

# Urban Morphology in Transition: A 100-Year Analysis of Tilagor, Sylhet (SPZ 4, 10, 11; Wards 4, 5, 18–24)

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## Abstract

Urban morphology offers critical insight into the ways cities evolve over time, reflecting socio-economic, cultural, and environmental forces. This study investigates the morphological transformation of Tilagor, a strategic sector of Sylhet, Bangladesh, spanning 90 years (1934–2023). The research focuses on Strategic Planning Zones (SPZ) 4, 10, and 11, covering Wards 4, 5, and 18–24, representing a microcosm of Sylhet’s broader urban dynamics. Using historical maps, satellite imagery, and spatial analysis, the study traces the city’s growth from a colonial-era settlement to a contemporary urban landscape characterized by densification, altered street networks, and evolving plot patterns. The findings reveal distinct phases of expansion influenced by socio-economic pressures, population growth, and urban planning initiatives. By mapping these transformations, the research highlights how morphological patterns shape urban livability, infrastructure development, and community interactions. The study also emphasizes the importance of understanding long-term urban form evolution in guiding future planning strategies that are both sustainable and context-sensitive. Overall, this paper demonstrates the value of detailed morphological analysis as a tool for informing urban policy and design in rapidly changing cities, offering lessons relevant not only to Sylhet but to secondary cities experiencing similar growth pressures in the Global South.

**Keywords:** Urban morphology, Tilagor, Sylhet, spatial growth, urban transformation, sustainable urbanism

## Prologue

This study investigates how different religious streams influence the morphological development of a historic city by giving a unique identity as a sacred place.

Our main target was to discuss about the morphological changes centralising Tilagor point and future initiative of this place. About an era ago Tilagor was nothing but a part of mountains and jungles. Later, due to requirements of people and each phase of Kingdom changes take place.

The history of Sylhet from Harikela Kingdom to East Pakistan made these changes to Sylhet. After independence Sylhet city had a great change. The transition of Sylhet was further taken by the government of Bangladesh.

Widening the road and making highways, drainage system was improved for avoiding flood and public facilities were increased.

This research is a preliminary approach to have a critical overview of past, present and future of Tilagor point and to find the city fabric. Hinduism and Islam, two major religious streams that shaped some key architectural monuments of the city have been discussed here. Moreover, analyzing the transformation through an architectural form that helped to gain a visual perspective of Sylhet city was a key part of this discussion.

### **Executive Summary**

Sylhet district was established on 3 January 1782, and until 1878 it was part of Bengal Province under Dhaka Division. The current plan package is prepared for Sylhet City and its surrounding areas covering an area of 85.18 sq. km. which includes entire Sylhet City Corporation area of 27.36 sq km. Before preparation of the plan the consultants carried out background study, different types of survey and analysis. Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) has primarily completed the boundary demarcation process of 11 new wards and the formation of three reserved wards have been formed by rearranging the areas of extended Sylhet. Sylhet City Corporation that governs the Sylhet city in Bangladesh is divided into wards. As of 2022 it has 42 wards and together with 207 mahallahs. The city was changed from a municipal board to a city corporation in 2001. Sylhet City has economic linkage to the whole nation and beyond because of the Shahjalal International Airport, inland port of Tamabil and strong economic base. Now-a-days Sylhet is renamed as a remittance city; it has a glorious past for tea garden. Sylhet region is famous for natural gas, stone and stone chips, a place of historical interest and site scene for its natural beauty. Although industrial base is not so strong in Sylhet, still it occupies the third position in the country in respect of industrialization. It has extensive network of about 30 markets of different sizes. Development of infrastructure facilities and influx of foreign capital rendered the city one of the most diversified in terms of economic activities.

The documentation consists of a long-term strategy for the development of Sylhet city and its environment. The plan indicates the magnitude and direction of future growth of the city. The developmental proposals that took place for the past 100 years such as housing, investment and employment, infrastructure and municipal services, transportation, town center, education facilities development, open space and social services. Apart from above the Urban Area Plan recommended some industrial development proposals, relocation of centra jail, conservation of hilly areas, development of play fields, conservation historical places, natural water bodies and proposal for women development etc. This also includes services developments of the area and facilities provided for the people.

On 31st August 2022 a notification of SRO No. 288-Act / 2021 was published in the additional issue of Bangladesh Gazette to notify the Expansion of SCC by incorporating four Sadar upazila of Sylhet district and three unions of South Surma upazila's mouzas with Sylhet City Corporation. And in accordance with Sections 29 and 30 of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, the initial decision was taken to demarcate the extended areas of SCC by demarcating the wards on ward basis.

Residents of the areas can submit any suggestions or objections to preliminary decision of demarcating the expanded areas of the SCC. People are requested to submit their written suggestions and any objection to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sylhet and Boundar Delimitation Officer of SCC within the stipulated date.

According to survey findings the level of land in the project area varies. The highest land levels are found in the tea gardens and surrounding hilly areas. Reams of lower-level plains are found along the flood

plains on the southern periphery. Most of the project areas are above the designated danger level of the Surma River. Local inundations are more due to poor drainage.

To collect the data, at first the local people helped us with the information regarding the landmarks and past condition of these wards. We have surveyed the words and their landmarks. Discussion with Councillor of the ward and its progress were noted. Martyars and people who lived in this ward before liberation war gave us much information about the city's growth. Every place has a growth center so we surveyed around the growth center like MC college, Shahporan Majar, Burhanuddin Majar etc. The Government office has helped us with the current information of the city. Gas services, drainage system, water and electric supplies information were provided by the SCC as it controls all the sectors. Ministry of Land, Zilla Parishad, Nogor union, Upazila & Shorok bhobon offices provided us with all the information.

### **Obejectives & Limitations**

The present research intended to explore the origin and development of indigenous city form with particular emphasis on Sylhet through an orderly comparison of its historical, social and morphological growth pattern. Moreover, spatial structure of historically and culturally eminent local areas is meticulously observed. The main objective of this present research sets out to investigate firstly the historical and morphological evolution of Sylhet over the period of hundred years (1934-2023) to find out the spontaneous spaces, which had been historically and culturally important and remain lively in the form of cultural spaces over time. Then finally analyse the socio- physical qualities and internal spatial structure of these spaces that makes the Sylhet vibrant and impulsive even at present.

The methodological limitation is empirical research where in addition to primary survey; social dimension and perceptual component of cultural space needs elaborate Environment Behaviour Study. However, due to time limitations this research takes help from secondary resources about environment behaviour study along with cognitive approach for perceptual component and social dimension of cultural space.

Another limitation due to inadequacy of the research material. As the research problem is considered to be constructed as a set of inter-disciplinary questions, the research needs explanation and support from different related ground.

### **Research Query**

The medieval artifact of the Sylhet is an expression of indigenous urban form. Furthermore, it has been claimed that the organic cities reflect the 'community spirit'; the spatial structure partly reflects and partly determines the social structure. Therefore, the community spirit of any space is deeply rooted with the organic form of a city structure. Hence, the research problem starts with the basic query that whether the traditional indigenous spaces of Sylhet are still lively or not, if so, what are the physical and morphological characteristics that makes these spaces still lively and vibrant?

To determine the indigenous urban spirit and reveal the spatial structure of traditional urban spaces this research tries to unveil the morphological and spatial characteristics of urban grid of Sylhet with an intention to understand the hierarchical and spatial configuration of vibrant urban spaces in the form of cultural space.

## Acknowledgment

Foremost, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our course teachers Prof. Syeda Zarina Hossain, Ar. Md. Shawkat Jahan Chowdhury, Ar. Arpan Shil for both academic and moral support, constant attention and untiring effort for our study & research. For their patience, motivation, enthusiasm and immense knowledge.

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## Introduction of Sylhet



Credit: Ajit Datta

Sylhet city is located at 24.8917°N 91.8833°E 24.8917; 91.8833, in the northeastern region of Bangladesh. The climate of Sylhet is humid subtropical with a predominantly hot and humid summer and a relatively cool winter. The city is within the monsoon climatic zone. Geologically, the region is complex having diverse geomorphology at the centre there is a vast low lying flood plain, locally called Haors. Available limestone deposits in different parts of the region suggest that the whole area was under the ocean in the Oligo-Miocene. In the last 150 years three major earthquakes hit the city, the last one took place in 1918, although many people are unaware that Sylhet lies on the earthquake prone zone of Bangladesh.



Credit: MD Monirul Majid



Credit: Mamun Haq

It is also a holy place where more than 360 "Olee" lying in peace. Most of its population is muslims with a percentage of 90. There are around 7% hindu, 0.07 % Budda, and others are 05 %. The Holy and famous shrine of Hazarat Shajalal (R), and Hazrat Shaparan (R) are located at heart of the Sylhet city. It is also famous for its some historical establishments which includes Kean Bridge, Ali Amzad watch, Zitu Miar Bari, Jointa Raj Bari, Jainta Ranir Gate, Monipuri Mesuem, Osmani Meuseum, and House of Chaittonnya DEV. It is a resourceful area in the country having oil, gas, natural stone quarries.

Credit: Numan Sadiqu



Sylhet is a major city in north-eastern Bangladesh. It is located on the bank of river Surma and the district consists of 12 Upazilas and 5 Pourashavas and 105 unions with the city as Municipality. Sylhet is one of the oldest cities in Bangladesh having a vast historical and cultural background and diversified inhabitants of Garo, Khasia,

Monipuri and, Hazong. The district is surrounded by the Jaintia, Khasi and Tripura hills. Sylhet region is well

### Sylhet At a Glance

Area	3490 km <sup>2</sup>	Union Road	745.08 km	Population	9,64,000
Upozila Road	726.2 km	Village Road	3206.97 km	Density	1045 per sq. km

known for its tea gardens and tropical forests. The city is described as a City of Saints, with the mausoleum of the great saint Hazrat Shah Jalal, who brought Islam to Bengal during the 14th century. During the next few centuries, it was part of the state of Assam during the rule of British. Sylhet was then part of East Pakistan and is part of Bangladesh as of today, which also played a major role in the Bangladesh Liberation War during the 1970s.



Credit: Sadique Ahmed



Credit: wikipedia

In the ancient and early medieval period, Sylhet was ruled primarily by local chieftains as viceroy of the kings of Pragjyotishpur. The last chieftain to reign in Sylhet was Govinda of Gaur. Sylhet was previously a Brahmin kingdom, controlled by the rajas. One of such chieftains was Gavinda of Gaur, commonly known as Gour Gavinda, who was defeated in 1303 by Hazrat Shah Jala Yamani and his 360 Sufi disciples. The 14th century marked the beginning of Islamic influence in Sylhet. Sylhet became a center of Islam in Bengal. The 17th century started the British rule in the Indian subcontinent. In the late 18th century, the British East India Company became interested in Sylhet and saw it as an area of strategic importance in the war against Burma. Sylhet was gradually absorbed into British control and administration and was governed as a part of Bengal. In 1778, the East India Company appointed Robert Lindsay of Sylhet, who



Credit: wikipedia

started trading and governing the region, making fortune. In 1781, a devastating flood struck the region which wiped out crops and killing a third of the population. In the next few years during the World War 2, many fought in the war and some were serving in ships in poor conditions, which led to many escaping and settling in London. After the British administrative reorganization of India

Sylhet was eventually incorporated into

Assam. It remained a part of Assam for the rest of the era of British rule. In 1947, following a referendum, almost all of Sylhet became a part of East Pakistan, barring the Karimganj subdivision which was incorporated into the new Indian state of

				No. of College	59
Literacy	51.20 %	No. of Union	101	No. of Primary School	1066
No. of Upazila	13	No. of Pourashava	4	No. of High School	277

Assam. In 1971, Sylhet became part of the newly formed independent country of Bangladesh.



Credit: Marwan Ahmed



 Study Area

### Geographical Location:

Latitude between 20°34' and 26°38' North

Longitude between 88°01' and 92°41' East Area: 147,570 sq. km. (land: 133,910 sq km, water: 10,090 sq km)

### Boundaries:

North - India (West Bengal and Meghalaya)

West - India (West Bengal)

East - India (Tripura and Assam) and Myanmar South-Bay of Bengal.

**Document Type:** National & territory.

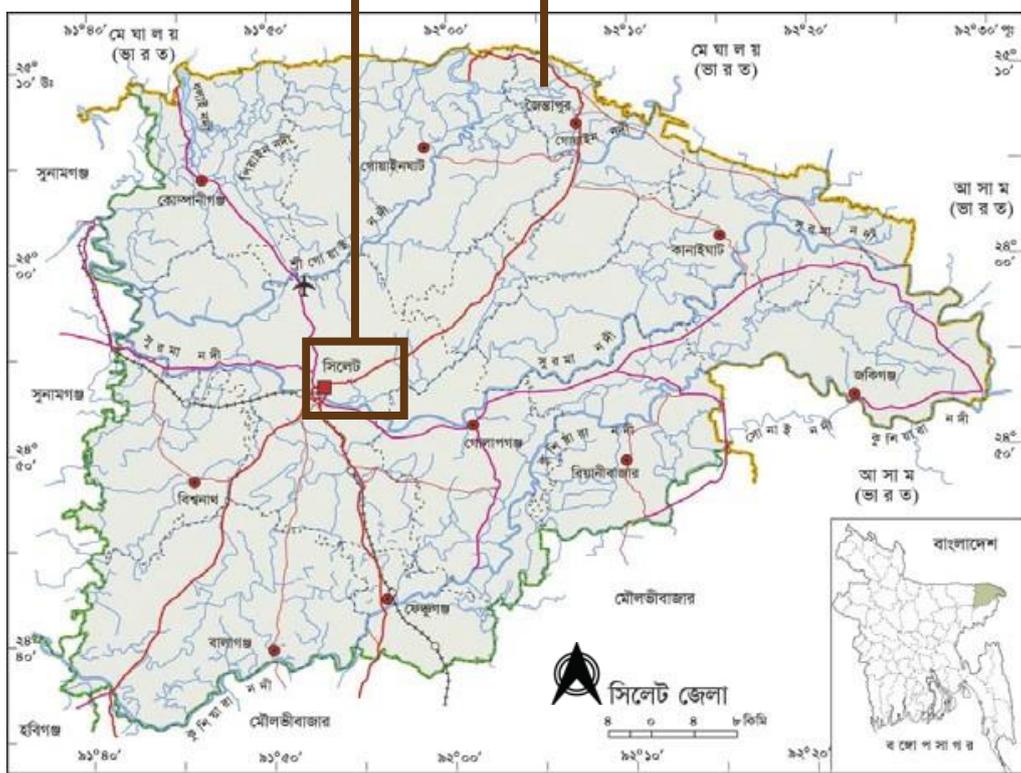
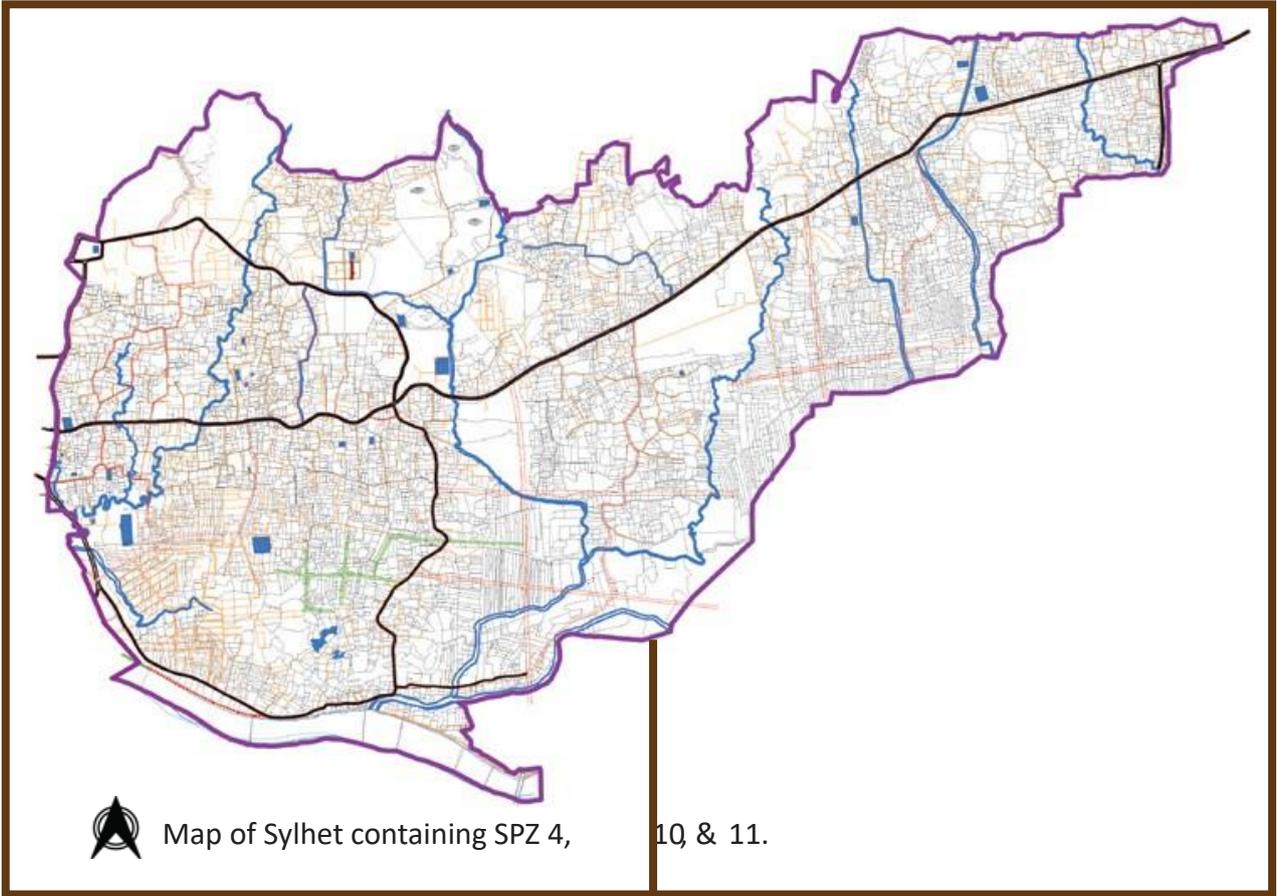
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Location of Publication: Bangladesh

### Study Area



### Sylhet City Corporation

Sylhet City Corporation area 27.36 sq km, located in between 24°51' and 24°55' north latitudes and in between 91°50' and 91°54' east longitudes. It is bounded by sylhet sadarr upazila on the north, dakshin surma upazila on the south, Sylhet Sadar upazila on the east, Dakshin Surma and Sylhet Sadar upazilas on the west.

Population Total 270606; male 142320, female 128286.

