

DEVELOPMENT OF COOCH BEHAR
STATE UNDER THE MAHARAJAS
(1847 – 1949) – A STUDY OF ITS
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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CHAPTER - II

**MAHARAJA NRIPENDRA NARAYAN
(1863 – 1911) – THE HARBINGER OF
MODERNISATION IN COOCH BEHAR**

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Maharaja Nripendra Narayan (1863 – 1911) – The harbinger of modernisation in Cooch Behar

The history of Cooch Behar turned into a new paradigm under the guidance of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan . When he ascended the throne of Cooch Behar State he was a minor . The impact of western methods upon oriental system of government was leading gradually but surely to the disappearance of an ancient Indian prince .¹

During the period from 1864 to 1878 the Commissioner of Cooch Behar was empowered by the Government with full authority of the State. In 1864 Colonel Haughton joined his duties as Commissioner and continued in this post till 1873 . During this period besides the work of administration an important part of his duty was to see that the young prince was properly cared for and brought up .² For that reason Colonial rulers sent Maharaja to London where he took education in English . Here it deserves to mention that the Colonial rulers wanted to set a western educated ruler on the throne of Cooch Behar as they wanted an ally in this part of the country. Geographically Cooch Behar was situated at the frontier of north-eastern India and this frontier was always more important for the British Government to run their supremacy in India . Maharaja Nripendra Narayan's accession helped them to strengthen foothold in the north – east frontier . The year 1878 was

an important landmark in the history of Cooch Behar . On the 6th March 1878 Maharaja Nripendra Narayan's marriage with Sunity Devi (daughter of the Brahmin leader Keshab Chandra Sen) was the main motivation behind the modernization of the State .³

During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan the Princely State of Cooch Behar got all sorts of development. The true form of modernisation developed in Cooch Behar from 1883 when Maharaja attained maturity . He has done a great deal towards the improvement of the town by erection of beautiful structures, and has brought the town to its present good condition . There were a lot of developmental schemes initiated by Maharaja Nripendra Narayan from 1878 to 1911 which were as follows –

A) Development in Social Field

In the Social field the following progressive measures were taken by Maharaja Nripendra Narayan :

The State Council The Cooch Behar State Council was opened with Maharaja as President , and three members , namely , the Superintendent of the State , the Dewan and the manager of the Chaklarjat Estate . The first meeting of the State Council was held on 12th November, 1883.⁴ The function of the State Council were three fold viz - a) Legislative , b) Executive and c) Judicial . On the legislative side the Council Passed laws and enactments. On the Executive side it regulated the management of the different departments (General Department, Revenue Department and Judicial Department) . In Judicial field the Council was the highest Court of appeal .⁵

During the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan three category of authority were introduced in the State of Cooch Behar viz, - a) Maharaja (the Ruler of the State), b) The Council and c) the departmental heads . Such a category indicated the representative character of the administration .

Education Enlightenment of an area depends on modern means of education . Therefore, during his rule strong measures were taken to this end . Maharaja shows his farsightedness with the formation of Night Schools for old persons as he knows that if the parents are educated then the children are sure to be educated .

With the gradual spread of schools in the interior and the continued development of the more important institutions in the town of Cooch Behar , it was found difficult for the members of the Local Committee either to master or to properly attend to the details of a business and accordingly a separate post of the Superintendship for the Education Department was created in 1870 to advise in all matters connected with Education, to inspect and examine the schools and to deliver occasional lectures .⁶

From 1871 onwards the works of the department began to be carried on systematically on the lines matured by celebrated educationists for Bengal , and year after year liberal grants continued to be given for extending the scope and sphere of education in Cooch Behar .⁷ A Guru – Training School was established in February 1873 ; and a normal school , a portion of which had existed since 1870, was formally opened in 1875 with the full complement of classes , masters and stipend .⁸ Under the auspices of these two institutions , a complete net – work of Sch-

ools and Patshalas very shortly covered the State of Cooch Behar from one end to another and a Deputy Inspector of Schools, one sub – inspector, four inspecting Pandits (teachers) were gradually appointed from 1876 – 1877.⁹ The rapid progress of education in Cooch Behar from 1871 – 1879 were shown in the following table -¹⁰

Table - 1
YEAR

		1871 – 72	1875 – 76	1879 – 80
Description of Schools	State	----- 4	7	6
	Aided	----- 49	177	289
	Unaided	----- 29	98	95
Total		82	282	390
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Amount of Expenditure	State	----- 22, 233	42,591	60,685
	Private	----- 6,273	22,357	33,213
Total		28,506	64,948	93, 806

Source: Chowdhury, H.N.- The Cooch Behar State and its Land Revenue Settlement ,
Cooch Behar State Press , Cooch Behar , 1903 , p, 325.

