

# ***INTRODUCTION***

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The Princely State of Cooch Behar situated in the northern most part of India has preserved its separate identity for a much larger period than most of the Native principalities of Hindustan.<sup>1</sup> It was founded on the ruins of the ancient Hindu kingdom of Kamrup by a war-like tribe called kuchs or Kochs, who swept down the North and formed the Kingdom which was named after their clan. The dynasty was lasted since then for nearly 450 years held uninterrupted sway.<sup>2</sup> This proves that the founders of the kingdom were very powerful, for otherwise they would have been overthrown by the Mughal Emperors.<sup>3</sup> The progenitor of the Koch kings was a Mech or Koch – it was not certain which – named Hariya Mandal, a resident of Chikan-gram, a village in the Khuntaghat Paragana of the Goalpara district.<sup>4</sup> His son Bishwa Singha moved his Capital from Chikangram to Cooch Behar, where he built a fine city. In this way the royal history of Cooch Behar started its progress.<sup>5</sup>

After the accession of Maharaja Nara Narayan to the throne of Cooch Behar a new dimension ushered in the state. In 1555 he struck both gold and silver coins which were known as Narani or Narayani coins.<sup>6</sup> In the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of Raja Shaka Nara Narayan led his army into Assam and also subdued the neighbouring states of Kachar, Manipur, Jaintia, Tipperah, Kairam, Dimuria and Sylhet.<sup>7</sup> Thus during his reign (1555 – 1587) Cooch Behar was an extensive kingdom.

After Maharaja Nara Narayan, from 1587 to 1765 due to the political turmoil a number of rulers ascended to the throne of the State. In 1765 with the accession of Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan misfortune began to over-

shadow Cooch Behar . Before his accession , during the reign Maharaja Rupa Narayan, Bhutias, the erstwhile friend and northern neighbour of Cooch Behar had gradually extended their conquest to the plains . They at first played the role of king makers in Cooch Behar . Apart from that a battle was fought at Singeswar Jhar ( a place on the west bank of the river Teesta) between the Mahomedans and the kings army.<sup>8</sup> In this battle the army of the Koch king was shattered and a treaty was signed with Bhutan . Maharaja with the assistance of the Bhutias drove back Mahomedan General into Rangpur from where they came .<sup>9</sup> During the rule of Maharaja Deven – dra Narayan {(1763–1765) minor} the Bhutias became very powerful and extended their authority over the State.<sup>10</sup>

After his short period of rule an era of critical politics was evolved at Cooch Behar (as said earlier) . During this period an important role was played by Dewan Deo , Nazir Deo , Maharani and others . Thus from 1765 to 1783 Dhairjendra Narayan, Rajendra Narayan, Dharendra Narayan , Dhairjendra Narayan (2<sup>nd</sup> time) ascended to the throne of Cooch Behar . During this period there was an open confrontation with the Bhutias . In this emergency Nazir Deo applied to the Colonial Government for military aid against Bhutan . This led to the conclusion of a treaty on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1773 between the East India Company and Cooch Behar .<sup>11</sup> From 1773 the British Government tried to introduce British regulations in Cooch Behar .

From 1773 to 1783 Cooch Behar passed through evil days . But the constant resistance of Maharaja Harendra Narayan ( 1783 - 1839 )

was the main obstacle in the fulfillment of British designs. But after the death of Maharaja Harendra Narayan in 1839, the East India Company had the free run in the State. The interesting point is that the Colonial Rulers maintained a friendly relations with the tributary State of Cooch Behar. This relationship ushered an era of modernisation in Cooch Behar. During the rule of Maharaja Shivendra Narayan (1839 – 1847) Cooch Behar state achieved a new dimension. Maharaja devoted his attention to the internal administration of the State which was ignored for several years. A perceptible changes could be noticed in every branch of administration.<sup>12</sup> Maharaja established a Dharma Sabha for the discussion of the affairs of the State.<sup>13</sup> Before him this type of practice was totally absent in the history of Cooch Behar. However, the development of the princely state of Cooch Behar found a new look from 1847.