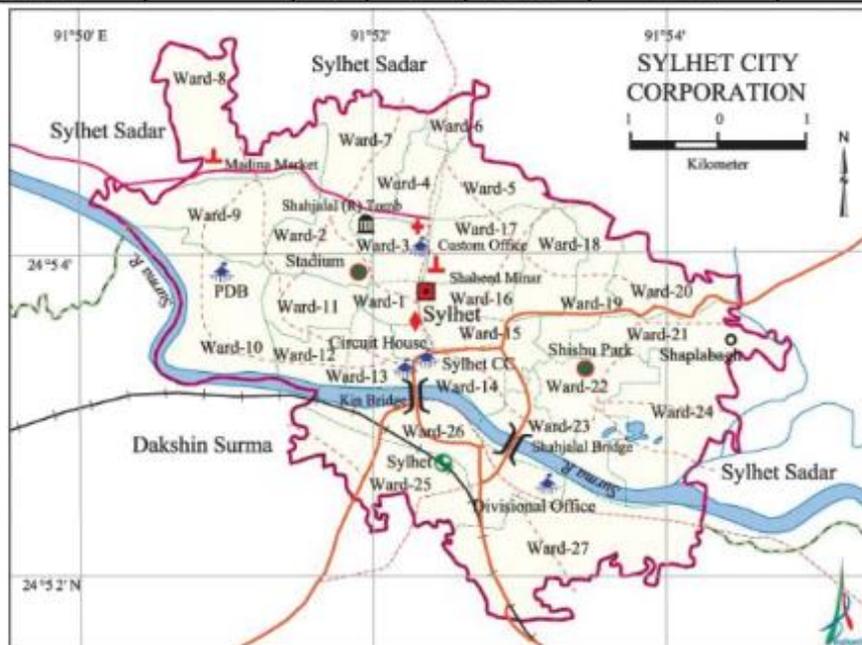
Main River: Surma.

Administration Sylhet Municipality was formed in 1867 and it was turned into City Corporation on April 9, 2001.

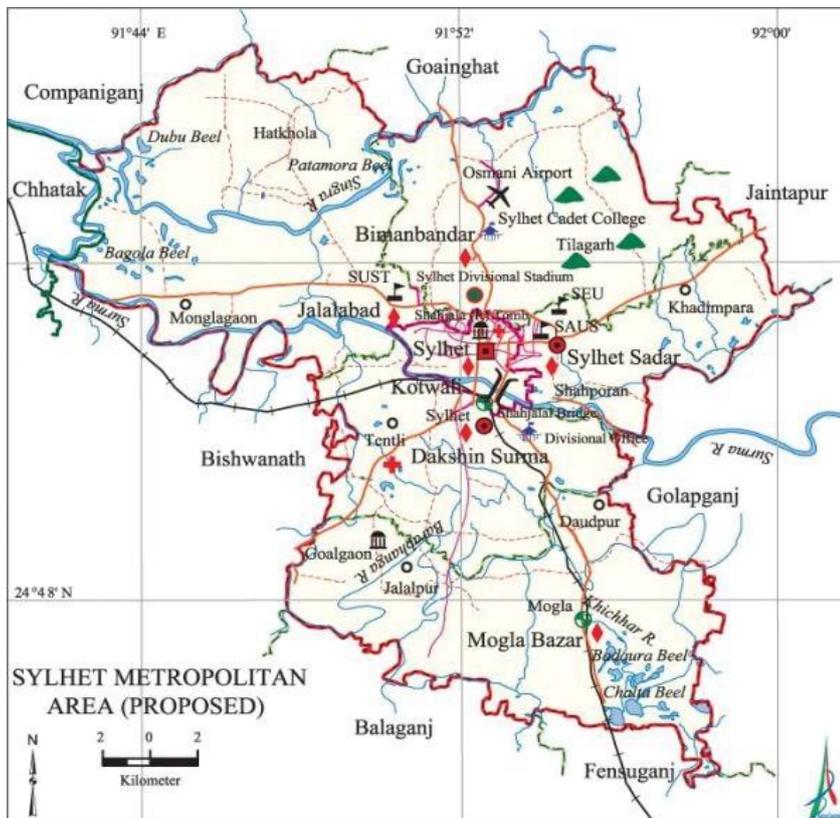
City corporation			
City corporation	Thana	Ward	Mohollas
1	4	42	218

\* At present there is 27 wards, more 6 are on working progress & 9 more wards will be made. Total 42 wards.

Thana						
City corporation	Area (sqkm)	Ward	Moholla	Population	Density (per sq km)	Literacy rate (%)
Kotwali model	17.22	18	144	168271	9772	71.75
Jalalabad	0.96	1	8	7409	6160	67.98
Dakshin Surma	2.7	2	10	19912	7375	64.13
Bimanbondar	1.84	2	22	22654	12312	71.38
Shah Paran	4.64	4	42	52360	11284	66.70

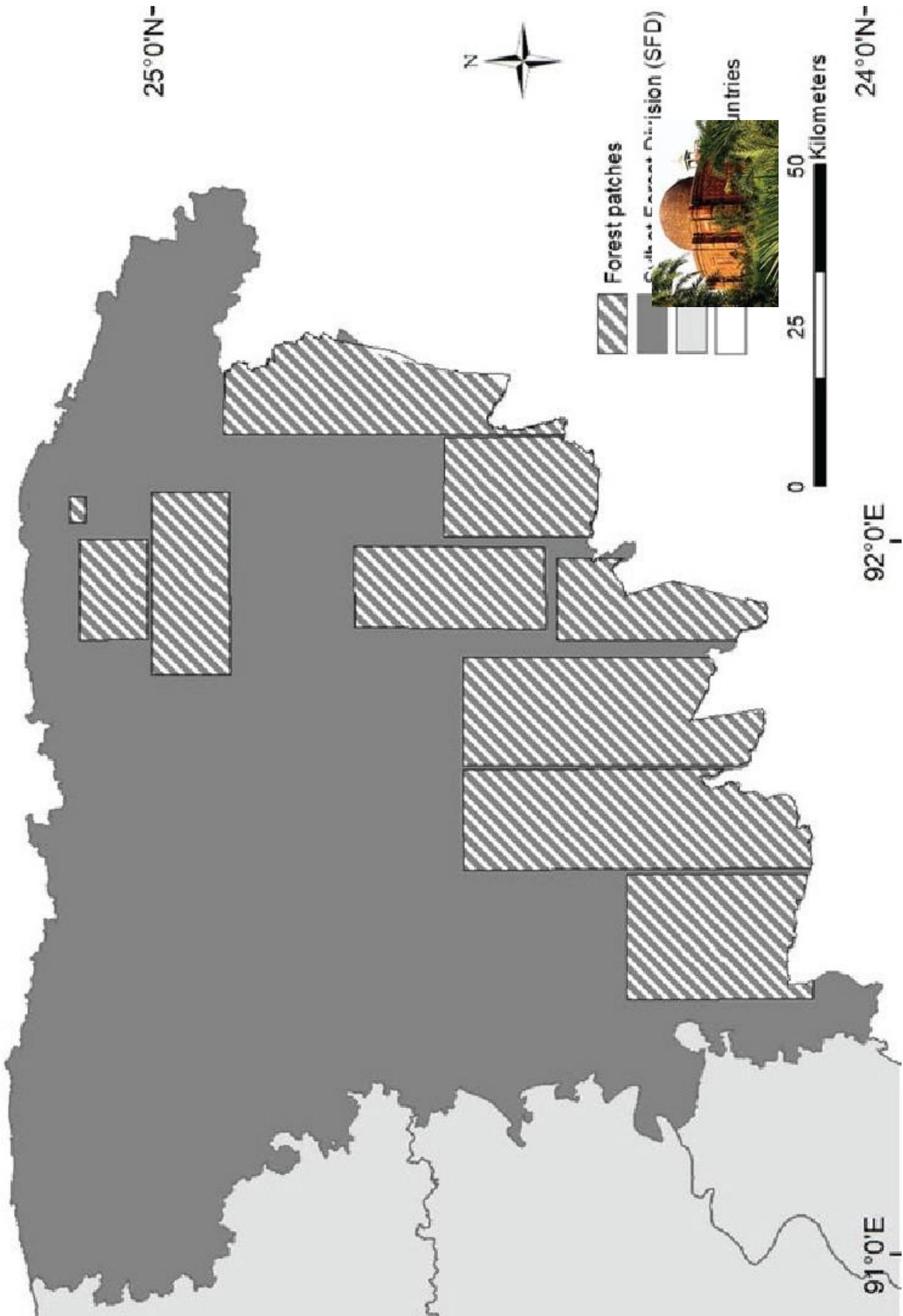


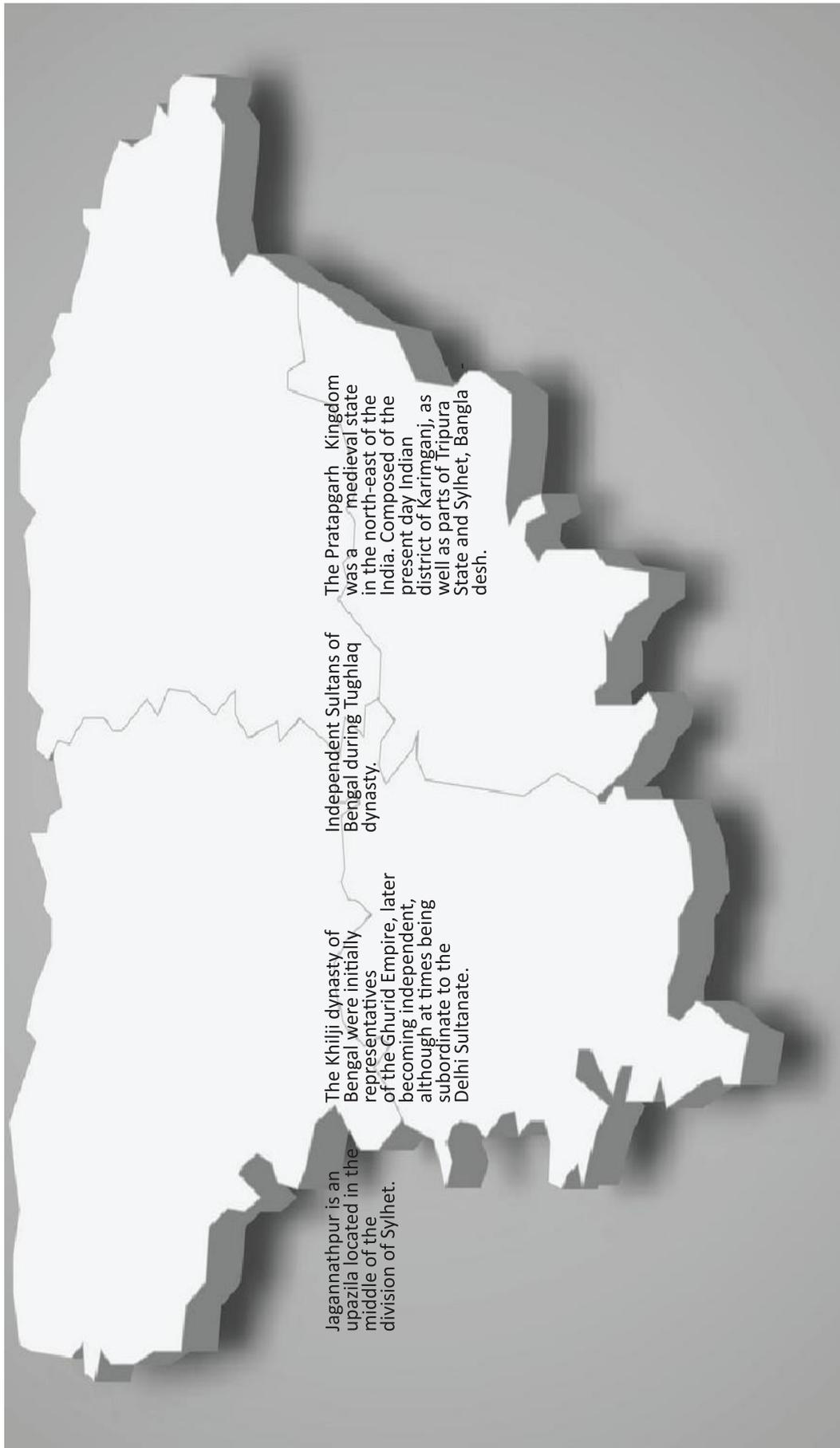
Sylhet City Corporation at a glance	
First Chairman	Ray Bahadur Dulal Chandra Deb
Municipality was formed	1867
Upgraded to City Corporation	9 April 2001
First Mayor	Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran
Number of holding	29381
Wards	27
Wards Commissioners	27
Reserved Seats for woman Commissioners	9
Police Station	2
Roads	21998KM
Park	3
Community Center	30
Gymnasium	3
Graveyard & Cemetery	4
Bus Terminals	2
Traffic Signal	7

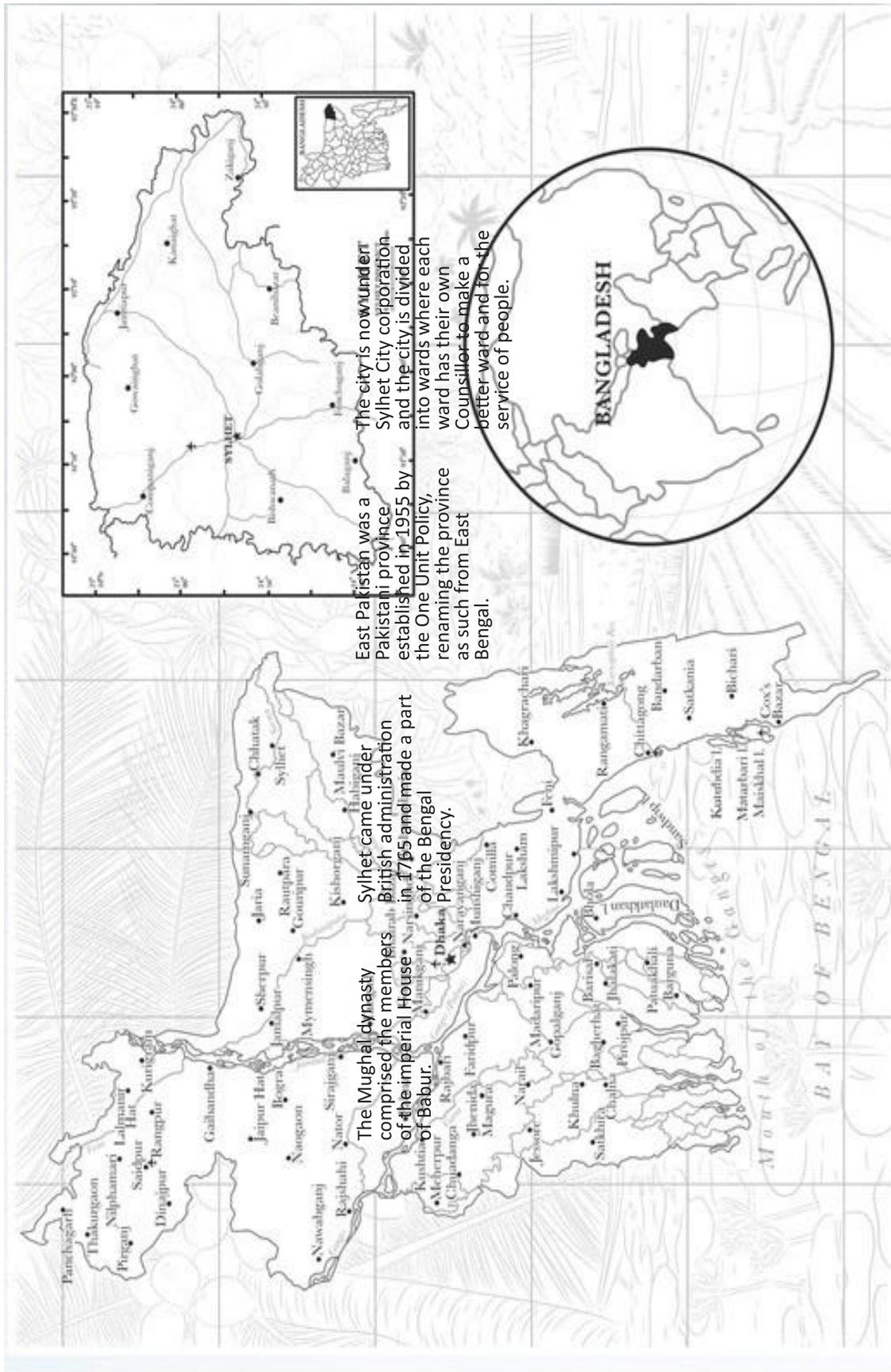


Ref- Bangladesh Population Census 2001,  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics;  
Cultural survey report of 2007;

Field reports of Sylhet City Corporation







## Regions of Sylhet

There are various theories about the origin of the name Sylhet. King 'Guhak' of ancient Gaur state established a haat named after his daughter Shiladevi. Because of this, many people think that the name Silat or Sylhet can be known from 'Shilahat'. Also, according to Hindu mythology, the bones of Goddess Sati fell at 51 places in the subcontinent. Two bones of Sati also fell in Sylhet. Another name for Sati is 'Sri'; Hence the name Srihatta can be derived from 'Sri + Hadd'.

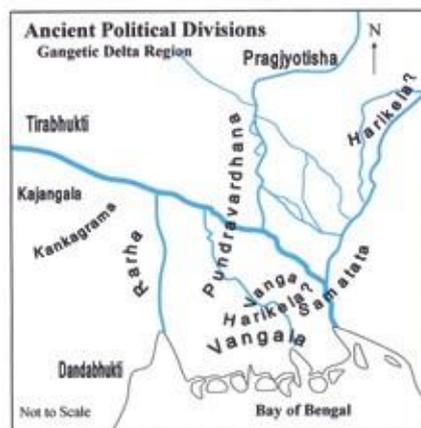
Many people also believe that the name 'Silhat' originates from the command of 'Sil Hot Jah' by Hazrat Shahjalal (RA). In 640 ADS, the Chinese Buddhist scholar & traveler Hiuen Tsang mentioned Sylhet as Shi-Li-Cha-T-L. Sylhet is mentioned as 'Silahet' in the book 'Kitabul Hind' by the Muslim traveler Manishi Al Beruni in the 11th century AD. Although it was first mentioned as 'Silhet' in documents during the English period, after Cachar came under British rule in the early 19th century, it was referred to as 'Sylhet' to distinguish it from 'Silchar', the headquarters station of the district. This is how today's Sylhet name was born.

## Sylhet District and Sylhet Division

Sylhet district was established on March 17, 1772. Till 1874 this district was under Dhaka division. In the same year, Sylhet was included in the newly created state of Assam. Sylhet district was included in the then East Pakistan through referendum in 1947 during the partition of the country. Sylhet district was then under Chittagong division. Greater Sylhet district was divided into 4 new districts in 1983-84.

At the time of its establishment Sylhet district along with other three districts of Greater Sylhet were under Chittagong division. In 1995, separate Sylhet division started with 4 districts of Greater Sylhet (Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj). The first commissioner of the division was Mr. Mohammad Habibur Rahman.

