-history of the district. 2 The antiquities that were found during the digging of Feeder Canal at Farakka proved that this district region was inhabited since pre-historic period. In this region we also notice Mauryan Punch marked coins. 3 We found gold coin hoard of the Gupta rulers which is discussed in the coming

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I am thankful to the Secretary of Murshidabad District Museum and Sub-divisional Officer Lalbagh Sri Sudip Ghosh. He helped me in my work and all the staff members of the Museum, without whose help I would not have been able to complete my work. I am also thankful to the staff members of other museums like State Archaeological Museum, Kolkata; Indian Museum, Kolkata; Bangiya Sahitya Parishat, Kolkata and The Asiatic Society, Kolkata for providing me valuable information regarding the icons and sculptures that were found from Murshidabad district region and in their collection at present.

Librarians and staff members of various libraries like Murshidabad District Library, Berhampore; National Library, Kolkata and Asiatic Society library, Kolkata who helped me with books. Local intelligentsia of Murshidabad district like late Bijoy Kumar Bandyopadhyay, late Pulakendu Singha, Kunal Kanti Singha Ray, Rajib Bonu and others who helped me with books and information regarding various icons, architectural fragments, coins which were found from various parts of Murshidabad district. My friends Asudha Mangar and Paroma Mitra also helped me morally.

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Date 06.04.2023

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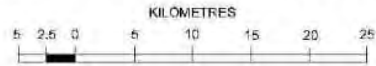
## Map of Bengal Region



Source: Thomas Watters, *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, Vol. II, Royal Asiatic Society, London, 1905.

- DEGREE COLLEGE . . . . . [Square]
- ENGINEERING COLLEGE . . . . . [Square]
- MEDICAL COLLEGE . . . . . [Square]
- HOSPITAL . . . . . [Cross]

## WEST BENGAL DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD



### NAME OF CENSUS TOWNS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK FARAKKA</li> <li>C 1 - Farakka Barrage Township (CT)</li> <li>C 2 - Srimantapur (P) (CT)</li> <li>C 3 - Anjampur (CT)</li> <li>C 4 - Sonagar (CT)</li> <li>C 5 - Manveipur (CT)</li> <li>C 6 - Paranjpara (CT)</li> <li>C 7 - Mahadeo Nagar (CT)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK SAMSERGANJ</li> <li>C 8 - Anup Nagar (CT)</li> <li>C 9 - Jafraabad (CT)</li> <li>C10 - Kankuria (CT)</li> <li>C11 - Bhasalpaikar (CT)</li> <li>C12 - Jaykrishnapur (CT)</li> <li>C13 - Ulfar Mohammadpur (CT)</li> <li>C14 - Basudebpur (CT)</li> <li>C15 - Dhurajipara (CT)</li> <li>C16 - Serpur (CT)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C25 - Khanpur (CT)</li> <li>C26 - Paschim Plunropera (CT)</li> <li>C27 - Chakmeghoan (CT)</li> <li>C28 - Ichlamipur (CT)</li> <li>C29 - Kekraman (CT)</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK SUTI-I</li> <li>C32 - Jot Kamal (CT)</li> <li>C33 - Sahajadpur (CT)</li> <li>C34 - Krishna Sali (CT)</li> <li>C35 - Bara Jumla (CT)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - II</li> <li>C32 - Jot Kamal (CT)</li> <li>C33 - Sahajadpur (CT)</li> <li>C34 - Krishna Sali (CT)</li> <li>C35 - Bara Jumla (CT)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - I</li> <li>C36 - Harnaria Chak (CT)</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK SUTI-II</li> <li>C17 - Jagta (CT)</li> <li>C18 - Hafenia (CT)</li> <li>C19 - Dafaha (CT)</li> <li>C20 - Debipur (CT)</li> <li>C21 - Mahendrapur (CT)</li> <li>C22 - Aurangabad (CT)</li> <li>C23 - Khidirpur (CT)</li> <li>C24 - Bhabki (CT)</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - II</li> <li>C32 - Jot Kamal (CT)</li> <li>C33 - Sahajadpur (CT)</li> <li>C34 - Krishna Sali (CT)</li> <li>C35 - Bara Jumla (CT)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - I</li> <li>C36 - Harnaria Chak (CT)</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - I</li> <li>C37 - Banjelia (CT)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - II</li> <li>C32 - Jot Kamal (CT)</li> <li>C33 - Sahajadpur (CT)</li> <li>C34 - Krishna Sali (CT)</li> <li>C35 - Bara Jumla (CT)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. D. BLOCK RAGHUNATHGANJ - I</li> <li>C36 - Harnaria Chak (CT)</li> </ul>   |

### STATUTORY TOWNS

- SANSERGANJ
- S1 - Dhruvan (M)
- RAGHUNATHGANJ-I
- S2 - Jangpur (M)
- MURSHIDABAD JACANJ
- S3 - Jagan-Aziganj (M)
- BERHAMPUR
- S4 - Behantpore (M)

TOTAL AREA OF THE DISTRICT.....	5324.00 Sq. Kms.
TOTAL POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.....	7103807
TOTAL NUMBER OF VILLAGES.....	2166 *
TOTAL NUMBER OF IN-HABITED VILLAGES.....	1886
TOTAL NUMBER OF CENSUS TOWNS.....	65
TOTAL NUMBER OF STATUTORY TOWNS.....	7
DISTANCE FROM STATE CAPITAL TO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS (APPROX).....	200 Kms.



- BOUNDARY, INTERNATIONAL . . . . . [Thick solid line]
- " STATE . . . . . [Dashed line]
- " DISTRICT . . . . . [Thin solid line]
- " C. D. BLOCK . . . . . [Dotted line]
- HEADQUARTERS : DISTRICT, POLICE STATION, C. D. BLOCK . . . . . [Circle with dot]

- VILLAGES HAVING 10,000 AND ABOVE POPULATION WITH NAME . . . . . [Red dot]
- URBAN AREA WITH POPULATION SIZE:- I, II, III, IV, V & VI . . . . . [Red circle]
- NATIONAL HIGHWAY . . . . . [Red line with 'NH']
- STATE HIGHWAY . . . . . [Red line with 'SH']
- IMPORTANT METALLED ROADS . . . . . [Black line with 'RS']
- RAILWAY LINE WITH STATION, BROAD GAUGE . . . . . [Black line with cross-ticks]
- RIVER AND STREAM . . . . . [Blue wavy line]