It is almost difficult to register one's claim to an original contribution to the vast repositories of studies on the development of the princely state of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847-1949). Yet there is always a room for a serious student of history to look at the subject from his own angle of vision. The proposed study is of a similar nature. The present chapter may be treated as an introduction to the proposed study. An attempt is made here to give an idea of the nature, objective and scope of the said study on the development of the Princely State of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847 - 1949).

The title of the thesis is *Development of Cooch Behar*

*State under the Maharajas (1847 – 1949) – A Study of its Historical Significance .*

By ‘Development of Cooch Behar State under the Maharajas ( 1847 – 1949 )’ is meant the gradual progress of Cooch Behar during the ruling Koch dynasty, the progress in the field of social , cultural , and economic area , and by ‘Its historical significance’, is meant the impact of the all- round welfare activities of the Koch Maharajas for Cooch Behar .

Nature of the Study : As the explanation of the title shows , an attempt is made in the thesis to ascertain the exact nature of the development of the Princely State of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847- 1949) and its historical significance .

To that end an attempt is made in the first ( Chapter I ) to show how the constituent avenues of development under Maharaja Narendra Narayan ( 1847 - 1863 ) have contributed to the modernization of the glorious Princely State of Cooch Behar .

Thereafter the study is divided into five self- component parts . The first part (Chapter II) deals exclusively with the chief avenues of all-round development of Cooch Behar under Maharaja Nripendra Narayan – The harbinger of modernization ( 1863 – 1911 ) . This chapter is divided in the following sections and sub - sections in order to show the different aspects of social - cultural - economic upliftment of the princely state of Cooch Behar during his rule . His reign was the longest among the Koch rulers . He got enough time to consolidate the state on the means of advanced modern ideas . Thus this Chapter is much longer in comparison than other chapters .

**(1) Development in social field :**

**A . The State Council for administrative purpose .**

**B. The spread of Education for boys and girls .**

- i) Establishment of a good number of primary schools ;
- ii) Establishment of a good number of high schools ;
- iii) Setting up of student- hostels ;
- iv) Establishment of 'Sunity School' for girls ;
- v) Establishment of Victoria College for Undergraduate Education ;
- vi) Implementation of entrance examination in education system ;
- vii) Establishment of Maharaja (Public) Library in the kingdom ;
- viii) Setting up of Artizan School .

**C.Introduction of Medical facilities for the people of Cooch Behar.**

- i) Setting up of medical dispensaries in the town of Cooch Behar and in the mafussil area ;
- ii) Measures taken for reducing epidemic diseases .

**D. Establishment of Public Works Department (P.W.D) for construction works .**

- i) Construction of roads and bridges for better communication;
- ii) Introduction of Cooch Behar State Railway for wider communication .

- iii) Establishment of Cooch Behar Palace – a symbol of architectural work .
- iv) Establishment of ‘ Madan Mohan Thakur Bari’ - a replica of temple architecture .
- v) Construction of several official & civil buildings in Cooch Behar .
- E. Formation of Tonga Service .**
- F. Introduction of new tobacco seeds for Agricultural purpose .**
- G. The scheme of plantation Work .**
- H. Cooch Behar Town Committee Act for municipality .**
- I. Cooch Behar Merchandise Marks Act for trade purpose .**
- J. Census Report of 1901 and 1911 a source of demographic Study .**
- K. The scheme of publication land revenue settlement work of Cooch Behar and re – settlement of 1906 - 07 .**
- L. The formation of Cooch Behar Land holders Association in 1908 .**

**(2) Development in Cultural Field :**

- A) Printing of the Cooch Behar Select Record as an official document ;
- B) Introduction of Shooting Camp ;
- C) Organising Fairs & Festivals in Cooch Behar ;
- D) Royal patronage on Philkhana ;
- E) Sporting Management : Tennis Court , Lawn Tennis , Polo Ground , Cricket Ground .