## Harikela



Harikela was an ancient empire located in the eastern region of the Indian subcontinent. Originally, it was a neighboring independent and independent township of ancient East Bengal, which had a continuous existence of about 500 years. The state of Harikal consisted of present-day Sylhet and Chittagong divisions of Bangladesh, as well as the Tripura state of India.

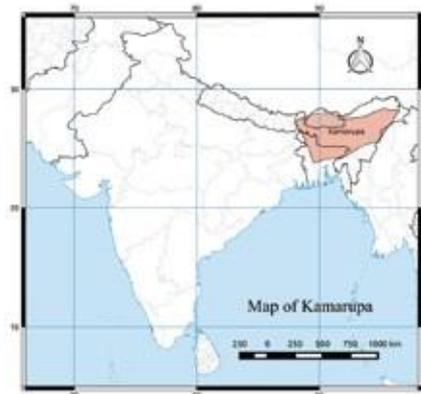
## History Ancient Political Divisions.

Yiling in the seventh century mentions a kingdom of Ali-ki-lo or Harikela. The kingdom was ruled by the Chandra dynasty during the 10th century CE. They were overthrown by the Varman Dynasty of Southeast

Bengal, who were in turn overthrown by the Deva dynasty. In the 17th century the Mughal Empire absorbed and brought Harikela under the province of Bengal.

### **Geography**

For a time, its capital was near Chittagong before being moved to Munshiganj by the Candras. Arab traders recognised Harikela as the coastal regions of Bengal (near Chittagong) in the early period and included Sylhet in the later period reaching as far as the ancient Sundarbans.



Map of the Sena Empire.

### **Kamarupa**

Kamarupa an early state during the Classical period on the Indian subcontinent, was the first historical kingdom of Assam. Though Kamarupa prevailed from 350 to 1140 CE, Davaka was absorbed by Kamarupa in the 5th century CE.

Ruled by three dynasties from their capitals in present-day:

1. Guwahati, 2. North Guwahati 3. Tezpur.

Kamarupa at its height covered the entire Brahmaputra Valley, North Bengal, Bhutan and northern part of Bangladesh, and at times portions of what is now West Bengal, Bihar and Sylhet.

### **Etymology**

The earliest use of the name Kamarupa to denote the kingdom is from the 4th century, when Samudragupta's pillar inscription mentions it as a frontier kingdom. Kamarupa finds no mention in the epics Mahabharata or Ramayana and in the early and late Vedic, Buddhist, and Jain literatures the references to Kamarupa are not about a kingdom. An explanation of the name Kamarupa emerged first in the 10th-century Kalika Purana, six centuries after the first use of the name, as the kingdom where Kamadeva (Kama) regained his form (rupa).

The name Pragjyotisha, on the other hand, is mentioned in the epics, but it did not become associated with the Kamarupa kingdom till the 7th century when Bhaskaravarman associated his kingdom with the Pragjyotisha of the epics and traced his dynastic lineage to Bhagadatta and Naraka. In the 9th century, Pragjyotishpura is named as the legendary city from which Naraka reigned after his conquest of Kamarupa.

### **Antecedents**

Kamarupa is not included in the list of sixteen Mahajanapadas from the sixth to fourth centuries BCE; nor does it or the northeast Indian region find any mention in the Ashokan records (3rd century BCE)—it was not part of the Mauryan Empire. The 3rd-2nd century BCE Baudhayana Dharmasutra mentions Anga (eastern Bihar), Magadha (southern Bihar), Pundra (northern Bengal) and Vanga (southern Bengal), and that a Brahmin required purification after visiting these places—but it does not mention Kamarupa, thereby indicating it was beyond the ambit and recognition of the Brahminical culture in the second half of the first millennium BCE.

Early dated mentions come from the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (1st century) and Ptolemy's Geographia (2nd century) which call the region Kirrhadia after the Kirata population. Arthashastra (early centuries of the Christian era) mentions "Lauhitya", which is identified with Brahmaputra valley by a later commentator. These early references speak about the economic activity of a tribal belt, and they do not mention any state.

The earliest mention of a kingdom comes from the 4th-century Allahabad inscription of Samudragupta that calls the kings of Kamarupa and Davaka frontier rulers (pratyanta nripati). The Chinese traveller Xuanzang visited the kingdom in the 7th century, then ruled by Bhaskaravarman. The corpus of Kamarupa inscriptions left by the rulers of Kamarupa at various places in Assam and present-day Bangladesh are important sources of information. Nevertheless, local grants completely eschew the name Kamarupa; instead, they use the name Pragjyotisha, with the kings called Pragjyotishadhipati.

The fragmentary Nagajari-Khanikargaon rock inscription, written in Sanskrit and probably a land grant, is dated to approximately the 5th century. It was found in Sarupathar in the Golaghat district of Assam. It supports the idea that Sanskritisation spread to the east very quickly. While this dating coincides with the time-span of the Varman dynasty, the inscription does not identify the state formation that issued the grant; the Varman dynasty may not have been responsible. One cannot completely "rule out the possibility of several simultaneous political powers in different sub-regional levels of north-eastern India around or even before the fourth century." Indeed, archaeological discoveries in the Doiyang Dhansiri Valley suggests that early state formation in the region may have begun before the second century.

### **Boundaries**

The findspots of inscriptions associated with the Kamarupa kingdom give an estimate of its geographical location and extent.

The findspots of inscriptions associated with the Kamarupa kingdom give a estimate of its geographical location and extent.

Over the course of its prevalence, the boundaries of Kamarupa had fluctuated. Nevertheless, the traditional boundary of Kamarupa is held by scholars to be—Karatoya river in the west, Sadiya in the east, between the Dhaka and Mymensingh districts in Bangladesh in the south, and Kanchenjanga in the north. The traditional boundaries are drawn from the textual references two of which are contemporaneous—Xuanzang (7th century), and Kalika Purana (10th century) and a late medieval source Yogini Tantra (16th century) though none of these claims are backed by any inscriptional record. Thus, based on these references Kamarupa is considered to span the entire Brahmaputra valley and Northeast India and at various times thought to include parts of present-day Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

### **Internal divisions**

Kamarupa is not understood to have been a homogeneous unified entity. The Kalika Purana mentions a second eastern limit at Lalitakanta near Guwahati. Shin (2018) interprets this to mean that within Kamarupa the region between Karatoya and Lalitakanta was where sedentary life was the norm and the eastern region was the realm of non-sedentary society. These internal divisions came to be understood in terms of pithas, which were abodes of goddesses.

Various epigraphic records found scattered over the regions are used to postulate the size of the kingdom. The kingdom is believed to have broken up entirely by the 13th century into smaller kingdoms.

**Political history**

Kamarupa, first mentioned on Samudragupta's Allahabad rock pillar as a frontier kingdom, began as a subordinate but sovereign ally of the Gupta empire around present-day Guwahati in the 4th century: it finds mention along with Davaka, a kingdom to the east of Kamarupa in the Kapili River valley in present-day Nagaon district, but which is never mentioned again as an independent political entity in later historical records. Kamarupa, which was probably one among many such state structures, grew territorially to encompass

the entire Brahmaputra valley and beyond. As the Gupta Empire weakened, the Varmans, of indigenous origin, began asserting themselves politically by performing horse sacrifices and culturally by claiming semi-divine origins. Under the rule of Bhaskarvarman Kamarupa reached its political zenith and the lineage of the Varmans from Narakasura, a demon, became a fixed tradition. The Mlechchha dynasty, another set of indigenous rulers and the Pala dynasty (Kamarupa) that followed, too asserted political legitimacy by asserting descendancy from Narakasura.

**Varman dynasty (c. 350 – c. 650)**

Pushyavarman (350–374) established the Varman Dynasty, by fighting many enemies from within and without his kingdom; but his son Samudravarman (374–398), named after Samudragupta, was accepted as an overlord by many local rulers. Nevertheless, subsequent kings continued their attempts to stabilise and expand the kingdom.

Kalyanavarman (422–446) occupied Davaka and Mahendravarman (470–494) further eastern areas. Narayanavarma (494–518) and his son Bhutivarman (518–542) offered the ashwamedha (horse sacrifice); and as the Nidhanpur inscription of Bhaskarvarman avers, these expansions included the region of Chandrapuri visaya, identified with present-day Sylhet division. Thus, the small but powerful kingdom that Pushyavarman established grew in fits and starts over many generations of kings and expanded to include adjoining possibly smaller kingdoms and parts of Bangladesh.

After the initial expansion till the beginning of Bhutivarman's reign, the kingdom came under attack from Yasodharman (525–535) of Malwa, the first major assault from the west. Though it is unclear what the effect of this invasion was on the kingdom; that Bhutivarman's grandson, Sthitavarman (566–590), enjoyed victories over the Gauda Kingdom of Karnasuvarna and performed two aswamedha ceremonies suggests that the Kamarupa kingdom had recovered nearly in full. His son, Susthitavarman (590–600) came under the attack of Mahasenagupta of East Malwa. These back-and-forth invasions were a result of a system of alliances that pitted the Kamarupa kings (allied to the Maukharis) against the Gaur kings of Bengal (allied with the East Malwa kings). Susthitavarman died as the Gaur invasion was on, and his two sons, Suprathisthitavarman and Bhaskarvarman fought against an elephant force and were captured and taken to Gaur. They were able to regain their kingdom due probably to a promise of allegiance. Suprathisthitavarman's reign is given as 595–600, a very short period, at the end of which he died without an heir.

Supratisthitavarman was succeeded by his brother, Bhaskarvarman (600–650), the most illustrious of the Varman kings who succeeded in turning his kingdom and invading the very kingdom that had taken him captive. Bhaskarvarman had become strong enough to offer his alliance with Harshavardhana just as the Thanesar king ascended the throne in 606 after the murder of his brother, the previous king, by Shashanka of Gaur. Harshavardhana finally took control over the kingless Maukhari kingdom and moved his capital to Kanauj. The alliance between Harshavardhana and Bhaskarvarman squeezed Shashanka

from either side and reduced his kingdom, though it is unclear whether this alliance resulted in his complete defeat. Nevertheless, Bhaskarvarman did issue the Nidhanpur copper-plate inscription from his victory camp in the Gaur capital Karnasuvarna (present-day Murshidabad, West Bengal) to replace a grant issued earlier by Bhutivarman for a settlement in the Sylhet region of present-day Bangladesh.

### **Mlechchha dynasty (c. 655 – c. 900 CE)**

After Bhaskaravarman's death without an heir and a period of civil and political strife the kingdom passed into the hands of Salasthambha (655–670), possibly as erstwhile local governor and a member of an aboriginal group called Mlechchha (or Mech). This dynasty too drew its lineage from the Naraka dynasty, though it had no dynastic relationship with the previous Varman dynasty. The capital of this dynasty was Harupeshvara, now identified with modern Dah Parbatiya near Tezpur. The kingdom took on feudal characteristics with political power shared between the king and second and third tier rulers called mahasamanta and samanta who enjoyed considerable autonomy. The last ruler in this line was Tyāga Singha (890–900).

### **Pala dynasty (c. 900 – c. 1100)**

After the death of Tyāgasimha without an heir, a member of the Bhauma family, Brahmapala (900–920), was elected as king by the ruling chieftains, just as Gopala of the Pala Empire of Bengal was elected. The original capital of this dynasty was Hadapeshvara, and was shifted to Durjaya built by Ratnapala (920–960), near modern Guwahati. The greatest of the Pala kings, Dharmapala (1035–1060) had his capital at Kamarupanagara, now identified with North Guwahati. The last Pala king was Jayapala (1075–1100). Around this time, Kamarupa was attacked and the western portion was conquered by the Pala king Ramapala.

### **Breakup and End of Kamarupa Western Kamarupa**

Ramapala could not keep control for long, and Timgyadeva (1110–1126) ruled western Kamarupa independently for some time. His son Kumarapala sent Vaidyadeva against Timgyadeva who installed himself at Hamshkonchi in the Kamrup region. Though Vaidyadeva maintained friendly relationships with Kumarapala, he styled himself after the Kamarupa kings issuing grants under the elephant seal of erstwhile Kamarupa kings and assuming the title of Maharajadhiraja, though he did not call himself Pragjyotisadhipati like the Kamarupa kings did. He controlled a portion of Kamrup, Goalpara and North Bengal but not Kamarupanagara, the seat of the last Kamarupa kings.

### **Central Kamarupa**

It is estimated that with the withering away of the Kamarupa kingdom, parts of Kamrup, Darrang and Sonitpur districts on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River came under the control of one Bhaskara. A single inscription (1185) gives a list of four rulers that have been called the Lunar dynasty—Bhaskara, Rayarideva, Udayakarna and Vallabhadeva—with their reign dated to 1120–1200.

### **Southern Kamarupa**

In the Sylhet region, there emerged rulers called Kharabana, Gokuladeva, Narayana and Kesavadeva. Kamarupa Proper

Kamarupa proper was confined to the south bank of Brahmaputra, with the power center still at Kamarupanagara, with three rulers associated with it: Prithu, Samudrapala and Sandhya.

In 1206 the Turko Afghan Bakhtiyar Khalji passed through Kamarupa against Tibet which ended in disaster, the first of many Turko-Afghan invasions. The ruler of Kamarupa at this point was Raja Prithu (d. 1228, called Britu in Tabaqat-i Nasiri), who is sometimes identified with Visvasundara, the son of Vallabhadeva of the Lunar dynasty, mentioned in the Gachtal inscription of 1232 A.D. Prithu withstood

invasions (1226–27) from Ghiyasuddin Iwaj Shah of Gauda who retreated back to his capital to defend it from Nasiruddin Mahmud but was defeated, captured and killed in 1228. Nasir-ud-din installed a tributary king but after his death in 1229 the control of Kamarupa lapsed back to local rulers.

**Capital:**

1. Pragjyotishpura.

2. Haruppeswara.

3. Durjaya.

**Common languages:**

Kamarupi Prakrit, Sanskrit, Austroasiatic,

Tibeto-Burman.

**Religion:**

Hinduism, Tribal religion.

**Government:**

Absolute monarchy.

**Historical era:**

Classical India.

**Established:**

350.

**Disestablished:**

**Succeeded by:** 1140.

1. Ahom kingdom.

2. Kamata kingdom.

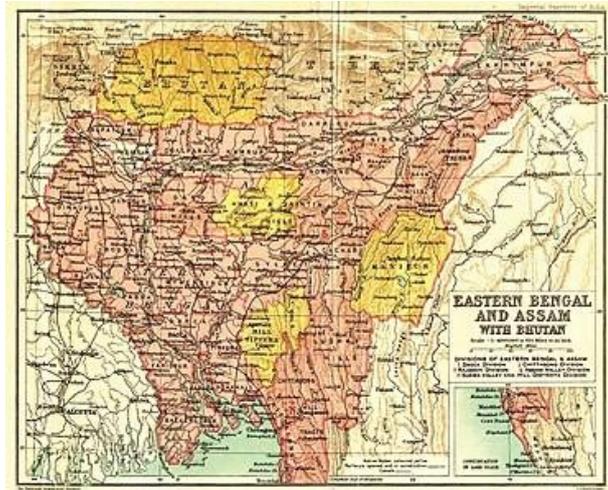
3. Chutia Kingdom.

4. Baro Bhuyans.

**Today part of:**

India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal.

## Jaintia Kingdom



The Jaintia Kingdom was a matrilineal kingdom in present-day some parts of Bangladesh's Sylhet Division, India's Meghalaya state and Nagaon, Morigoan district of Assam. It was partitioned into three in 630 AD by Raja Guhak for his three sons, into the Jaintia Kingdom, Gour Kingdom and Laur Kingdom. It was annexed by the British East India Company in 1835. All the Khasi (Pnar) Rajahs of the Jaintiapur Kingdom are from the Syiem Sutnga clan, a Pnar clan of the Khasi tribe which claims descent from Ka Li Dohkha, a The Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the Bengal Gazetteer of 1907 divine nymph.

### Etymology

One theory says that the word "Jaintia" is derived the shrine of Jayanti Devi or Jainteswari, an incarnation of the Hindu goddess Durga. Another theory says that the name is derived via Pnar (the language of the

rulers) from Sutnga, a settlement in the modern-day Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. The Pnars (also called Jaintia) and War, speak Mon-Khmer languages that are related to Khasi.

### Extent

The Jaintia Kingdom extended from the east of the Shillong Plateau of present-day Meghalaya in north-east India, into the plains to the south, and north to the Barak

River valley in Assam, India. The winter capital located at Jaintia Rajbari, Jaintiapur, now ruined, was located on the plains at the foot of the Jaintia Hills; it appears there may have been a summer capital at Nartiang in the Jaintia Hills, but little remains of it now apart from the Nartiang Durga Temple and a nearby site with many megalithic structures. Much of what is today the Sylhet region of Bangladesh and India was at one time under the jurisdiction of the Jaintia king.

### History

In ancient times, Austroasiatic tribal migrations from Southeast Asia during the Holocene period to what is now known as the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The tribe split into two; modern-day Khasi which was the religious class, and the modern-day Pnar which were the ruling class. According to the legend constructed by the Brahmin pandits, the hero of Hindu mythology, Arjuna travelled to the Jaintia to regain his horse held captive by a princess, a story mentioned in a Purana or Hindu epic known as the Mahabharata.

The earliest known ruler, Ka Urmi Rani, married Sindhu Rai who was the ambassador to Kamarupa. They had a daughter called Ka Urvara who married Krishak, another Kamarupi ambassador. Krishak claimed he was of the lunar dynasty and descended from Parikshit, as he was the offspring of a Kachari damsel. Other sources claim Krishak was a prince of the Tibetan kingdom of Hotik. Krishak changed the inheritance law from youngest daughter to eldest son. This angered the King of Kamarupa who summoned him to his land never letting him return to Jaintia hills again. After the death of his mother, Krishak's son Hatak took over the throne.

When Guhak ascended the Jaintia throne in 600 AD and married a princess from Kamarupa, just like his father Hatak. Guhak had a deep interest in Hinduism and migration of Brahmins from the Kamrup region to this area took place. On his way back, Guhak brought a stone image known as Kangsa-Nisudhana, an image of Krishna and Balaram murdering Kamsa, as well as Grivakali and Janghakali, and they put it on top of a hill in modern-day where they would worship it. During the British colonial period, this hill was also home to the Civil Surgeon's Bungalow.



Princess Iravati's inn



Entrance to the Jaintaswari House

Guhak had three sons; Jayantak, Gurak and Ladduk, and two daughters; Sheela and Chatala. It is said that his eldest daughter, Sheela, was once bathing in a lake south of the Kangsa-Nisudhana hill (which became the hillock of the Civil Surgeon's Bungalow during British rule) and she was kidnapped. After

being rescued by Guhak, Sheela started to become more religious and live a secluded life. Chatala indulged herself in an unlawful relationship with one of the palace servants, leading to her being disowned and dumped in a distant island in the middle of 2000 square mile lake to the south of the kingdom. After Sheela's death at a young age, Guhak gave up his kingdom to also lead a more ascetic life. This port-area around the lake, which was the largest centre in the Jaintia Kingdom for trade, was named Sheela haat (or Sheela's marketplace) in her honour. Sources such as the Hattanath Tales mention Sheelachatal was named after both daughters for the region. This is one of many theories of how Sylhet got its name. Xuanzang of China mentions that he visited Sheelachatal in the 630s in his book, the Great Tang Records on the Western Regions. He split the Jaintia Kingdom into three for his three sons. He gave his eldest son, Jayantak, the northern hills which remained known as the Jaintia Kingdom. He gave his second son, Gurak, the southern plains which would be named Gour Kingdom, and he gave his third son, Luddak, the western plains which would become the Laur Kingdom.

### Partitioned Jaintia



Jyantak built his own Kamakhya Bama Jangha Pitha temple in the southeast of his kingdom on top of a hill near modern-day Kanaighat. It supposedly contained the left thigh of a Hindu goddess. He had a son called Yang who he dedicated the Phaljur area to. In modern times, there is a hill in the village of Baildara that continues to be known as Yang Rajar Tila (King Yang's hillock). The locals of this

village continue to share a legend about how Yang, Jaintaswari Front Wall after being questioned for always leaving the palace by his wife, transformed his queen into a cursed bird which is still alive and inhabits the region as a sign of bad luck.

Jyantak's heir, Joymalla is remembered as an athletic ruler. There are legends of him allowing an elephant to walk over his chest. He is said to have been killed after attempting to fight a rhinoceros. He was succeeded by his son, Mahabal, and then his grandson, Bancharu. Bancharu was interested in cultivation, and planted many trees and increased production of honey, tejpata, orange and agarwood. During his reign, Buddhist merchants came to this region through Sylhet. They promoted Tantric Buddhism and Bancharu gained an interest

in it. Bancharu also began the practice of Peculiar building in Jaintiaswari Estate. sacrificing humans at Jangha Kali, which would continue for centuries in Jaintia up until British rule. Bancharu was succeeded by Kamadeva, a Sanskrit enthusiast who was close friends with Bhoja Varma Deva, a Sanskrit pandit from East Bengal. In 1090 AD, a Vijay Raghavia was composed in honour of Raja Kamadeva.

Kamadeva was succeeded by his son Bhimbal. Bhimbal could not rule properly due to insurgencies amongst the hill rulers of the region. Jaintia was defeated in a battle and Bhimbal was either murdered or fled his kingdom out of disgrace. His minister, Kedareshwar Rai, took over and began the Brahmin ruling dynasty of Jaintia.



## **New dynasty**

In 1618, Dhan Manik conquered Dimarua leading to a war with Maibong Raja Yasho Narayan Satrudaman of the Kachari Kingdom. Dhan Manik, realising that he would need assistance, gave his daughter in hand to Raja Susengphaa of the Ahom kingdom. The Ahoms then fought the Kachari allowing an easy escape for Dhan Manik and the Jaintians.



Sometime after 1676, the Raja of Jaintia attempted to rebel against the Mughal Empire. The Akhbarats note that the Raja had gathered 1500 infantry and began plundering the nearby region and led a siege against the fort in Sylhet. In response, the Mughals sent the general, Shaista Khan, the nobleman; Iradat Khan and Raja Tahawar Singh (also known as Kunwar Tahawurr Asad) of Kharagpur Raj in Bihar. Together, they were able to defeat the Jaintia Raja and bring the kingdom back under imperial control.

## **Subjugation under Ahoms**

In 1707, Jaintia king Ram Singh kidnapped the Kachari Raja. The Raja of Cachar then informed Ahom Raja Rudra Singh Sukhrungphaa which led to the Ahoms attack through North Cachar and Jaintia Hills. Jaintia was annexed to the Ahoms and its capital city, Jaintiapur, was then raided by the Ahoms and thousands of innocent civilians were put to death or ears and noses were cut off. Sukhrungphaa then

informed the Faujdar of Sylhet that Jaintia was under his rule and that it is him that they will trade to. However, the Ahom rule in Jaintia was weak and short-lived. The Jaintias rebelled in their own land defeating the Ahom soldiers. Ram Singh, however, died as a captive to the Ahoms and his son, Jayo Narayan took over the Jaintia Kingdom.

In 1757, the Nongkhrem-Khairam Khasi chief closed the Sonapur Duar, stopping trade between the Jaintia and Ahom kingdoms. An envoy of Jaintias assembled at Hajo where they informed the incident to Ahom Raja Suremphaa Swargadeo Rajeswar Singh who re-opened it for them.

The British came into contact with the Jaintia kingdom upon receiving the Diwani of Bengal in 1765. Jaintiapur, currently in Bangladesh, was the capital. The kingdom extended from the hills into the plains north of the Barak river Major Henniker led the first expedition to Jaintia in 1774. The quarries in their possession were the chief supplier of lime to the delta region of Bengal, but with the British, the contact was not very smooth, and they were attacked in the same year. Subsequently, the Jaintias were increasingly isolated from the plains via a system of forts as well as via regulation of 1799.

## End

In 1821, a group of Jaintias kidnapped British subjects attempting to sacrifice them to Kali. A culprit was then found by the British who admitted that it was an annual tradition which the Jaintias have been doing for 10 years. The priest would cut off the victim's throat and then the Jaintia princess would bathe in his blood. The Jaintia believed that this would bless the princess with offspring. Upon hearing this, the British threatened the Jaintia Raja that they would invade his territories if this does not stop. The Raja made an agreement in 1824 with David Scott that

they will only negotiate with the British. A year later, the Jaintias attempted to continue their annual sacrifice which they had previously agreed with the British that they would stop.

After the conclusion of the First Anglo-Burmese War, the British allowed the Jaintia king his rule north of the Surma River. The Jaintias kidnapped four British men in 1832. Three were sacrificed in the Great Hindu temple in Faljur, with one escaping and informing the British authorities of the atrocities. After the Jaintia Raja declined to find the culprits, the British finally marched to the Jaintia Kingdom and annexed it on 15 March 1835 The king was handed over his property in Sylhet along with a monthly salary of Rs 500. The British administered the plain areas directly and the hill region indirectly via a system of fifteen dolois and four sardars. The fifteen administrators were free to adjudicate on all but the most heinous crimes.

Jaintia continued to exist though divided into pargana or fiscal division, within greater Sylhet such as the Jaintia Puriraj (Jaintiapuri Raj) pargana, Japhlang pargana, Chairkata pargana and Phaljur pargana. Puriraj had an area of 59.15 square metres and had a land revenue of £325 of 1875. Phaljur was 51.84 sqm and had a land revenue of £301. Chairkata was 37.88 square metres, consisted of 749 estates and land revenue of £276. Japhlang was 40.07 square metres, 342 estates and £279 land revenue.

<b>Capital:</b>	Nartiang.
<b>Religion:</b>	Niamtre (Niam Khasi), Hinduism.
<b>Established:</b>	500.
<b>Disestablished:</b>	1835.
<b>Succeeded by:</b>	Gour Kingdom, Laur Kingdom.
<b>Today part of:</b>	Bangladesh.

**Gour Kingdom**

The Kingdom of Gour was one of the greater of the many petty kingdoms of the medieval Sylhet region. According to legend, it was founded by Gurak, off-shooting from Kamarupa's Jaintia Kingdom in 630. Much of its early history is considered legendary or mythological up until Navagirvana who is mentioned in the Bhaterra copper-plate inscriptions. The Kings of Gour are described as patrons of Hindu revivalism in what was previously a predominantly Buddhist and animist populated land.

The 11th century king Govinda-Rana Kesava Deva is recognised for introducing the navadinga (nine war boats) and heavily improving the kingdom's infantry, cavalry, and elephant power. Due to familial tensions, the kingdom split into two separate kingdoms in 1170; Gour (Northern Sylhet) and Brahmachal (Southern Sylhet), before being reunited by Raja Govardhan in the early years of his reign. However, this would be short-lived as during Govardhan's reign, the kingdom would suffer attacks from neighbouring kingdoms of all directions; eventually leading to the latter's death and the annexation of Brahmachal from Gour to Twipra. Gour Govinda would be the last king to succeed him. In contrast to Govardhan, he would revive Gour back into a regional superpower, warding off all potential enemies, regaining lost territory, introducing defensive strategies like archery in war for the first time in Bengal's history and improving Gour's military status. Noted as a Hindu Revivalist, Gour Govinda encouraged the Hindu way of life. The kingdom came to an end after the Islamic conquest of Sylhet in 1303 led by Sikandar Khan Ghazi, Syed Nasiruddin and Shah Jalal, leading to the flight of Govinda and the royal family, and the subsequent incorporation of Sylhet with mainland Muslim Bengal ruled by Sultan Shamsuddin Firuz Shah.

**Name**

There are many theories behind the naming of the Gour kingdom. Some say that the name originated from the kingdom's founder; Gurak, the son of Raja Guhak just as Jaintia was named after Jayantak and Laur after Ladduk. Other theories are that it was named following the 1170 partition of the kingdom into two. The north was renamed Gour (also transliterated as Gauda in Sanskrit) as in imitation of the great Hindu Gauda Kingdom which ruled Bengal from 590AD to 626AD.

**Location and origin**

The kingdom consisted of majority of the modern-day Sylhet District. It included some eastern parts of the modern-day Moulvibazar District until it split from Gour to become the independent kingdom of Brahmachal. The final king of Gour, Gour Govinda would reunite Brahmachal to the Gour Kingdom. The Tungachal kingdom, to its southwest, was a vassal state of Gour, and later Brahmachal would be one as well. With Govinda turning Gour into a regional superpower, the Laur Kingdom may have also been a vassal state as Takerghat (in Laur) was made the naval headquarters during Govinda's rule. In the 850s, much of the kingdom's territory was described to be "outside the pale of human habitation" with central and southwestern Sylhet forming a large sea. This explains the naval significance which the Kings of Gour boasted.

The early rulers of Gour were said to have belonged to an animist clan known as the Pator-Chutia or Patro which later converted to Hinduism after Raja Guhak's interest in the religion and his initial invitation to Brahmins from Kamarupa to come and migrate to Sylhet. The small tribe remains in existence today and are also known by their endonym, the Laleng, and claim descent from these kings although this cannot be proven. Their traditions are a mixture of tribal animistic and Hindu beliefs. They have a distinct language to Bengali and Sylheti and many migrated to Assam and Meghalaya following the 1947 Partition of India and 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

### **History Establishment**

Before the establishment of the Gour Kingdom, the area was a part of the Jaintia Kingdom in greater Kamarupa. When Guhak ascended the Jaintia throne, he married a princess from Kamarupa. Guhak had a deep interest in Hinduism and migration of Brahmins from Kamarupa to this area took place. On his way back, Guhak brought a stone image known as Kangsa-Nisudhana, an image of Krishna and Balarama murdering Kamsa, as well as Grivakali and Janghakali, and they put it on top of a hill in modern-day where they would worship it. During the British colonial Bengal Presidency, this hill was also home to the Civil Surgeon's Bungalow.

Guhak had three sons, Jayantak, Gurak and Ladduk, and two daughters, Sheela and Chatala. It is said that his eldest daughter, Sheela, was once bathing in a lake south of the Kangsa-Nisudhana hill and she was kidnapped. After being rescued by Guhak, Sheela started to become more religious and live a secluded life. Chatala indulged herself in an unlawful relationship with one of the palace servants, leading to her being disowned and dumped in a distant island in the middle of 2000 square mile lake to the south of the kingdom. After Sheela's death at a young age, Guhak gave up his kingdom to also lead a more ascetic life. This port-area around the lake, which was the largest centre in the Jaintia Kingdom for trade, was named "Sheela haat" in her honour. Sources such as the Hattanath Tales mention Sheelachatal was named after both daughters for the region. This is one of many theories of how Sylhet got its name. Xuanzang of Tang China mentions that he visited Sheelachatal in the 630s in his book, the Great Tang Records on the Western Regions.

Guhak split the Jaintia Kingdom into three for his three sons. He gave his eldest son, Jayantak, what would become the hilly Jaintia Kingdom. He gave his second son, Gurak, the southern plains which would be named Gour, and he gave his third son, Luddak, the western plains which would become the Laur Kingdom.

Gurak made the capital initially at Borchola, five miles northwest of modern-day Sylhet, but moved it to Malini stream bank, 7 miles south of Sylhet. He appointed Marbel as his chief minister. The minister was stationed in a hillock (now known as Mona Rai's Tila) near the port for ease in tax collection and civil duties.

### **Partition**

In 1140 AD, after the death of Bhujavir Deva, his son Kshetra Pal ascended the throne. Raja Kshetra Pal also practised polygyny and had two wives; Ratnavati and Surama. During his reign, an earthquake took place which changed the country's contour and topography. It is said that a new river emerged in the town, which the King named after his second and favourite wife, Rani Surama, as the Surma River. The King's first son came from Surama and his name was Brahmajit. A few years later, Kshetra's first wife Ratnavati also gave birth to a son, called Dharmadhvaj. However, conspiracies emerged in the country as a number of people were suspicious of Ratnavati accusing her of jealousy and child illegitimacy as Kshetra was an old man by this time. After Kshetra died, his eldest son, Brahmajit stepped to the throne. His stepmother Ratnavati and her associates gave Brahmajit a hard time as she believed that as she was the elder wife, her son should have been the King.

Scared for his life, Brahmajit moved his capital to a place known as Brahmachal (now Baramchal, Kulaura), just north of the Twipra Kingdom. He then appointed his stepbrother Dharmadhvaj to govern over the old capital, which retained its name as Gour. Conflict did not emerge as both rulers thought that they were in control of the kingdom as a whole, but gradually the two lands split to become two different kingdoms; Gour and Brahmachal in 1170 AD. The two stepsons worked together and hosted a Vedic yajna

at the Bhatara Homer Tila at Brahmachal which was arranged by Nidhipati Shastri, who was a descendant of Ananda Shastri - a Brahmin from Mithila who arrived in Sylhet during the rule of Govinda-Rana Kesava Deva. Another yajna was hosted by Raja Sengkwchak Dharmadhar of the Twipra Kingdom with Nidhipati as a priest as well who was rewarded with what would become the Ita Kingdom. Dharmadhvaj of Gour died in 1200, and was succeeded by his son, Rajadhvaj who ruled until his death in 1230 in which his son, Gouradhvaj Bhabananda took the throne.

### **Civil war**

Raja Govardhan rose to power in 1250 following the death of his father, Gouradhvaj. During this period, Upananda was the King of Brahmachal. The long-lasting conflict between the north and south continued during Govardhan's reign. Govardhan appointed his chief minister, Madan Rai, to somehow find a way to lure Upananda's general, Amar Singh, to use him as a tool to infiltrate Brahmachal, as Govardhan was not fond of Upananda. Govardhan and Rai then made an agreement with Govardhan's general Virabhadra to give his daughter, Chandrakala, in marriage to Singh. The marriage was successful and Singh maintained a good relationship with General Virabhadra and a developing relationship with the Gour royal court. Singh had close ties with the Kuki chiefs, the border guards for the Twipra Kingdom south of Brahmachal. He managed to persuade the Kuki chiefs into raiding Raja Upananda's palace in the dead of the night, massacring most of its inmates. With the emergence of a civil war between Brahmachal and Gour, Raja Upananda was subsequently killed. Brahmachal became a part of the Gour kingdom again, and Govardhan appointed Amar Singh as its feudal governor. Babysat by the Upananda's older sister-in-law, Anna Purna, thirteen royal children managed to flee to the jungles where they stumbled across Giridhari, a Bihari sannyasi, Giridhari took them to Kamakhya Temple where they were trained into hermitage and would return to Gour a few years later during the tribal invasion.

### **Conflict with Tungachal**

Brahmachal which was ruled by Upananda contained the territory of Tungachal. In effect, this meant that the feudal ruler of Tungachal, Epivishnu - who was not given a choice - was effectively under the control of Amar Singh. Having close ties with Brahmachal and Tripura, Epivishnu was adamant to Govardhan and Singh's amicable compromises. With Epivishnu refusing every pleasant proposal given to be a feudal ruler under Gour, Govardhan and Singh decided it was time that they dethrone Epivishnu and appoint someone else to govern Tungachal. The Gour forces entered

Tungachal, and a battle emerged on the banks of the Ghungi Jurir Haor. Raja Epivishnu was murdered and his commander-in-chief General Raghu was kidnapped and taken as a captive back to Gour. Govardhan then appointed his second general, Shandul, to be the feudal ruler of Tungachal.

### **Tribal invasion**

The Raja of the Twipra Kingdom, Ratan Manikya was informed of Singh's treacherous actions and how he tricked the Kuki chiefs, he decided that he has to take action. He was also told of the murder of Raja Epivishnu, whom he was a friend of. Ratan believed the Gour administration was going too far and decided to also put a stop to Govardhan's scheme to invade other neighbouring kingdoms. He sent a contingent towards Brahmachal to attack Amar Singh. Singh's forces were outnumbered, and requested assistance from Govardhan. However, Govardhan was unable to help as Gour was facing an invasion in the north from the Jaintia Kingdom. Singh was killed by the Tripura forces and the Kuki chiefs saw this as an opportunity for them to annex Brahmachal to the Twipra Kingdom. Jaidev Rai, son of the minister of Raja Upananda, who was the king of Brahmachal before Amar Singh, was made the feudal ruler under the Tripuris. The Tripuris then proceeded to Tungachal, in an attempt to dethrone Shandul. Shandul decided

to flee to Gour, thus enabling the Tripuris to bloodlessly annex Tungachal to its kingdom as well. The former minister of Tungachal, Bhadra

Janardan, was appointed as the feudal ruler of Tungachal under the Twipra Kingdom.

The Jaintia Kingdom, north of Gour, attempted to invade and annex Gour to its kingdom as they could see that Govardhan was focused on the insurgencies in the southern areas of his kingdom and on securing Brahmachal and Tungachal. The various indigenous tribes and neighbouring kingdoms including the Tripuris, Kukis, Kacharis and Nagas joined forces with the Pnar and Khasi of the Jaintia Kingdom in attacking Northern Sylhet. Being attacked from both north and south directions, and having no support from neighbouring states, Govardhan was dethroned and killed in battle. However, the thirteen royals of Brahmachal who had fled to Kamakhya during the civil war, had returned to Gour, guided by Giridhari, after receiving military training, religious and magical education from the Kamrup region for a number of years. Being led by Upananda's nephew, Gour Govinda, they defeated the rebels; warding them all off and recapturing Gour. Govardhan's heir, Garuda, was still a minor and so the queen-mother Apurna consented to Govinda being the King of Gour.

## Restoration



Gour Govinda dramatically restored Gour's reputation as a regional superpower by constructing forts all over his kingdom, guarding his kingdom with large stones (shil; from which the name Shilhot/Sylhet is theorised to have come from) and

establishing a number of military training camps. He built a seven-storey stone brick tower in PENCHAGOR which he called Gorduar, which would serve as the new capital. The hill of Raja Gour Govinda in Chowhatta, Sylhet.