**(3) Development in Economic Field :**

- A) Maintenance of various funds ;
- B) Maintaining budget for several years ;
- C) Exchange of Narayani Rupees;
- D) Revenue collection system .

The Second Part ( Chapter III ) deals with the well developed activities of Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan (1911 - 1913) . His advanced activities may be , divided in the following heads --

**(1) Development in Social Field :**

- A. Continuous royal schemes in various aspects ( Education, Medical , Communication , etc ) .

**(2) Development in Cultural Field :**

- A. Followed the tradition of the Raj (predicessors) .

**(3) Development in Economic Field :**

- A. Maintaining the tradition of Royal Patronage .

The third part ( Chapter IV ) examines the phenomenal benevolent measures of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan (1913-1922) in

**(1) Benevolent Measures in Social Field :**

- A) Following the tradition;
- B) Establishment of Dynamo House for supplying hot water ;
- C) Setting up of Nripendra Narayan Memorial Hall at Mekhligunj for meeting purpose ;

- D) Re-opening of Veterinary Hospital for animal treatment ;
- E) Arrangement of training of police officers and constables at Police training College ;
- F) Introduction of various Act for legislature of Cooch Behar ;
- G) Lac Cultivation in Cooch Behar was a preservative cultivation ;
- H) Development of Industrial and Agricultural resources in Cooch Behar;
- I) Recognition of the Rights of the illegally settled tenants in Cooch Behar;
- J) Settlement Operations in Cooch Behar under Royal guidance .

**(2) Benevolent Measures in Cultural Field :**

- A) Publication of 'Paricharika Patrika' – royal magazine in Bengali ;
- B) Maintaining Reserve-forests for the preservation of various trees;
- C) Introduction of Stamp with portrait of the ruler ;
- D) Formation of Cooch Behari Chhatra Samiti for welfare of Cooch Behari ( Natives of the State) ;
- E) Control of gambling in the State of Cooch Behar in fairs;
- F) Fairs and festivals in the State of Cooch Behar .

**(3) Benevolent Measures in Economic Field :**

- A) Following the tradition .

The fourth part ( Chapter V) is in the form of observation on (I) the role of the Cooch Behar State Regency Council (1922 – 1936) and (II) the innovative schemes of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan (1936 – 1949) .

**(I) The role of the Cooch Behar State Regency Council (1922 – 1936)**

**(A) Development in Social field :**

- 1) Educational development in the State was in progress .
- 2) Medical facilities was at the peak .
- 3) Public works Department worked on various project .
- 4) Formation of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Prajabatsal Chikitsalaya for public treatment .
- 5) Transfer of management of Sunity Academy for better educational infrastructure .
- 6) Water supply scheme in the State .
- 7) Re – organization of Fire – Brigade service in Cooch Behar .
- 8) Moderation of Narendra Narayan park .
- 9) Formation of public health department for better medical facilities .
- 10) Introduction of the Cooch Behar subject for identity in 1932 .
- 11) Appointment of agricultural officer in Cooch Behar for better agricultural development .

**(B) Development in Cultural Field :**

- 1) Follow the tradition .

**(C) Development in Economic Field :**

- 1) Revision of rates for town and bunder lands .
- 2) Introduction of progressive enhancement of revenue and rent in the State .
- 3) Introduction of new stamps in Cooch Behar .
- 4) Implementation of relief measures of jotedars and tenants .

- 5) Rent order money system in the State .
- 6) Land revenue policy for economic development .