Govinda is credited to introducing archery in war for the first time in the History of Bengal. To prove his might, he tied the Khasi king to ropes, bringing him to Gour. The Khasi paid a ransom to Gour to free their king. Using Puni beel as his battlefield against states like Laur and Jaintia, Govinda "drowned his challengers" to such an extent that Gour was described to be "free of enemies" during his reign. By making peace with Ratan Manikya of Tripura and gifting him an elephant, he was able to retrieve Brahmachal and Tungachal back to Gour administration. He appointed his brother-in-law, Achak Narayan, to govern Tungachal.

## Muslim conquest

Govinda successfully settled many Brahmins from all over the Muslim-conquered lands of Deccan, Central India and Bengal to live in his kingdom; which they recognised as a Hindu stronghold. They gained some authority in the kingdom, being favoured by Govinda over the native Hindus for their

religious orthodoxy. The elitist Brahmins cooperatively led a movement against members of other religions in Gour. They favoured the Brahmins of Brahmachal brought over during the reign of Brahmajit. The followers of Tantric Buddhism were treated as dalits (untouchables) of the lowest social status. The Brahmins from Central India brought by Govinda Rana Kesava Deva, were looked down upon by the Deccan Brahmins as low-class "Govinda Brahmins" as well, in addition to the Hindu Namasudras, Kaivartas and Dasas who were influenced too much by Buddhism.



A small number of Muslim families from neighbouring Bengal also settled in Gour, possibly following Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Iuzbak's 1254 Azmardan Invasion. One day, Ghazi Burhanuddin - who lived with his family in Tultikar - sacrificed a cow for the aqiqah of his newborn son, Gulzar Alam. Gour Govinda, in a fury for what he saw as sacrilege due to his Hindu beliefs, had the newborn killed as well as having Burhanuddin's right hand cut off. Shortly after this incident, Qadi Nuruddin of Taraf celebrated his

<b>Capital:</b>	Borchola (first), Bank of Malini stream (royal) and Mona Rai hill (minister).
<b>Languages:</b>	Sanskrit, Prakrit.
<b>Religion:</b>	Hinduism (official).
<b>Government:</b>	Monarchy. Raja
<b>Historical era:</b>	630-660 Gurak (first (legendary).
<b>Established:</b>	1260-1303 Gour Govinda (last) Chief minister.
<b>Disestablished:</b>	630-660 Marbel (first).
<b>Preceded by:</b>	1060-1100 Vanamali Kar.
<b>Succeeded by:</b>	1250-1260 Madan Rai.
<b>Today part of:</b>	1260-1303 Mona Rai (last).
	Classical period.
	600-900.
	1303.
	Jaintia Kingdom.
	Taraf Kingdom.
	Lakhnauti Sultanate.
	Bangladesh.

son's marriage ceremony by slaughtering a cow for them to eat. The Qadi was executed by the feudal ruler Achak Narayan. After both men being punished, Burhanuddin and Nuruddin's

brother, Halimuddin, travelled to lower Bengal where they addressed their issue with Sultan Shamsuddin site in Sylhet, which has become the Firoz Shah. This marked the start of the Conquest of spiritual capital of Bangladesh

Sylhet in 1303, with the Sultan appointing his nephew, Sikandar Khan Ghazi, to lead an army against the Raja. A number of battles took place, with Govinda managing to defeat the Muslims of Bengal. However, in the final battle, Govinda fled with his family following the arrival of the warrior-saint Shah Jalal and his companions, numbering over three hundred. Sikandar Khan Ghazi was appointed the first Wazir of Sylhet, and Tungachal would subsequently be captured off Achak Narayan in the following year by Syed Nasiruddin and his 12 lascars ghatuaram.

### **Laur Kingdom**

The Kingdom of Laur was one of the many petty kingdoms of the Sylhet region. Others included the Gour Kingdom, Ita Kingdom, Taraf Kingdom, Pratapgarh Kingdom and Jaintia Kingdom.

### **Location**

The kingdom was bounded by the Brahmaputra river in the west, the Jaintia Kingdom in the east, Kamarupa in the north and Brahmanbaria in the south. It is considered that in the 7th century, the kingdom consisted of the modern-day Sunamganj District as well as parts of Habiganj and Mymensingh.

### **History**

Before the establishment of the Laur Kingdom, the area was a part of Jaintia in the greater Kamarupa Kingdom. When Guhak ascended the Jaintia throne, he married a princess from Kamarupa. Guhak had a deep interest in Hinduism and migration of Brahmins from the Kamrup region to this area took place. Guhak had three sons;

Jayantak, Gurak and Ladduk, and two daughters; Sheela and Chatala. He split the Jaintia Kingdom into three for his three sons. He gave his eldest son, Jayantak, the northern hills which remained known as the Jaintia Kingdom. He gave his second son, Gurak, the southern plains which would be named Gour Kingdom, and he gave his third son, Ladduk, the western plains which would become the Laur Kingdom. In 640, the Raja of Tripura Dharma Fa planned a ceremony and invited five Brahmans from Etawah, Mithila and Kannauj. Keshab Misra, a Brahman from Kannauj, migrated to Laur where he established a Hindu kingdom.

In the late thirteenth century, Laur faced a number of attacks from the neighbouring kingdom of Gour ruled by the Hindu king Gour Govinda.

A later Raja of Laur, Ramnath (descendant of Keshab Misra), had three sons with only one remaining in central Laur. Ramnath's second son, Durbar Singh became a Muslim and changed his name to Durbar Khan. Khan migrated to Jagannathpur to build his own palace. He later seized his youngest brother, Gobind Singh's, territory in Baniachong.

After the death of Laur Raja Durbar Khan, his younger brother Gobind Singh took over his land. Durbar Khan's sons then informed the Nawab of Bengal of this incident. Gobind was summoned to Delhi for a short time where he also accepted Islam. He changed his name to Habib Khan. As a reward, he regained Laur in 1566 but as a feudal ruler. Laur lost its independence and became a mahal/mahallah of the Sylhet Sarkar in the Bengal Subah of the Mughal Empire. Habib's grandson was Majlis Alam Khan, the father of Anwar Khan.

A later zamindar of Laur, Abid Reza left Laur to establish Baniachong in the early eighteenth century, which would become the largest village in the world. Many followed Reza to Baniachong after Laur was burnt by the Khasi in 1744. The Nawab of Bengal Alivardi Khan is said to have granted 48 large boats

to the Baniachong zamindars. A short while after, Reza built a fort in Laur which remains as ruins today. His son, Umed Reza, excavated much of Baniachong during his zamindari. Both Rezas were feudal under the Amils or Faujdars of Sylhet.

**British rule**

With the establishment of the East India Company and later the British Raj, Laur continued to exist merely as a pargana or fiscal division, as well as a thana, within greater Sylhet. Its area was 105.64 square metres, consisted of 305 estates and had a land revenue of £308 as of 1875.

In one incident, hill tribes attacked the Laur thana, killing 20 people including the thanadar. In 1787, the Khasis of Laur also rebelled, plundering many parganas, such as Atgram, Bangsikunda, Ramdiga, Betal and Selharas, and killing up to 800 people. Before the troops of the Collector of Sylhet, Robert Lindsay, could arrive, the Khasis retreated back to their mountains.

<b>Capital:</b>	Nabagram (now in Badaghat Union, Tahirpur).
<b>Common languages:</b>	Sanskrit, Prakrit.
<b>Religion:</b>	Hinduism.
<b>Demonym(s):</b>	Lauri.
<b>Government:</b>	Monarchy.
<b>Historical era: Established:</b>	Classical period.
<b>Disestablished:</b>	600.
<b>Preceded by:</b>	1565.
<b>Succeeded by:</b>	Jaintia Kingdom.
<b>Today part of:</b>	Mughal Empire. Bangladesh, India.

**Brahmachal**

The Kingdom of Brahmachal, also known as Badapanchala was one of the many petty kingdoms of the Sylhet region. It was established by Brahmajit by gradually off-shooting from the Gour Kingdom in 1170 AD due to familial tensions. It would reunite during the reign of Govardhan of Gour for a few years before being annexed to the Twipra Kingdom. Govardhan's successor, Gour Govinda, would again reunite Brahmachal with Gour in 1260.

**Location**

The kingdom consisted mainly of the northern parts of the modern-day Moulvibazar District, with its capital at Brahmachal (modern-day Baramchal in Kulaura) from which it takes its name. The Kingdom of Tungachal, part of modern-day Habiganj District, was a vassal state to Brahmachal as well.

**History Establishment**

Before the establishment of the Brahmachal Kingdom, the area was a part of the Gour Kingdom. In 1140 AD, Kshetra Pal ascended the Gour throne. Raja Kshetra Pal practised polygyny and had two wives; Ratnavati and Surama. During his reign, an earthquake took place which changed the country's contour and topography. It is said that a new river emerged in the town, which the King named after his second and favourite wife, Rani Surama, as the Surma River. The King's first son came from Surama and his name was Brahmajit. A few years later, Kshetra's first wife Ratnavati also gave birth to a son, called Dharmadhvaj. However, conspiracies emerged in the country as a number of people were suspicious of Ratnavati accusing her of jealousy and child illegitimacy as Kshetra was an old man by this time. After

Kshetra died, his eldest son, Brahmajit stepped to the throne. His stepmother Ratnavati and her associates gave Brahmajit a hard time as she believed that as she was the elder wife, her son should have been the King.

Scared for his life, Brahmajit moved his capital to a place known as Brahmachal (now Baramchal, Kulaura), just north of the Twipra Kingdom. He then appointed his stepbrother Dharmadhvaj to govern over the old capital, which retained its name as Gour. Conflict did not emerge as both rulers thought that they were in control of the kingdom as a whole, but gradually the two lands split to become two different kingdoms; Gour and Brahmachal. The two stepsons worked together and hosted a Vedic yajna at the Bhatara Homer Tila at Brahmachal which was arranged by Priest Nidhipati Shastri, who was a descendant of Ananda Shastri - a Brahmin from Mithila who arrived in Sylhet during the rule of Govinda-Rana Kesava Deva of Gour. Another yajna was hosted by Raja Sengkwchak Dharmadhar of the Twipra Kingdom with Nidhipati as a priest as well who was rewarded with what would become the Ita Kingdom. Brahmajit was succeeded by his son, Indrajit and then Jayananda. Jayananda had two sons; Srinanda and Upananda. Srinanda suffered from chronic rheumatism. Upananda is described in the Hattanath Tales as evil and jealous individual as he took advantage of this by conspiring with military general Amar Singh against his brother. Upananda succeeded in becoming with the acceptance of the royal officers and kept Singh as his commander-in-chief. Srinanda protested against this but was unsuccessful and subsequently migrated to Kamrup where he became a sannyasi of Kamakhya Temple, leaving behind his wife, Anna Purna - a neglected ex-wife of Raja

Gai Gobind of the Jaintia Kingdom - and his son, Govinda. It is said that here, Srinanda gained a better reputation and was even considered by some Hindus to be God of the Sea and Pura Raja.

### **Loss of independence**

Govardhan of Gour rose to power in 1250 following the death of his father. During this period, Upananda was the Raja of Brahmachal (centred in modern-day Baramchal in Kulaura). The long-lasting conflict between the north and south continued during Govardhan's reign. Govardhan appointed his chief minister, Madan Rai, to somehow find a way to lure Upananda's general, Amar Singh, to use him as a tool to infiltrate Brahmachal. Govardhan and Rai then made an agreement with Govardhan's general Virabhadra to give his daughter, Chandra Kala, in marriage to Singh. The marriage was successful, despite protests, and Singh maintained a good relationship with General Virabhadra and a developing relationship with the Gour royal court. Singh had close ties with the Kuki chiefs, the border guards for the Twipra Kingdom south of Brahmachal. He managed to persuade the Kuki chiefs into raiding Raja Upananda's palace in the dead of the night, massacring most of its inmates. With the emergence of a civil war between Brahmachal and Gour, Raja Upananda was subsequently killed. Brahmachal became a part of the Gour kingdom again, and Govardhan appointed Amar Singh as its feudal governor.

The Raja of the Twipra Kingdom, Ratan Manikya was informed of Singh's treacherous actions and how he tricked the Kuki chiefs, he decided that he has to take action. He was also told of the murder of Raja Epivishnu of Tungachal, who was a subordinate ruler within the Brahmachal Kingdom and was a friend of the latter. Ratan believed the Gour administration was going too far and decided to also put a stop to Govardhan's scheme to invade other neighbouring kingdoms. He sent a contingent towards Brahmachal to attack Amar Singh. Singh's forces were outnumbered and requested assistance from Govardhan. However, Govardhan was unable to help as Gour was facing an invasion in the north from the Jaintia Kingdom. Singh was killed by the Tripura forces and the Kuki chiefs saw this as an opportunity for them

to annex Brahmachal to the Twipra Kingdom. Jaidev Rai, son of the minister of Raja Upananda, who was the king of Brahmachal before Amar Singh, was made the feudal ruler of the area under the Tripuris. In 1260, Govinda of Gour rose to power following the murder of Raja Govardhan. He intended to retrieve the territories which had been lost during the reign of the former king. By making peace with Ratan Manikya of Tripura and gifting him an elephant, Govinda was able to retrieve Brahmachal (which included Tungachal) back to the Gour administration. During the Conquest of Sylhet in 1303, Brahmachal was incorporated into Shamsuddin Firuz Shah's sultanate.

<b>Capital:</b>	languages:	Brahmachal.
<b>Religion:</b>		Sanskrit, Prakrit.
<b>Government:</b>		Hinduism.
<b>Historical era:</b>	Established:	Monarchy.
<b>Disestablished:</b>		Raja-
<b>Preceded by:</b>		1170-1200 Brahmajit (first).
<b>Succeeded by:</b>		1200-1210 Indrajit.
<b>Today part of:</b>		1210-1240 Jayananda.
		1240-1250 Upananda (last Raja).
		1250-1253 Amar Singh.
		1253-1260 Jaidev Rai.
		1260-1303 Gour Govinda.
		1240-1252 Amar Singh (last).
		Classical period.
		1170.
		1252.
		Gour Kingdom.
		Gour Kingdom.
		Bangladesh.

## Chandrapur

Chandrapur (earlier known as Chanda, the official name until 1964) is a city and a municipal corporation in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra state, India. It is the district headquarters of Chandrapur district. Chandrapur is a fort city founded by Khandkya Ballal Sah, a Gond king of the 13th century. The city sits at the confluence of the Erai river and Zarpal river. The area around the city is rich in coal seams. Hence, Chandrapur is also known as the "Black Gold City".

## History

There are many Stone Age sites in Chandrapur District. Suresh Chopane, a renowned researcher, found many stone-age tools in the district, which has been displayed in his Rock Museum. Archeological finds, such as signs of pottery making, suggest inhabitation of the Chandrapur area in Neolithic times.

From ancient times, Chandrapur has fallen under the control of many different rulers. Between 322 BCE and 187 BCE, much of India, including Maharashtra, was part of the Maurya Empire. From 187 BCE to 78 BCE, Chandrapur was part of the Shunga Empire which controlled much of central and eastern India. The Satavahana Empire controlled Chandrapur from the 1st century BCE to the 2nd century CE. The Vakataka dynasty ruled from the area from the mid 3rd century CE to 550 CE. The Kalachuri dynasty ruled in the area in the 6th and 7th centuries CE. The Rashtrakuta dynasty followed, controlling the

Chandrapur region between the 7th and 10th centuries. The Chalukya dynasty ruled in the region to the 12th century CE. The Seuna (Yadava) dynasty of Devagiri ruled a kingdom, including the Chandrapur area, in approximately 850 CE and continued until 1334 CE.

The Gond people are part of the Adivasi (indigenous people) of India. In ancient times, the Gond diaspora spread throughout central India. After the passage of many kings, who were largely subservient to other rulers, the Gond king, Khandkya Ballal (1470 – 1495) came to the throne. He founded Chandrapur.

As per legends, Khandkya, who resided in Sirpur, was covered in tumours. His wise and beautiful wife nursed him. She asked him to leave Sirpur and move to the north bank of the Wardha River. There, the king built a fort he named "Ballalpur" and thus founded the city of Ballarpur. One day, while hunting northwest of Ballalpur, the king became thirsty and rode up to the dry bed of the Jharpat river in search of water. He discovered water trickling from a hole, and after drinking, washed his face, hands and feet. That night, he slept soundly for the first time in his life.

On his return, the queen was delighted to see that many of the tumours on her husband's body had disappeared. The king said it was the water that had cured him and took his wife to see the water hole. On clearing the grass and sand, they found five footprints of a cow in the solid rock, each filled with water. The water source at the spot was inexhaustible and considered holy. The place was called "Tirtha of Acalesvar of the Treta Yuga". When the king bathed in the water, all the tumours on his body vanished. That night at the water hole, Acalesvar appeared to the king in a dream and spoke comforting words. A temple was built over the water hole.

One morning, at the water hole, the king saw a hare darting out of a bush and chasing his dog. Eventually, the dog killed the hare. The king found a white spot on the forehead of the hare. The queen said it was a good omen and a fortified city should be built with its layout based on the chase of the dog and hare. She said the place where the hare was killed would be unlucky for the city. The king's officers, the "Tel Thakurs" built the fortified city. The city became Chandrapur.

Chandrapur was taken over by Nagpur Bhonsles in 1751 during the Maratha empire period. The last ruler of the Maratha dynasty, Raghuji Bhonsle III died in 1853 without issue. In 1853, Chandrapur was annexed to British India. During the British colonial period, the area of Chandrapur was called "Chanda". By 1871, Anglican and Scottish Episcopal missionaries had arrived in the city. In 1874, three tehsils were created: Viz Mul, Warora and Bramhpuri. The upper Godavai district of Madras was abolished and four tehsils were added to Chandrapur to form one tehsil with Sironcha, approximately 150 km to the south, as its centre of governance. In 1895, the headquarters was transferred to Chandrapur. In 1905, a new tehsil with headquarters at Gadchiroli was created through the transfer of zamindari estates from Bramhpuri and Chandrapur tehsil. In 1907, a small area of land was transferred



from Chandrapur to the newer districts and another area of about 1560 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising three divisions of the lower Sironcha tehsil (Cherla, Albak and Nugir) were transferred to Madras State. Between 1911 and 1955, no major changes occurred in the boundaries of the district.

#### Temple of Chandrapur

In 1956, with the reorganization of Indian states, Chandrapur district was transferred from Madhya Pradesh to Bombay state. In 1959, part of Adilabad district of Hyderabad state, was transferred to Chandrapur district. In May 1960, Chandrapur district became part of the Maharashtra state. In 1964, the city was renamed to Chandrapur. Following the 1981 Census of India, Chandrapur district was divided into Chandrapur district and Gadchiroli district.

#### **Sena Dynasty**

The Sena dynasty was a Hindu dynasty during the early medieval period on the Indian subcontinent, that ruled from Bengal through the 11th and 12th centuries. The empire at its peak covered much of the north-eastern region of the Indian subcontinent. The rulers of the Sena Dynasty traced their origin to the south Indian region of Karnataka.

The dynasty's founder was Samanta Sena. After him came Hemanta Sena who usurped power and styled himself, king, in 1095 AD. His successor Vijaya Sena (ruled from 1096 AD to 1159 AD) helped lay the foundations of the dynasty, and had an unusually long reign of over 60 years. Ballala Sena conquered Gaur from the Pala, became the ruler of the Bengal Delta, and made Nadia the capital as well. Ballala Sena married Ramadevi a princess of the Western Chalukya Empire which indicates that the Sena rulers maintained close social contact with south India. Lakshmana Sena succeeded Ballala Sena in 1179, ruled Bengal for approximately 20 years, and expanded the Sena Empire to Odisha, Bihar and probably to Varanasi. In 1203–1204 AD, Bakhtiyar Khalji, a general under the Ghurid Empire, attacked and captured the capital City of Nadia.

#### **Origins**

Deopara Prashasti described the founder of Sena dynasty Samanthesena, as a migrant Brahmaksatriya from Karnataka. The epithet 'Brahma-Kshatriya' suggests that Senas were Brahmins by caste who took the profession of arms and became Kshatriyas. The Sena kings were also probably Baidyas, according to historians.

The Senas entered into the service of Palas as *sāmantas* in Radha, probably under Samantasena. With the decline of the Pālas, their territory had expanded to include Vanga and a part of Varendra by the end of Vijayasena's reign. The Palas were ousted in totality, and their entire territory annexed sometime after 1665.

#### Decline



Downfall of Sena dynasty was destined under the rule of weak rulers of this dynasty. This dynasty started declining during the rule of Lakshmanasena who was the last significant Sena king. Sena kings continued to rule in eastern Bengal for some decades, but the main political power in Bengal passed to the Muslim Ghurid Empire.

Map of the Sena Empire.

## Legacy



The Senas and their descendants merged into the Kayastha caste-group, heralding them as the neo-Kshatriyas of Bengal — hence, Abul Fazl would write that Bengal had always been ruled by Kayasthas. The actual caste-status of Senas — not withstanding the anachronism — remain contested in popular memory: premodern Baidya genealogies claim the Senas as their own which are agreed upon by some Brahmin genealogies but rejected by Kayastha ones.

A sculpture of the Hindu deity Vishnu from the Sena period

**Government:** Monarchy.

**Historical era:** Middle Kingdoms of India.

**Established:** 1070 CE.

**Disestablished:** 230 CE.

**preceded by:** Pala Empire Varman, Dynasty (Bengal)Samatata.

**Succeeded by:** Deva dynasty, Khalji dynasty of Bengal.

## Deva dynasty

Deva Dynasty was a Hindu dynasty which originated in the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent; the dynasty ruled over eastern Bengal after the Sena dynasty.

The capital of the dynasty was Bikrampur in present-day Munshiganj District of Bangladesh. The rule of the Devas was indeed a period of peace, prosperity, and creative excellence, and may be designated as the "Golden Age".

## Rulers



Danujmardan Ramnath Dev, Danujmardan Ramnath Dev. The major sources of the history of this dynasty are the three copperplate inscriptions of Damodaradeva issued in years 1156, 1158 and 1165 of the Saka era, which were his 4th, 6th and 13th regnal years. Although there are many myths about this dynasty, none were proved with strong evidence. The first three rulers are known from the Chittagong copperplate inscription of Damodaradeva dated Map of the Deva Empire.

Saka era 1165. The first ruler of this dynasty was Purushottamadeva, who rose from the position of a village chief (gramani). His son Madhumathana or Madhusudanadeva was the first independent ruler of this dynasty, who assumed the title of nripati. He was succeeded by his son Vasudeva and Vasudeva was succeeded by his son Damodaradeva. Damodaradeva (reigned 1231–1243) was the most powerful ruler of this dynasty. He took the title of Ariraja-Chanura-Madhava-Sakala-Bhupati-Chakravarti. The inscriptional evidences show that his kingdom was extended up to the present-day Comilla-Noakhali-Chittagong region. A later ruler of this dynasty Ariraja-Danuja-Madhava Dasharathadeva extended his kingdom up to Bikrampur and made it his capital. Yahya bin Ahmad in his Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi mentioned that he (referred as Danuj Rai of Sonargaon by Yahya) made an alliance with Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban in 1281. His brother Bikramaditya Deva later moved to the eastern side of the kingdom in 1294. This is the last recorded history of this dynasty.

**Capital:**

Bikrampur.

**Common languages:**

Sanskrit Bengali.

**Religion:**

Hinduism.

**Government:**

Monarchy Maharaja.

**Historical era: Established:**

Medieval India.

**Disestablished:**

12th century.

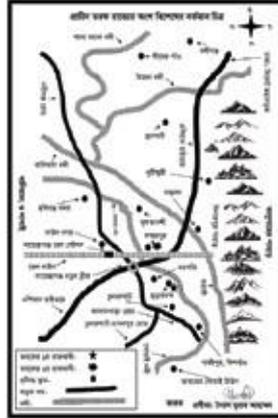
**Succeeded by:**

13th century.

Delhi Sultanate.

**Taraf**

Taraf previously known as Tungachal was a feudal territory of the Sylhet region in Bengal and was under many petty kingdoms in different periods of time. It was part of what is present-day Habiganj District in Bangladesh.



The headquarters of the territory has always been within the modern-day Chunarughat Upazila. Majority of Tungachal was a part of the modern-day Habiganj District and eastern borders of the Moulvibazar District.

**Capital:** Rajpur (1200-1304), Laskarpur (1304-1610).

**Languages:** Bengali, Persian.

**Religion:** Hinduism (1200-1304), Islam (1304-1610).

**Historical era:** Classical period.

**Established:** 1200.

**Disestablished:** 1610.

**Preceded by:** Gour Kingdom.

**Succeeded by:** Twipra Kingdom, Mughal Empire.

**Today part:** Bangladesh.

Map of Taraf

Taraf ("Side" in Turkish) was a liberal newspaper in Turkey. It had distinguished itself by opposing interference by the Turkish military in the country's social and political affairs. It was distributed nationwide, and had been in circulation since

November 15, 2007. On July 27, 2016, the newspaper was closed under a statutory decree during the state of emergency after the 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt, due to its alleged links with the coup plotters' Gülen movement.

**Overview**

Taraf has published a series of highly-controversial stories that revealed the involvement of the Turkish military in daily political affairs. The revealed documents, such as coup plans that involved the bombing of historical mosques in

Turkey ("Sledgehammer" coup plan) and bombing of a museum (Operation Cage Action Plan), significantly damaged the social image of the Turkish military. The sources that leaked such critical insider information to Taraf are still unknown.

The response of the Turkish military to Taraf included canceling the newspaper's accreditation from press releases at its headquarters. A political journal, *Nokta*, had similarly published leaked military information (Sarıkoz, Ayışığı, Yakamoz and Eldiven) and was closed down in 2007 due to pressure.

The founder and owner of Taraf, Başar Arslan, dismisses accusations of bias and outside funding, saying that he has made a considerable loss in his mission to create what he calls the country's most prestigious newspaper. He considers Taraf an investment that will eventually pay off.

Some prominent names of Taraf, such as reporter Mehmet Baransu, columnist Emre (Emrullah) Uslu, and former columnist Önder Aytaç are known for their affiliation with the Gülen movement, although it has been denied that they act as quasi-official representatives of the movement.

Taraf also served the interests of the Gülen movement in other ways, including silencing the allegations of cheating in compulsory public servants' examinations in Turkey.

### **History**

In 2011 Taraf became the first Turkish partner of the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, joining internationally known publications in signing a contract to publish the site's leaked documents firsthand. The Turkish daily was picked by WikiLeaks because it is "the bravest newspaper in Turkey", as described by the site's founder, Julian Assange.

On 14 December 2012, founding editor-in-chief Ahmet Altan, his assistant editor Yasemin Çongar, columnists Murat Belge and Neşe Düzel stepped down from their posts at the newspaper. The next day, columnist Hadi Uluengin followed the leaving group of journalists. Owner of the daily, Başar Arslan stated that the resignations resulted from difference of opinion that developed in recent times, and nevertheless, the newspaper will continue to be published.

### **Jagannathpur**

Jagannathpur is an upazila located in the southeast of the district of Sunamganj and in the middle of the division of Sylhet, Bangladesh. It is bordered by Chhatak and Dakshin Sunamganj to the north, Bishwanath and Osmani Nagar to the east, Derai to the west, and Nabiganj to the south.

### **History of Jagannathpur**

Dates back to 12 century. Jagannathpur was formerly known as Pandura later renamed as Perua state, and was granted independence as a separate state (capital) which was sub-capital state of Laur, currently Jagannathpur Upazila under Sunamganj District in Bangladesh. Jagannathpur was renamed after King Jagannath Misru Singh following demise of King Jagannath his son Romanath Singh assumed the throne. During his rule Hazrat Shahjalal conquered Gour state. Eight of Shah Jalal companions arrived into Jagannathpur and preached Islam.

Bojendra Narayan Chowdhury was a well respected politician, journalist and author from the late 18th century. PC Goswami a pioneer of Modon Mohon college and served as the first principle. Both distinctive scholars hailed from Jagannathpur.

### **Administration**

A separate Thana was established at Jagannathpur on 1 October 1920 by a gazette notification by Anamul Haque of Parargaon; the thana was upgraded first as an Upazila in 1983, and then as a municipality on the 29 September 1999.

Jagannathpur Upazila is divided into Jagannathpur Municipality and eight union parishads: Asharkandi, Chilaura Holdipur, Kolkolia, Mirpur, Pailgaon, Patli, Raniganj, and Syedpur Shaharpara. The union parishads are subdivided into 225 mauzas and 310 villages.

Jagannathpur Municipality is subdivided into 9 wards and 43 mahallas.

## **Delhi Sultanate**

Delhi became a prominent city in India in the twelfth century. It was the capital city of the Tomara Rajputs who were defeated by the Chauhans of Ajmer in the middle of the 12th century. When Mohamed Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan and captured Delhi in 1192, he marked the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. However, it was Qutub-ud-din Aibak, one of his slaves and general who proclaimed himself as the ruler of Delhi. He led to the foundation of the Delhi sultanate with his lineage of rulers known as the Slave Dynasty. Later on, many other notable Delhi sultanate dynasties also ruled the land.

Our subcontinent is a country which has a wide and Profound history, and importantly we have a record of the same with us. And the same goes with the history of the Delhi Sultanate, who for a little more than three centuries, has ruled a rather greater part of India including our bengal, and hence learning about their rules is vital for us. That is to say the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate, their Administration, and their Dynasties.

## **Delhi Sultanate Administration**

The Delhi sultanate administration was governed as per the Muslim laws that were based on the Quran and Sharia. About the Delhi sultanate, there are primary duties of the Sultan and nobles to observe the Islamic laws in the matters of the state. The planned administration has various departments with different ministers appointed to carry specific responsibilities.

- 01. Sultan-** The sultan was regarded as the head of state and enjoyed unlimited power in every sphere.
- 02. Naib-** He also held an equivalent position to that of the sultan.
- 03. Wazir-** It was the position of the prime minister who also looked after the financial department.
- 04. Diwan –I- Ariz-** It was the military establishment that was headed by the Sultan as commander in chief.
- 05. Diwan –I- Risalat-** The foreign minister was in charge of establishing charges with the neighbouring kingdoms and alliance with powerful rulers.
- 06. Diwan-I-Insha-** The minister was responsible for local correspondence and different offices.
- 07. Sadr –Ur -Sadar -** It is the religious department that safeguarded the Islamic laws.
- 08. Amir –I-Mazls -Shahi -** Headed by the minister of the state for public conveniences and the arrangement of festivals.

The Delhi sultanate dynasty was a brief period of 1210- 1526 where many Muslim leaders ruled Delhi. It all begins with the second battle of Tarain fought between Mohhamed Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan in 1192 A.D. After winning, Ghori left his kingdom to his trusted lieutenant and former slave Qutub-ud-din Aibak who started the Slave or Mamluk Dynasty. He laid the foundation of the famous Qutub Minar which was later completed by Illtutmish.

After this, the Khilji Dynasty came into existence with Jalaluddin Khilji as the founder and first ruler of the dynasty. He killed the last ruler Kaikubad of the Slave dynasty.

Later, with the collapse of the Khilji dynasty, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq took charge of Delhi and established the Tughlaq dynasty. Feroz Tughlaq and Muhammad bin-Tughlaq were the prominent rulers from this dynasty. Eventually, the Tughlaq dynasty also came to an end in the 14th century with the invasion of the Turkish ruler Timur. Soon Timur left a local governor from Multan known as Khizir Khan. He then declared himself as the ruler of Delhi and established the Sayyid dynasty.

## **An Overview of the Delhi Sultanate.**

From 1206 to 1526, that is to say, about 320 years Delhi Sultanate, which was an Islamic empire, had ruled a substantial part of India. The capital of the Sultanate was Delhi and it was expanded to the great part of the Indian Subcontinent. In these 320 years, a total of 5 dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate had ruled over Delhi and the subsequent Indian sub-continent. These five dynasties were Mamluk, Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi. If we have to understand the territorial region of the Delhi Sultanate in modern geographical terms, then we can say that the territory of the Delhi Sultanate covered modern-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and some regions of Nepal.

The Delhi Sultanate was originally ruled by Muhammad Ghori, who was a Turkic slave general, and who managed to win over a large part of northern India, and also in many terms, the Delhi Sultanate can also be termed as the successor of the Ghurid dynasty.

Before 1000 AD India was ruled by the Hindu and Buddhist kingdom. But starting from 962 AD, the invasion began from Central Asia, more specifically from Afghanistan. These raids and invasions continued for many years it did not establish the permanent boundaries of their kingdom, not until 1173. In 1173 Muhammad Ghori made a systematic attack in order to expand his rule to north India, and hence he created his kingdom. Ghori died in 1206, and one of the mamluks who were Turkic Qutb al-Din – Aibak became the first sultan of Delhi.

Qutb al – Din – Aibak reigned as the sultan for 4 years, that is to say, from 1206 to 1210. After him, the power was given to Aram Shah, who ruled for a brief period of one year. In such a manner the reign of the Delhi Sultanate expanded over the course of the next three centuries, until in 1526, when Ibrahim Lodi lost the battle of Panipat to Babur, and hence ended the Delhi Sultanate.

## **Bengal Sultanate**

The Bengal Sultanate was a Sunni Muslim empire based in Bengal for much of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. It was the dominant power of the Ganges–Brahmaputra Delta, with a network of mint towns spread across the region. The Bengal Sultanate had a circle of vassal states, including Odisha in the southwest, Arakan in the southeast, and Tripura in the east. Its raids and conquests reached Nepal in the north, Assam in the east, and Jaunpur and Varanasi in the west. The Bengal Sultanate controlled large parts of the north, east and northeast South Asia during its five dynastic periods, reaching its peak under Hussain Shahi dynasty. It was reputed as a thriving trading nation and one of Asia's strongest states. Its decline began with an interregnum by the Suri Empire, followed by Mughal conquest and disintegration into petty kingdoms.





The Bengal Sultanate was a Sunni Muslim monarchy with Bengali, Turco-Persian, Pashtun and Abyssinian elites. The most prominent dynasties were the Ilyas Shahi, House of Ganesha and Hussain Shahi dynasty. The empire was known for its religious pluralism where non-Muslim communities co-existed peacefully. While Persian was used as the primary official, diplomatic and commercial language, it was under the Sultans that Bengali first

received court recognition as an official Bengal Sultanate in 16th century

language. The cities of the Bengal Sultanate are termed as Mint Towns where the historical taka was minted. These cities were adorned with stately medieval buildings. In 1500, the royal capital of Gaur was the fifth-most populous city in the world. Other notable cities included the initial royal capital of Pandua, the economic hub of Sonargaon, the Mosque City of Bagerhat, and the seaport and trading hub of Chittagong. The Bengal Sultanate was connected to states in Asia, Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Europe through maritime links and overland trade routes. The Bengal Sultanate was a major trading center on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. It attracted immigrants and traders from different parts of the world. Bengali ships and merchants traded across the region, including in Malacca, China, and the Maldives.

The Bengal Sultanate was described by contemporary European and Chinese visitors as a prosperous kingdom. Due to the abundance of goods in Bengal, the region was described as the "richest country to trade with". The Bengal Sultanate left a strong architectural legacy. Buildings from the period show foreign influences merged into a distinct Bengali style. The Bengal Sultanate was also the largest and most prestigious authority among the independent medieval Muslim-ruled states in the history of Bengal.



Pratapgarh Kingdom.

Baro-Bhuyan.

Kingdom of Mrauk.

## Vassal states

Vassal states were a number of tributary states and protectorates on the periphery of the Bengal Sultanate under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Bengal. Direct control was not established over these territories for various reasons. Vassal states had Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist rulers. The following illustrates the most notable vassal states. One of these vassal states is Pratapgarh.

In the northeastern Barak Valley, the ruler Bazid of the Pratapgarh Kingdom declared himself as a Sultan on par with the Sultan of Bengal. This invited the retribution of Alauddin Husain Shah, who dispatched Sarwar Khan to suppress the newly formed sultanate in Pratapgarh. Bazid was defeated and agreed to pay a tribute to the Sultan of Bengal. He was also made to relinquish his claims over Sylhet, which was under direct Sultanate rule.

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Bengal\\_Sultanate](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Bengal_Sultanate)

## Pratapgarh Kingdom



The Pratapgarh Kingdom was a medieval state in the north-east of the Indian subcontinent. Composed of the present-day Indian district of Karimganj, as well as parts of Tripura State and Sylhet, Bangladesh, the kingdom was ruled by a line of Muslim monarchs over a mixed population of Hindu and Islamic adherents. It was bordered by the larger kingdoms of Kachar, Tripura and Bengal. Centred around the hilly, forested region which forms the modern border between eastern Bangladesh and India, the lands which later formed Pratapgarh were

initially under the control of the rulers of Tripura and were principally inhabited by Hindu tribes. It is believed that during the latter years of the 15th century AD, the area was seceded by Malik Pratap, a landowner of mixed native and Persian ancestry, who established the kingdom and from whom it may have derived its name.

Under the rule of his grandson, Sultan Bazid, the influence of Tribal Religions.

Pratapgarh reached its zenith, developing its Government

Monarchy.

**Historical era** Middle Ages. into a significant cultural centre. It

also became a notable military power, defeating the stronger kingdom of Kachar as well as engaging against the dominance of Bengal. It was during this time that the state enjoyed its territorial peak, having

briefly captured Sylhet from the latter. Pratapgarh was eventually captured and dissolved by Kachar during the early 18th century, with its ruling family later only governing as Zamindars under the British. However, the kingdom's legacy continued to have a notable impact in the region, with its name being borne by subsequent administrative divisions in the area and its history and legends surviving as oral traditions among the local population. The greater Barak Valley, which encompassed the area of Pratapgarh, has an indigenous population of ethnic Bengalis. As with neighbouring Sylhet, the inhabitants speak a common dialect of Bengali known as Sylheti, with the region as a whole, in the words of historian Jayanta Bhattacharjee, being "geographically, historically and ethnically an extension of Gangetic Bengal".