**(II) Innovative Schemes of Maharaja ( 1936 – 1949)**

- 1) Arrangement of exhibition on agriculture and industry in the State.
- 2) Society for prevention of cruelty to animals .
- 3) Publication of history books on Cooch Behar .
- 4) Publication of Cooch Behar Darpan .
- 5) Establishment of Cooch Behar Model Diary .
- 6) Moderation of Cooch Behar State Palace Garden .
- 7) Introduction of new rules for medicine in the State .
- 8) Cooch Behar Income Tax ( Amendment) Bill of 1945 .
- 9) Implementation of medical training of dhais ( midwives) and Nurses .
- 10) Formation of fish culture in Cooch Behar .
- 11) Establishment of Cooch Behar State Transport for better communication .
- 12) Introduction of Motor spirit rationing order in the State .
- 13) Implementation of Municipal Act of 1944 .
- 14) The Cooch Behar Air Craft Act of 1946 .
- 15) Construction of an ideal storage in the State .
- 16) Rule for commercial crops (tea) in Cooch Behar .
- 17) Establishment of maternity and child welfare center .
- 18) The Ancient Monuments preservation act of 1947 .

The fifth part, Conclusion is in the form

of summary of the observations made on the impact of the development ( Historical Significance ) of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas . The last part is in the form of an appendix and also bibliography .

Hypothesis of the Study :

The proposed study , as already stated , seeks primarily to ascertain the nature and significance of the development on Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847-1949) .

By way of examining the nature of the said development, the study seeks to establish the fact that

- 1) Development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas achieved a phenomenal success during the period ,1847-1949 .
- 2) Education , Public Works , Public Health , Sanitation , Municipal Administration, Land Reforms , Environmental awareness etc ; got a new impetus under the Maharajas .
- 3) Economic development in the princely State of Cooch Behar was noticeable .
- 4) The Cooch Behar State Railway accelerated the process of development not only for Cooch Behar but also for the whole of the surrounding regions .

The study arrives at the conclusion that classical development in Cooch Behar was profound only when it was conditioned by the modern outlook of the ruling dynasty . The Maharajas of Cooch Behar spent a lot of time in London . They got their education there and when they came to Cooch Behar , they took the whole responsibility of the kingdom one after another , they took active initiatives for the development of the State to make it clear that Cooch

Behar had a glorious historical fame in this part of the country . So any attempt to construct the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas and of its historical significance is bound to meet success .

Research Questions :

While analysing the development of the Princely State of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847 - 1949) - a study of its Historical Significance , the proposed study attempts to answer the following principal questions :

- (i) Did the ruler of Cooch Behar inherit a mentality for the Development of the Princely State ?
- (ii) What were the chief avenues of development ?
- (iii) Was the education system modern ? If so , to what extent ?
- (iv) Was the modern means of medical facilities available in Cooch Behar ? If so to what extent ?
- (v) Was Cooch Behar culturally a modern Princely State ? If so, to what extent ?
- (vi) Did the economic growth led to alround development of the Princely State ?
- (vii) Can we call these Socio- Cultural- Economic development transitional ?

Methodology :

The proposed study , historical in approach and content , is essentially based on the official records and on the analytical methodology . For this the primary sources , i.e. the documents have been collected . Secondly , the whole range of literature on the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas have been analysed for the preparation of a meaningful frame work . To that end relevant historical official

documents and books have been selected and in case of group of historical official documents coming under the same category of the proposed work, the most , representative one is taken up for the study. Chapter I, II, III, IV and V constitute the main part of the argument and each of these Chapters ends with a concluding portion showing a summary of the observations made in course of the discussion . In the last part the focus is concentrated on the historical significance of the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas as a whole . In regard to the collection of primary data and critical references , the libraries and institutions have been utilised in Kolkata and at other places .

Over view of the Literature covering the Area of Study :

Having stated the problem of enquiry and its significance ,It would be useful to recount the work done by in the area of the proposed study . Available literature may be classified into six broad categories .

The first category covers the manuscript form of documents selected for study in original , or in case of history of Cooch Behar , in translation .

In the second category are included those critical Studies in official documents that deal with (i) various Social – Cultural - Economic aspects , and (ii) the nature of the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas .There is a large number of official and historical documents covering the area of proposed work . Only those are consulted which are found useful for preparing a conceptual framework . Some of the documents consulted may be mentioned in a short space like this .

Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State ( 1878 – 1941 ) is a main

source for the study of the benevolent activities of the Maharajas of Cooch Behar. Cooch Behar Census Report - 1951 shows the geographical and actual condition of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas. Cooch Behar Darpan (1938) is a alive source which indicate the cultural atmosphere of Cooch Behar was at its height. The Cooch Behar Gazette (1896-1947) drew the phenomenal modern outlook of the Maharajas of Cooch Behar. The Cooch Behar Select Records vol. I & II(1884) is a combined text of personal and official letters of the Maharajas of Cooch Behar. W.W. Hunter's A Statistical Account Bengal (vol.-x) 1883, is a vivid account of Bengal, although the text throws some light on the Social – Economic condition of Cooch Behar. Sir F. Jenkins wrote some papers on Cooch Behar, which is a valuable source in writing the history of Cooch Behar. Durga Das Mazumdar's West Bengal District Gazetteers (Koch Bihar) 1977, shows the geographical as well as monarchical condition of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas.

The list of studies on the development of Cooch Behar is far from complete. The scholars and critics as mentioned above and those not now referred but formally acknowledged in the relevant sections of the thesis have furthered the researcher's understanding of the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas and its significance in particular.

The third category includes the study on the Cultural life of the Koch dynasty in Cooch Behar and abroad. There is a good number of memoirs which deals with these objects, namely, Nripendra Narayan's Thirty seven

years of big game shooting in Cooch Behar ( The Duars and Assam ) 1908 ; Deen-doyal Chawdhuri's Nripendra Smiriti (1915); Sunity Devi's The Autobiography of an Indian Princess(1921); Gayatri Devi and Santha Ram's The Memoirs of the Maharani of Jaipur – A Princess Remembers (1982) .

Critics and scholars have analysed the various facets of western culture on the ruling dynasty. There is , however , no agreed opinion on the nature and significance of the said development . For instance , Swapan Kumar Roy has argued in the introductory part in his book ( 'Prachin Koch Beharer Sampurna Itibritto' ) that the complete history of Cooch Behar is still under construction ( from the point of view of writing ) .<sup>14</sup>

The fourth category covers the kind of literature that deals with the socio - cultural aspects of Cooch Behar . There are some studies that cover the whole range of the royal history of Cooch Behar . They, however, lack elaborate analyses of the said development . Amanutullah Ahmed's Cooch Biharer Itihas (1936), discusses the early history of Cooch Behar and at the same time it focused on the historical sources regarding Cooch Behar.<sup>15</sup> Ghanashyam Dalai's Sachitra Kuchbehar – Rajchitra (1915) , Karali Charan Ganguli's Final Report On the Survey and settlement operations in the Cooch Behar State (1913-1917) ,1930,S.C.Ghosal's History of Cooch Behar ( 1942 ) , Brindeswari Devi's Beharodanta ( 1859 ) , Bhagavatee Charan Bandopadhaya's Cooch Beharer Itihas (1882), H.N.Chaudhuri's Cooch Behar State and its Land Revenue Settlement (1903) , Sashibhusan Halder's Cooch Behar Hitaishinee Sabha Baktritāmala (1965), Biswanath Das (ed.) Rajopakhyān (1985), D.Nath's History