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Pratapgarh\\_Kingdom](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Pratapgarh_Kingdom)

### **Ita Kingdom**

Eta state existed with some parts of today's Moulvibazar, Rajnagar, Kamalganj and Kulaura thanas. All the history books of Sylhet mention about Etarajya and dynasty. Also, Etar Dynasty written by Golam Mostafa Chowdhury during Pakistan period and "Etar Itihasa" written by writer Mujibur Rahman Mujib during Bangladesh period are two significant books. Sagardighi of Rajnagar, Balidighi, Jamalkha Dighi, Kamalkha Dighi, Baldha Sagar Dighi etc. still exist some memories of its dynastic activities. In 1886 "Shrihatt Darpan" in 1893 "Towarikhe" written by Tajmul Ali of Kanihati (later the first Muslim Deputy Commissioner and Khan Bahadur of Assam).

"Helimi" written in 1910 by Achyutcharan Chowdhury in the book "Shrihatter Itivart" etc. mentions about this state.

In 1598 Raja Subidh Narayan was killed by Khwaja Osman Lohani of Pathanbir. 4 of his sons accepted Islam. They were Jamal Khan, Kamal Khan, Haji Khan and Isa Khan. In 1612, Khwaja Osman was killed in the battle of Lambodharpur (near Barayuri) in Moulvibazar by the Mughal army. And when the Pathan army was defeated, Mughal rule was established in this region. Neo-Muslims of the Ita dynasty owed allegiance to the ruler of Delhi. Dewan and Chowdhury Lakab appear with the names of these clans in ancient documents. Below are exact excerpts from the book "Jalalabadder Katha" written by Dewan Nurul Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, an authoritative book on Sylhet published by Bangla Academy.

"Once it was a feudal state. A Brahmin named Nidhipati Sharma got this kingdom. Its boundaries were as follows: formerly Longlai Kukisthan. That is, Longla Pargana and Raj Jangal, Gopla river and Chandrasingh's state in the west, Shyamlong Maharanyang in the south, present Kamalpur thana, Kushiara river in the north. Earlier it was called Manukul Pradesh. According to Tripura's History Rajmala, Manukul Pradesh consisted of the following territories. Manukul Pradesh was formed by taking four parganas namely Chauvalish, Balishira, Satgaon, Chaichchiri, Indanagar, Bhanugach, Indeswar, Baramchal. Nidhipati lived in a place called Ita. According to Rajmala, his subordinate Ashtampurusha Bhanu Narayan assumed the title of Raja and established the capital. Rajamala II Lahar says (p. 270) that Raja Subidnarayana, son of Bhanu Narayana, took possession of this kingdom. This is about the first decade of the sixteenth century. Nidhipati ninth native from Subidnarayan."

Among the sons of Raja Subidha Narayan, Indra Narayan, Chandra Narayan, Krishna Narayan and Shiva Narayan accepted the holy religion of Islam and assumed the names Jamal Khan, Kamal Khan, Haji Khan and Isha Khan respectively. Their descendants are still living in places like Mansurnagar and Balidighir Par. Dewan Mansur was a famous person of Haji Khar clan. His son Abul Mozafar Khan was a poet. He gained fame during that time by writing a poem called Itar Raj Vansh. This family has an important contribution in the political and social development of the country.

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Moulvibazar\\_District](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Moulvibazar_District)

Isha Khan's descendant Khan Bahadur Dewan Abdul Hamid Chowdhury was one of the leaders of the organization called "The Assam Bengal Anjumane Tamirul Islam". In British India in the early 20th century, this institution played an important role in the Muslim awakening of Assam Bengal. Political organizations are still in full swing no branch of the Muslim League was formed. The central president of the said Anjuman was Maulana Syed Abdul Bari, a famous Islamic thinker and scholar, Kuisar Syed, another accomplished son of Ita. Dewan Abdul Basit, the eldest son of Khan Bahadur Sahib, was the General Secretary of the Provincial Muslim League during the British period. Due to the death of Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, the father of the current Speaker Mr. Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, he became a member of the Delhi Parishad by contesting the by-election in the only Muslim seat in the entire Assam province. During the Pakistan period, Sher served as the secretary of the Bengal Peasant Praja Party and later as the leader of the East Pakistan Council and as the Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce. Although it is irrelevant here, it may be noted that Dewan Bachit Sahib who came into politics with enthusiasm and initiative was late Maulana Abdur Rahman Singkapani, another struggling leader of ET in British India. In this context, some parts of a letter written in his own hand from Saudi Arabia to the author in 1986 are quoted precisely:-

C/o. Sk. Rafiuddin My Dear Joynal Abedin.

P.O. Box No-532 Makkah S. Arabia

6-7-86 I am happy to receive your letter. I have changed that address so the letter is late. I am happy to know that you have written the biography of late Maulana Abdur Rahman Singkapani. Accept my congratulations.

I wrote a little bit below. I have lost my reading and memory power in these ten years. I give you the right to modify and enhance my writing.

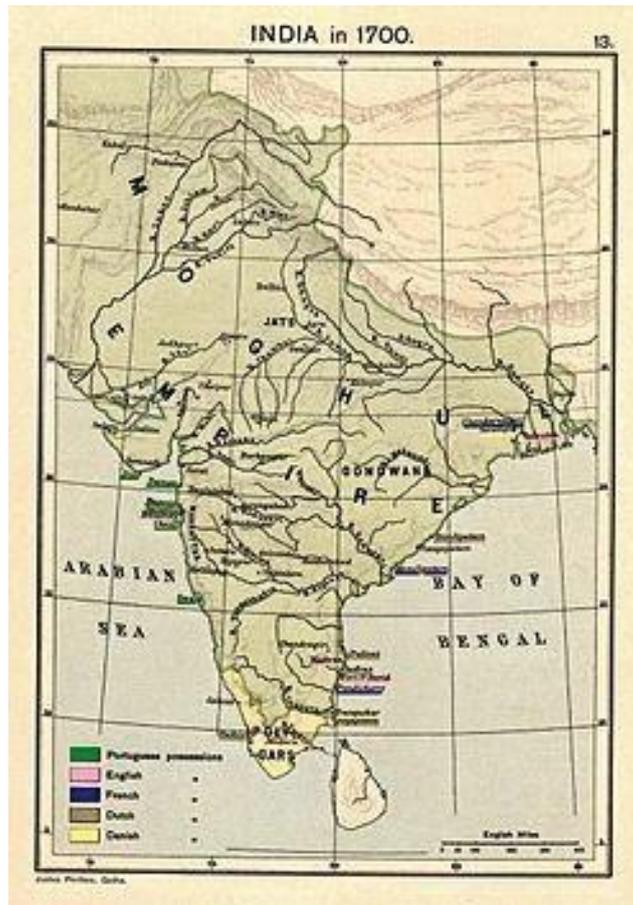
Your Sincerly

A. Basit "I had a close relationship with late Maulana Abdur Rahman Singkapani from childhood. He is one of my father's peers and favorite people. My political life started from 1935. I was a student of Dhaka University Law College then. With the special encouragement of Maulana Marhum, I became a candidate for our Local Board election and with the special encouragement of the late, I returned uncontested to work like the Plan Program of the late. Since that time I am colleague and companion of late Maulana. At the next level, the seat of the only Muslims in the state of Assam is in the Indian Legislative Assembly I contest in the election and I am blessed by God. According to the late Abdul Matin Chowdhury's Plan Programme, the late Maulana traveled all over the province and worked for me".....  
Dewan Abdul Bachit.

The genealogy of Raja Subhidhanarayan's son Isha Khar in Jalalabad Katha published by Bangla Academy in 1983 citing Ita's family.

## **Mughal Empire**

The Mughal Empire was an early-modern empire that controlled much of South Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries. For some two hundred years, the empire stretched from the outer fringes of the Indus river basin in the west, northern Afghanistan in the northwest, and Kashmir in the north, to the highlands of present-day Assam and Bangladesh in the east, and the uplands of the Deccan Plateau in South India.



The Mughal empire is conventionally said to have been founded in 1526 by Babur, a warrior chieftain from what is today Uzbekistan, who employed aid from the neighboring Safavid and Ottoman empires, to defeat the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, in the First Battle of Panipat, and to sweep down the plains of North India. The Mughal imperial structure, however, is sometimes dated to 1600, to the rule of Babur's grandson, Akbar. This imperial structure lasted until 1720, shortly after the death of the last major emperor, Aurangzeb, during whose reign the empire also achieved its maximum geographical extent. Reduced subsequently to the region in and around Old Delhi by 1760, the empire was formally dissolved by the British Raj after the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Although the Mughal empire was created and sustained by

military warfare, it did not vigorously suppress the cultures and peoples it came to rule; rather it equalized and placated them through new administrative practices and diverse ruling elites, leading to more efficient, centralised, and standardized rule.

The base of the empire's collective wealth was agricultural taxes, instituted by the third Mughal emperor, Akbar. These taxes, which amounted to well over half the output of a peasant cultivator, were paid in the well-regulated silver currency, and caused peasants and artisans to enter larger markets.

The relative peace maintained by the empire during much of the 17th century was a factor in India's economic expansion. The burgeoning European presence in the Indian Ocean, and its increasing demand for Indian raw and finished products, created still greater wealth in the Mughal courts.

There was more conspicuous consumption among the Mughal elite, resulting in greater patronage of painting, literary forms, textiles, and architecture, especially during the reign of Shah Jahan. Among the

Mughal UNESCO World Heritage Sites in South Asia are: Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, Lahore Fort, Shalamar Gardens, and the Taj Mahal, which is described as "the jewel of Muslim art in India, and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage." Contemporaries referred to the empire founded by Babur as the Timurid Empire, which reflected the heritage of his dynasty, and this was the term preferred by the Mughals themselves.

The Mughal designation for their own dynasty was Gurkani. The use of "Mughal" and "Moghul" derived from the Arabic and Persian corruption of "Mongol", and it emphasised the Mongol origins of the Timurid dynasty. The term gained currency during the 19th century, but remains disputed by Indologists. Similar transliterations had been used to refer to the empire, including "Mogul" and "Moghul". Nevertheless, Babur's ancestors were sharply distinguished from the classical Mongols insofar as they were oriented towards Persian rather than Turco-Mongol culture. The Mughals themselves claimed ultimate descent from Mongol Empire founder Genghis Khan.

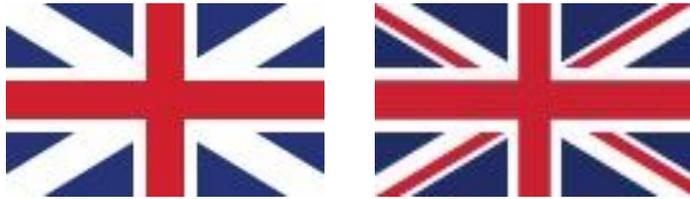
Another name for the empire was Hindustan, which was documented in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and which has been described as the closest to an official name for the empire. Mughal administrative records also refer to the empire as "Sultanate of the Country of Delhi" or "The Protected Countries of Hindustan". In the west, the term "Mughal" was used for the emperor, and by extension, the empire as a whole.

For further study read more at: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Moulvibazar\\_District](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Moulvibazar_District)

## **British Empire**

The British Empire was composed of the dominions, colonies, protectorates, mandates, and other territories ruled or administered by the United Kingdom and its predecessor states. It began with the overseas possessions and trading posts established by England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. At its height it was the largest empire in history and, for over a century, was the foremost global power. By 1913, the British Empire held sway over 412 million people, 23 per cent of the world population at the time, and by 1920, it covered 35.5 million km<sup>2</sup> (13.7 million sq mi), 24 per cent of the Earth's total land area. As a result, its constitutional, legal, linguistic, and cultural legacy is widespread. At the peak of its power, it was described as "the empire on which the sun never sets", as the Sun was always shining on at least one of its territories.

During the Age of Discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal and Spain pioneered European exploration of the globe, and in the process established large overseas empires. Envious of the great wealth these empires generated, England, France, and the Netherlands began to establish colonies and trade networks of their own in the Americas and Asia. A series of wars in the 17th and 18th centuries with the Netherlands and France left England (Britain, following the 1707 Act of Union with Scotland) the dominant colonial power in North America. Britain became the dominant power in the Indian subcontinent after the East India Company's conquest of Mughal Bengal at the Battle of Plassey in 1757.



Left: Flag of Great Britain (1707–1801)  
Right: Flag of the United Kingdom (1801–present)



All areas of the world that were ever part of the British Empire. Current British Overseas Territories have their names

The American War of Independence resulted in Britain losing some of its oldest and most populous colonies in North America by 1783. British attention then turned towards Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. After the defeat of France in the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815), Britain emerged as the principal naval and imperial power of the 19th century and expanded its imperial holdings.

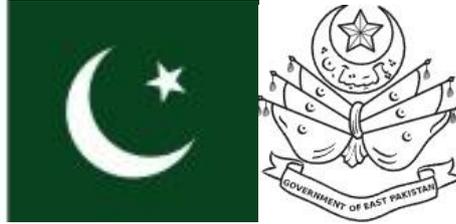
By the start of the 20th century, Germany and the United States had begun to challenge Britain's economic lead. Military and economic tensions between Britain and Germany were major causes of the First World War, during which Britain relied heavily on its empire. The conflict placed enormous strain on its military, financial, and manpower resources. Despite the final victory of Britain and its allies, the damage to British prestige helped accelerate the decline of the empire. India, Britain's most valuable and populous possession, achieved independence in 1947 as part of a larger decolonisation movement, in which Britain granted independence to most territories of the empire. The Suez Crisis of 1956 confirmed Britain's decline as a global power, and the transfer of Hong Kong to China on 1 July 1997 marked for many the end of the British Empire. Fourteen overseas territories remain under British sovereignty. After independence, many former British colonies, along with most of the dominions, joined the Commonwealth of Nations, a free association of independent states. Fifteen of these, including the United Kingdom, retain a common monarch, currently King Charles III.

For further study read more at: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/British\\_Empire](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/British_Empire)

### East Pakistan

East Pakistan was a Pakistani province established in 1955 by the One Unit Policy, renaming the province as such from East Bengal, which, in modern times, is split between India and Bangladesh. Its land borders

were with India and Myanmar, with a coastline on the Bay of Bengal. East Pakistanis were popularly known as "Pakistani Bengalis"; to distinguish this region from India's state West Bengal (which is also known as "Indian Bengal"), East Pakistan was known as "Pakistani Bengal". In 1971, East Pakistan became the newly independent state Bangladesh, which means "country of Bengal" in Bengali.



East Pakistan was renamed from East Bengal by the One Unit Scheme of Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Ali of Bogra. The Constitution of Pakistan of 1956 replaced the Pakistani monarchy with an Islamic Republic. Bengali politician H. S. Suhrawardy served as the Prime Minister of



Pakistan between 1956 and 1957 and a Bengali bureaucrat Iskander Mirza became the first President of Pakistan. The 1958 Pakistani coup d'état brought general Ayub Khan to power. Khan replaced Mirza as president and launched a crackdown against pro-democracy leaders. Khan enacted the Constitution of Pakistan of 1962 which ended universal suffrage. By 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman emerged as the preeminent opposition leader in Pakistan and launched the six-point movement for autonomy and democracy. The 1969 uprising in East

Pakistan contributed to Ayub Khan's Status: Administrative overthrow. Another general, Yahya Khan, usurped the presidency and enacted martial law. In 1970, Yahya Khan organised Pakistan's first federal general election. The Awami League emerged as the single largest party, followed by the Pakistan Peoples Party. The military junta stalled in accepting the results, leading to civil disobedience, the Bangladesh Liberation War, 1971 Bangladesh genocide and Bihari genocide. East Pakistan seceded with the help of India.

Unit of Pakistan.

**Capital:** Dacca .

**Official Language:** Bengali.

**Dimonym:** East Pakistani.

The East Pakistan Provincial Assembly was the legislative body of the territory. Due to the strategic importance of East Pakistan, the Pakistani union was a member of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. The economy of East Pakistan grew at an average of 2.6% between 1960 and 1965. The federal government invested more funds and foreign aid in West Pakistan, even though East Pakistan generated a major share of exports. However, President Ayub Khan did not implement significant industrialisation in East Pakistan. The Kaptai Dam was built in 1965. The Eastern Refinery was established in Chittagong. Dacca was declared as the second capital of Pakistan and planned as the home of the national parliament. The government recruited American architect Louis Kahn to design the national assembly complex in Dacca.

### **Etymology**

Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, who did not include Bengal in the coined word "PAKISTAN", did create a state among many in India in his book *Now or Never* pamphlet (1933). He called Bengal 'Bang-e-Islam' (call to prayer of Islam) and included all of Bengal, West Bengal too. Bengal was a Muslim-majority province. Although he had punned on the word. To Common Pakistanis it was called "Oriental Pakistan" or alternatively Islamically as "Bangalistan". The word Mashriqi implies as Eastern. Kazim, in his book of reviews, *Kal ki Baat* (Readings Lahore, 2010), tells us that Aurangzeb's minister Abul Fazl had opined that Bangla was actually Bangal and that 'al' in it meant enclosure. Today, 'aal' is taken to mean home, from a sense of 'outer wall making an enclosure', which is exactly what Bangla-Desh is today.

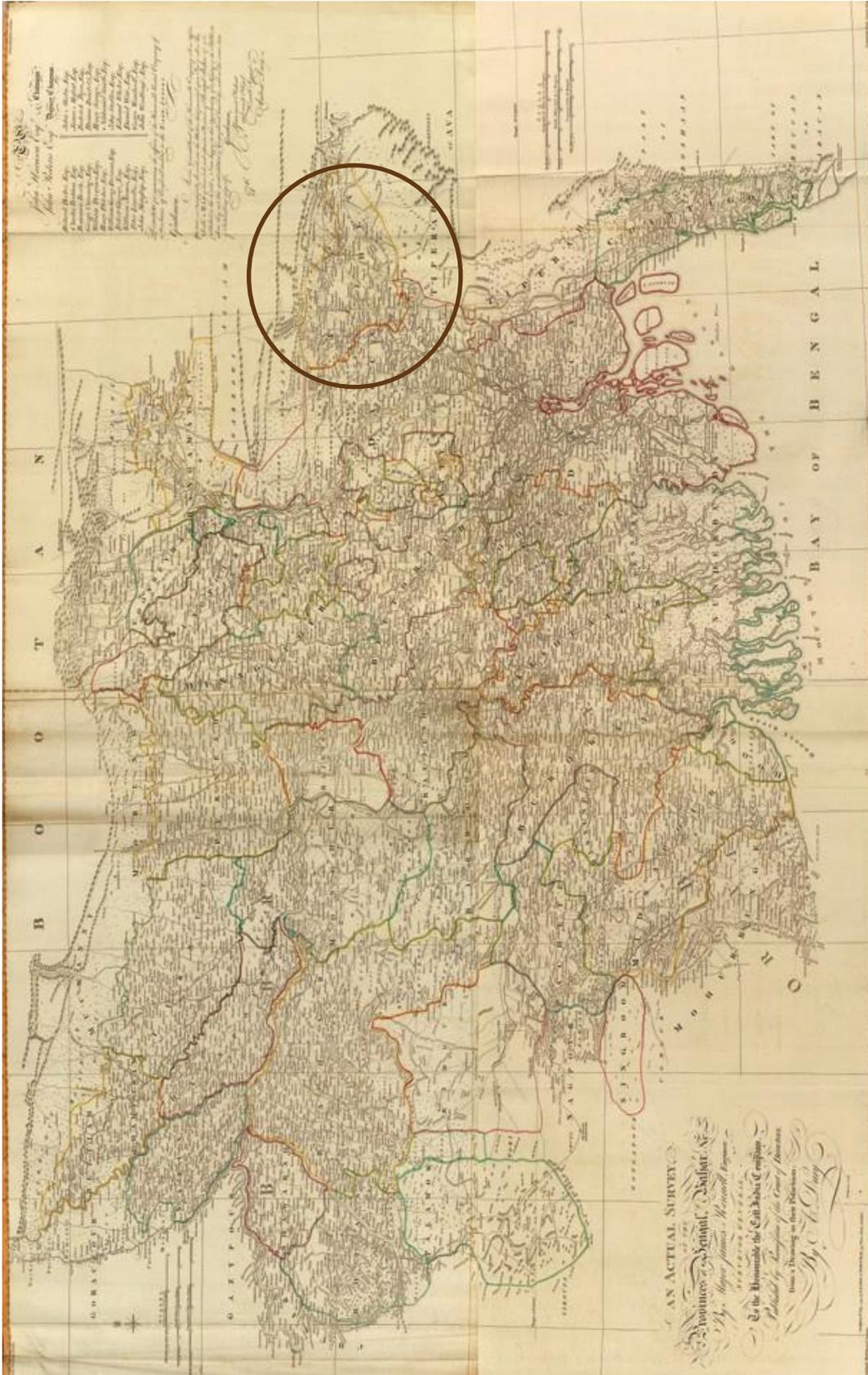
### **Geography**

In contrast to the desert and rugged mountainous terrain of West Pakistan, East Pakistan featured the world's largest delta, 700 rivers, and tropical hilly jungles.

### **Administrative geography**

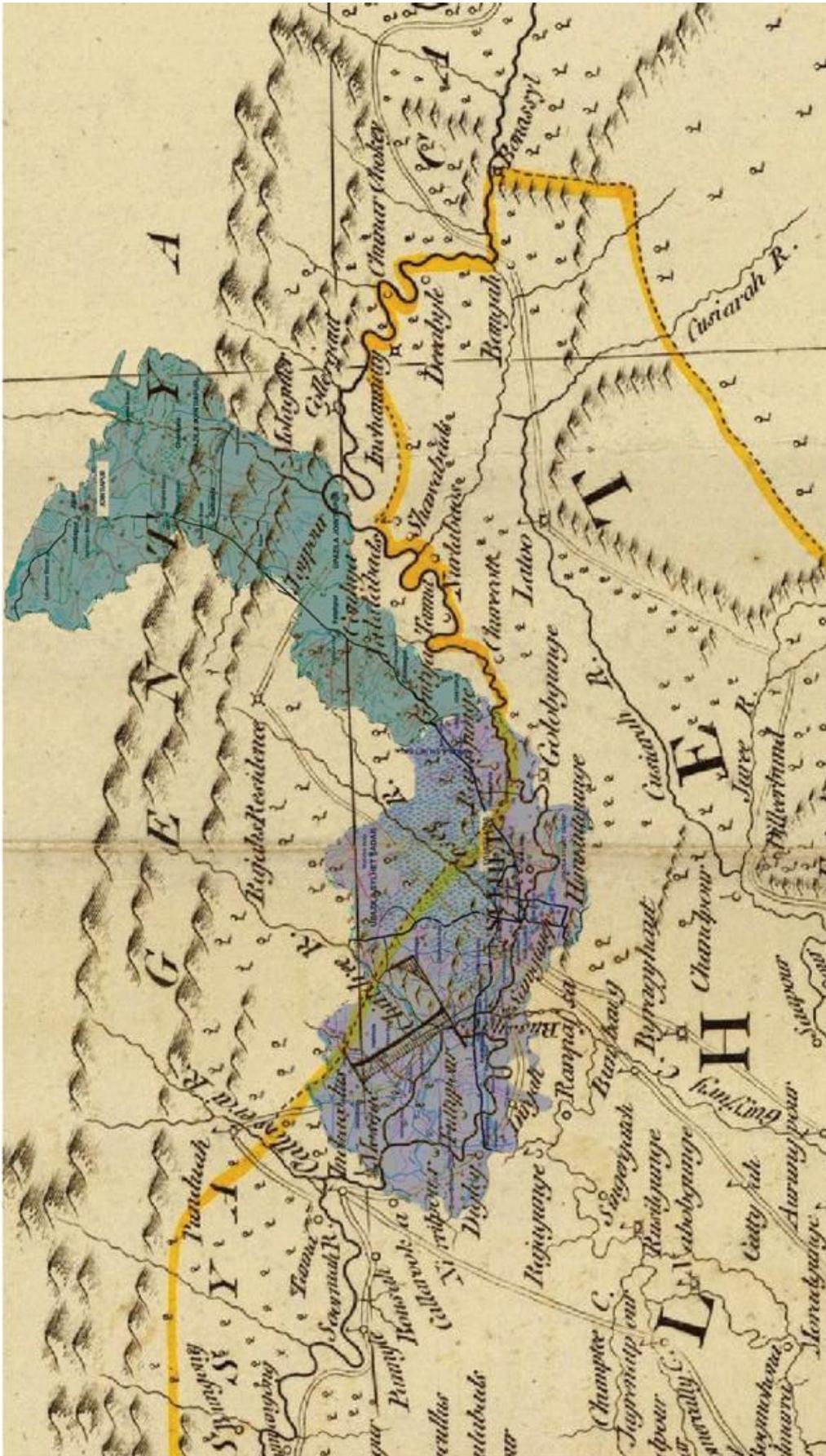
East Pakistan inherited 17 districts from British Bengal. In 1960, Lower Tippera was renamed Comilla. In 1969, two new districts were created with Tangail separated from Mymensingh and Patuakhali from Bakerganj.

For further study read more at: [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/East\\_Pakistan](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/East_Pakistan)



Author: Dury, Andrew, Rennell, James, Robert Laurie & James Whittle, Kitchin, Thomas  
Type: Composite Map  
Country: Bangladesh, India.  
Publisher Location: London  
Pub Date: 1804  
Scale 1: 750,000

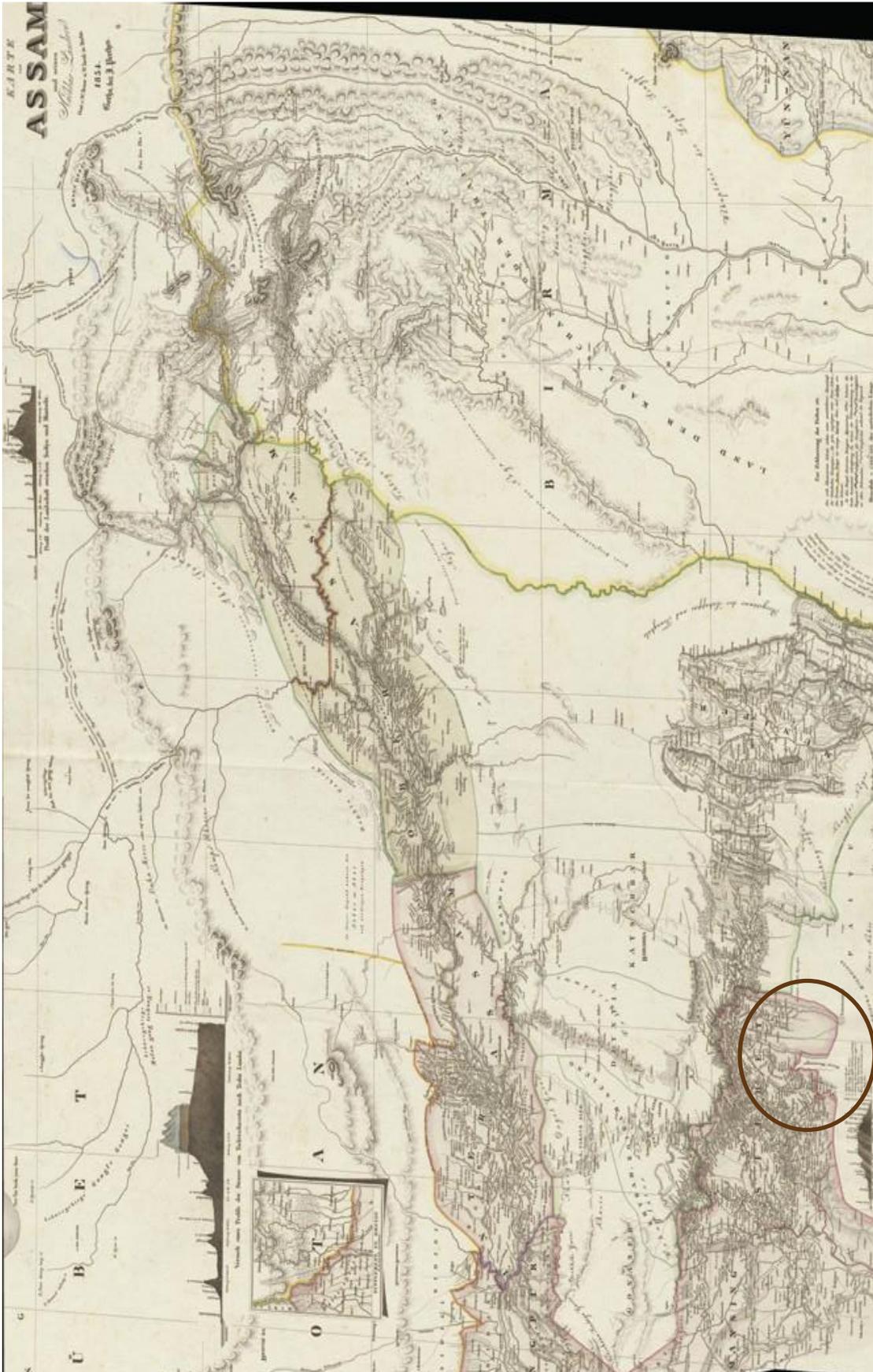
 Map of !794  
 Independent States  
 British Possession



Blow up map of Sylhet at Bengal 1794 with current Sylhet & Jainta area.

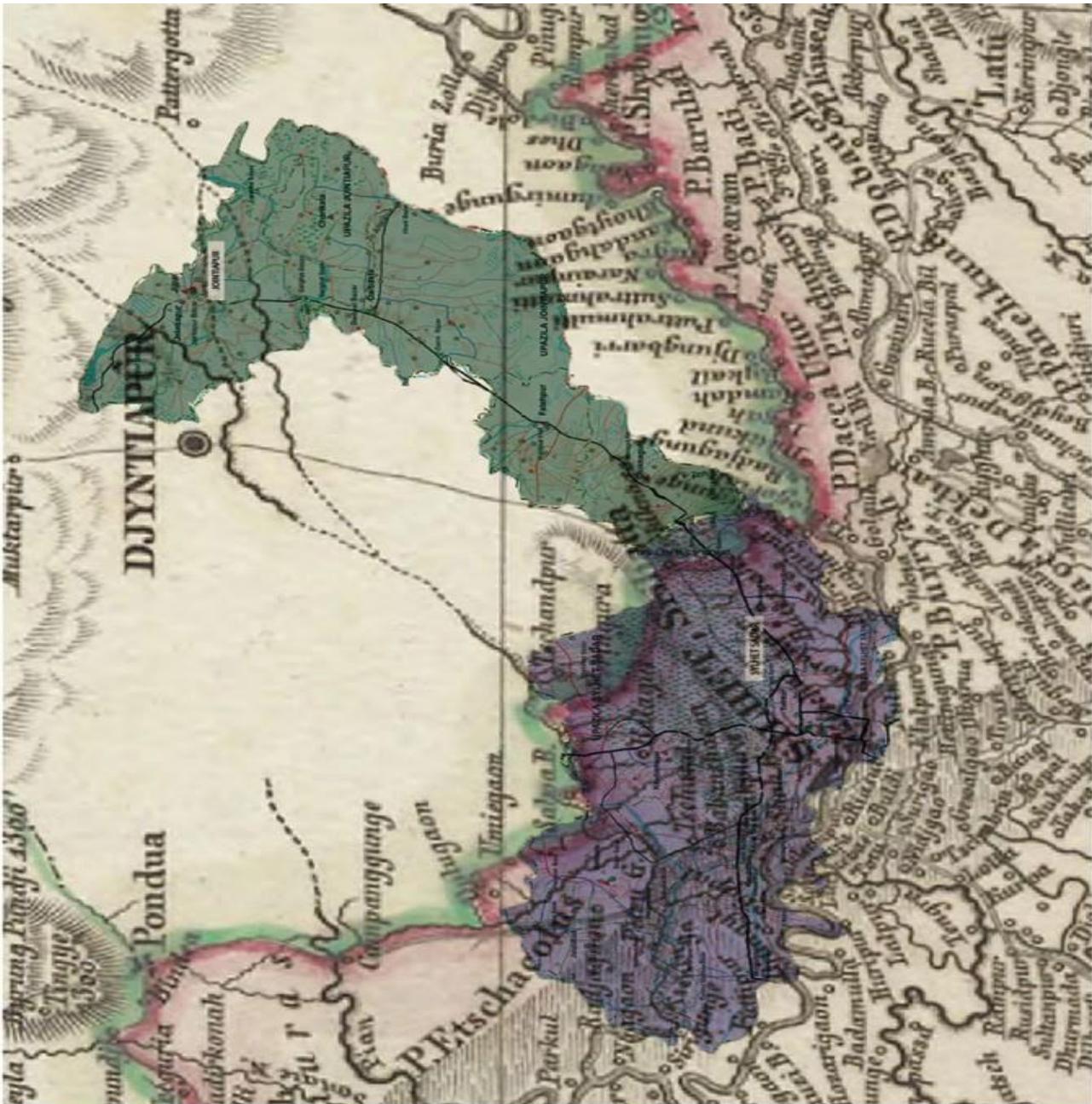
 Sylhet Sadar  
 Jainta

HMap Analysis



Author: W Brose, W Laeck.  
Country: Bangladesh, India.  
Publisher Location: Berlin  
Pub Date: 1849  
Scale 1: 750000

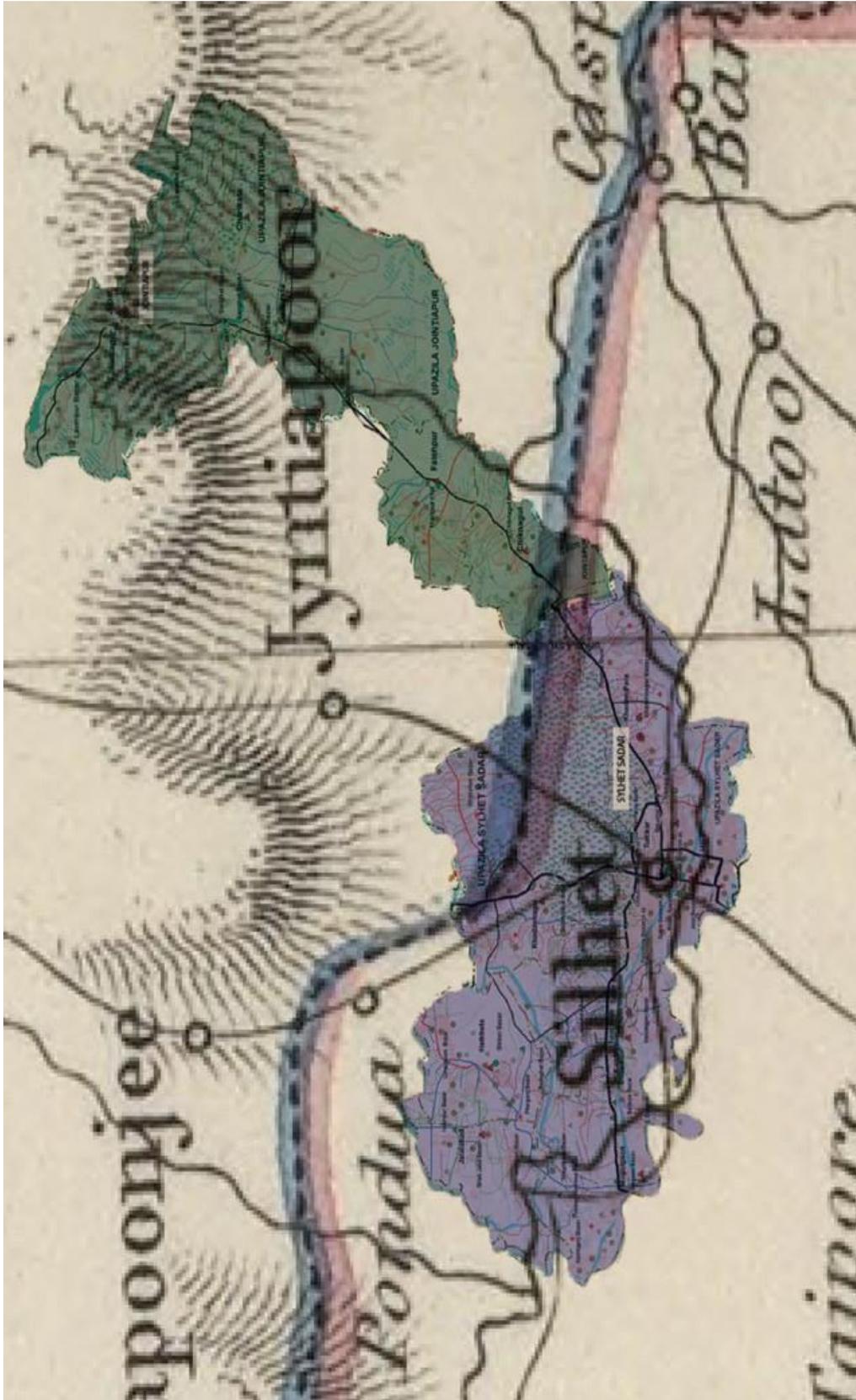
Map of Bengal 1834  
Independent States  
British Possession



Blow up map of Sylhet at Bengal 1834 with current Sylhet & Jainta area.

Sylhet Sadar

Jainta



Blow up map of Sylhet at Bengal 1848 with current Sylhet & Jainta area.