*of the Koch kingdom ( 1515 – 1615 )*, 1989; Nripendra Nath Paul's *Itikathay Cooch Behar* ( 2000 ) Ratna Roy (Sanyal)'s *The Raj and the Princely State of the Cooch Behar – A Study of Anglo - Cooch Behar Relations* ( 2004 ) , Hemanta Kumar Roy Barma's *Cooch Beharer Itihas* ( 2005 ) , Swapan Kumar Ray's { *Prachin KochBeharer Sampurna Itibritto* (2006) , *Prachin Koch Beharer Aartha - Samajik Itihas* ( 2008 ) , *Koch Beharer Rajdarabarar Sahityacharcha* (2011) } , Amlanjyoti Majumdar's *Literary Works of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur* (2010) , Arun Bhusan Majumdar's *Pratyush O Pradosh Kaler Kamta - Cooch Behar* (2008) , Ranjit Deb's { *Cooch Beharer Eytihyamoyee Rajprasad* ( 1999 ) , *Cooch Beharer Itihas* ( 2005 ) } , Mahendra Debnath's *Shahar Cooch Beharer Tinsha Bachar* ( 2007 ) , belong to this category .

There are again independent studies showing the social , cultural history of Cooch Behar , but they , too naturally do not help to assess , in full, the development of the princely state of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847 – 1949) in general . In this connection the researcher can mention the name of the following books - W. W. Hunter's *Annals of Rural Bengal* ( 1897 ) , Sarabji Jahangir's *Princess and Chiefs of India , vol.- II* ( 1903 ) , E. A. Gait's *History Of Assam* (1906) , Arthur Claude Campbell's *Glimpses of Bengal , vol - I* (1907) Charu Chandra Sanyal's *Rajbansis of North Bengal* (1965), Amiya Kumar Bandhopadhaya and Sudhir Ranjan Das's *Cooch Behar Zillar Purakirti* (1974) , R . C. Majumdar's *History of Modern Bengal {part one ( 1765 – 1905 ) }* 1978 , B .N . Mukharjee ( ed. ) *Early Historical Perspective of North Bengal* ( 1987 ) , Ian Copland's *The British Raj and The Indian Princes-Para*

mountney in Western India (1857 – 1930), (1987) , Michael. H . Fisher’s Indirect Rule in India – Residents and Residency System ( 1764- 1858 ) , 1991 ; Ranajit Dasgupta’s Economy, Society and politics in Bengal : Jalpaiguri (1869-1947), 1992 ; Ichhimuddin Sarkar’s Aspects of Historical Geography of Pragjyotisa – Kamarupa (Ancient Assam) ,1992 ; Nripendra Nath Paul’s ( ed. ) { Koch Kings of Kamrup ( 1985 ) , Maharaj Harendra Narayn o Shibendra Narayaner Bhaktigiti Sangraha ( 1999 ) } , Nicholas Rhodes And Shankar . K . Bose’s The Coinage of Cooch Behar ( 1999 ) , Sachindra Nath Roy’s Sahitya Sadhanaya Rajanya Shasita Koch Behar ( 1999 ) , P . K . Bhattacharya’s (ed.) The Kingdom of Kamata Koch Behar in Historical Perspective (2000), Biswanath Das’s ( ed. ) Sunity Devi – Cooch Behar Maharanee Sunity Devir Jiban Katha (2000) ,Shubhendu Majumdar’s Adhunik siksha O Cooch Behar Victoriya College (1888-1938) , 2000 ; Bhagirath Das’s (ed.) Cooch Beharer Loksanskriti Utsav (2001), Abhijit Roy’s Koch Bihar raj- Jnankosh (1510-1949), 2002; Hemadri Sankar Bhattacharya’s Cooch Behar O Prachin Prathar Kichu Jana O Ajana (2002) , Ranjit Deb’s North Bengal at a glance – Cooch Behar , Jalpaiguri , Darjeeling ( vol-I) 2002 , Abhijit Sarkar’s Cooch Beharer Chithi (2004) HitenNag’s (ed.) America through Hindu Eyes ( 2004 ) , Cooch Beharer Itihas ( 2005) }, Gauri Shankar Bhattacharya’s Uttarbanger Pathe Pathe ( 2005 ) , Soven Sanyal’s { Alipurduvarer Pathe Prantare (2006) Cooch Beharer Kichu Katha Kichu Itihas (2008) } , Saswati Deb’s Cooch Behar Parichaya ( 2006 ) , Sujit Kumar Achrya’s Kam Kamta Kamakhya Tatha Koch Rajbansider Dravidio Utshya (2007), Rupkumar Barman’s From Tribalism to State (2007) , Dilip Kumar Dey’s Cooch Beharer Lokosanskriti (2007), Tapas Kumar Bandhopadhaya’s

*Koch O Totoder Samaj Sanskriti* ( 2008 ), Sainen Debnath's { *Social and political tensions in North Bengal ( since – 1947 )* 2007 , Sukhbilas Barma's ( ed. ) *Socio-Political Movement in North Bengal – A Sub Himalayan Tract ( vol. - I & II )* 2007 , *Essays on Cultural History of North Bengal ( 2008 )* } , Ananda Gopal Ghosh and Nilangshu Sekhar Das's *Uttar Banger Itihas O Samaj, vol.- I* ,(2009), Mahendra Debnath's *Atmakathane Maharani Brindeswari o Jenkins School* (2010), Anil Kumar Sarkar's *British Paramountcy and the Cooch Behar State* (2011).

The object of the proposed study , in this section , is to systematize a hitherto incoherent discussion on the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas (1847-1949) in an assailable form .

The fifth category includes some of the unpublished Ph. D thesis . The notable thesis -- Dr. Kamalesh Chandra Das's "Modernisation of a Princely State Cooch Behar Under the Maharaja Nripendra Narayan ( 1863 – 1911 )" in which the main focus falls on Maharaja Nripendra Narayan only ; thus the work is limited in its scope . Dr. Partha Sen in his thesis " Study of some aspects of the history of Kamta Cooch Behar since 1772 to the date of accession of Shivendra Narayan ", discusses some aspects of Cooch Behar up to the accession of Maharaja Shivendra Narayan i.e 28 th August 1839 . Dr. Sekhar Sircar's thesis, " Land Settlement and Revenue Administration and taxation under the Maharajas of Cooch Behar State ( 1773 - 1949 )", is a good work from the economic point of view . But the work is silent on other ( social and cultural ) aspects .

The last category covers the critical studies on the nature and significance

of the development of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas . This category deals with the following journals, magazines, news- papers , namely, Ajitesh Bhattachariya (ed.) *Madhuparni* , vol. of Cooch Behar (ed.) by Annada Gopal Ghosh ( 1990) ; Nirmalya Acharya's *Ekkhan* (1995 - 96) ; *Smaranika ( North Bengal State Library )* 1996 ; *Bengal Past and Present* (2002 ) ; *Smaranika (Dinhata Municipality)* 2002 ; Sukhendu Das ( ed. ) *Cooch Behar Zilla Sankha* (2006) ; *Smaranika ( Sunity Academy )* 1981, 2006, Aninda Bhattachariya and Rajarshi Biswas (ed. ) *Manshai* ( 2007 , 08 ) ; Deba-brata Chaki ( ed. ) *Uttar Prasanga vol.- 1,2,3* ( 2008 ) ; *Smaranika ( Khudra Patra – Patrika Parishad , Uttarbanga ,17-18 Dec, 2010 , Smaranika ( Jenkins School ) , 2011. Uttar Banga Sambad* (2008) .

The nature of the proposed work in this connection relates primarily to two basic questions - to what extent does the presence of the classical modern history of Cooch Behar influence the technique of modernisation of the princely state under the Maharajas ; and is this presence necessary to establish the meaning of development .

From the above analysis it is very clear that there is no coherent and comprehensive study on the subject undertaken for the present research . This brief overview further highlights the fact that there exists a major gap in understanding the continuous development of the Princely State of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas from 1847 - 1949 as a whole .

Moreover a truly comparative perspective has not been followed in any of the work cited above . Whenever comparative analysis has been attempted it has been piecemeal . Hence this study has been undertaken to bridge a genuine research gap in an important field in the history of Cooch Behar .

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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