In 1878 – 79 the superintendent of Cooch Behar , after vividly monitoring the actual condition of educational progress in Cooch Behar, wrote that “the fear justly entertained in 1877, of a reaction on the Patsalas ,owing to the disappointment of a vast number of qualified candidates to win Primary scholarships , which must necessarily be of a limited number.”¹¹ In 1878 an educational policy was initiated by Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar .¹² The principle that the limit of State aid (Cooch Behar) has been reached was fully recognized by the officers of the Education Department in 1878 . Officers were acted on , to gradually withdraw aid from schools which had given proof of sufficient innate vitality, and

to use the grants so withdrawn to open new schools in less favoured localities . Some times also , though rarely, aid was withdrawn on the ground of the obstinate neglect of the subscribers to pay their quota or to send their children regularly to school .¹³ Apart from that in 1878 three Brahmin students got Sanskrit scholarship , which indicated that Sanskrit got equal importance during this period.¹⁴ However during the year 1877 – 79 ,the arena of education was , on the whole , quite remarkable one . The following chart shows the number and strength of all schools at Cooch Behar:¹⁵

Table - 2

Class of Institutions	1877 – 78			1878 – 79		
	Schools	Pupil	Average daily attendance	Schools	Pupil	Average daily attendance
I- State Institution						
Higher Class	1	191	129	1	197	130
Vernacular Middle Class	2	358	266	2	400	284
Normal Schools	2	75	52	2	67	35
Boarding	1	-----	-----	1	-----	-----
II – Private Institutions under grant in aid system						
Middle Class English	3	75	51	3	79	59
Middle Vernaculars	93	3,294	2,718	93	3,381	2,865
Lower Vernaculars	118	3,457	2,759	121	3,675	2,796
Night Schools	23	586	444	25	596	479
Girls Schools	29	421	305	33	455	294
Boarding	1	-----	-----	1	-----	-----
III- Private institution receiving no allowance from the State						
Middle Class English	1	19	15	2	45	27
Middle Vernacular	4	121	80	4	158	119
Lower Vernacular	19	408	278	30	669	475
Indigenous Patshalas	29	287	246	26	374	345
Night Schools	10	221	168	10	289	237
Girl's Schools	14	139	109	16	196	151
Muktabs	10	180	132	10	184	92
Boardings	----	-----	-----	1	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-- Total -----	360	9,832	7,752	381	10,765	8,388

Source : Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State (1878-79),p, 56.

In 1884 the Superintendent of education of Cooch Behar remarked that the education department had been allowed sufficient time to develop the educational policy inaugurated by Maharaja Nripendra Narayan and his Regency Council.¹⁶ Regarding the allotment for grant – in – aid of middle class schools , the Superintendent of Education of Cooch Behar made the following argument ,“ It being necessary so to redistribute the education budget for the year under report as might with the limited means at the states disposal do ‘ the greatest good to the largest number’, the superintendent was led to allot Rs. 6000 only for grant – in – aid middle class school . The chief reason for doing this was to leave a fairly adequate margin for the development of a really useful system of primary education in the state for which great care was being taken by all the educational bodies in the country. In this as well as in other matters connected with the department , the superintendent had been endeavoring to follow , as far as practicable, the director of Public instruction of Bengal , and the education commission for India ”.¹⁷ Mahomedan education also received good impetus in 1884 . During this year the number of institutions for the special education of the Mahomedans including the sudder madrasa and The Anjumani Islamia was 19 , of which 6 were aided and 13 unaided .¹⁸

Victoria College : In 1888 the establishment of Victoria college for undergraduate education marked the year as one ushering in the fundamental change in the educational system . Considerable funds had to be found of course for the college which, in view of the principle laid down by the Maharaja that the normal allotment for education was not be exceeded , had to be taken away from primary and secondary edu

-cation .¹⁹ The Principal of Victoria college wrote a letter to the educational department of Cooch Behar that the college possessed the minimum number of Professors , viz. one for every subject except English , and as a fully developed college teaching up to the M.A standard has seven classes in every subject , future need be felt of assistant lecturers as in government colleges of similar status .²⁰ As compare with modern days the post of a Principal of a college was very important during the Colonial Period . He could implement academic measures in consultation with the authority of the State . A college boarding institution was started simultaneously with with the establishment of the college .²¹ This institution changed educational structure of Cooch Behar . It was the attempt of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan who felt the necessity of introduction of higher education for the students of Cooch Behar . In 1897 Acharya Brajendra Nath Seal was appointed as the Principal of the institution . His scholarly views helped the Maharaja to take important measures for the welfare of the people of Cooch Behar .

Sunity College : In accordance with the wishes of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan and his wife Maharani Sunity Devi a small pucca building 32'- 6 " x 27' - 9" has been erected for the accommodation of the girls school under the name of "Sunity College" .²² The estimated cost for constructing the building was Rs. 3217 , out of which Rs. 2000 has been paid by the Dewan of Cooch Behar from the provision for the birth day ceremony of Maharaja . The foundation stone of the building was laid by Maharani Sunity Devi in July , 1889 . The building was completed in November 1889 and formally opened by Maharani in March 1890. The inside room was 36'x18'

and, therefore, accommodated 100 students, a verandah in front with cast iron pillars 6ft. wide.²³ This building with its ornamental facade has greatly improved the part of the town in which it is situated. Nevertheless, the construction of a girls' school (College), indicated that Maharaja thought of a girls' college in future for Cooch Behar. Now this school attained 131 years with prestigious academic infrastructure.

In 1890 – 91 the Inspector of Schools after inspecting the academic progress wrote that, a higher standard of education being within easy reach of all who wish and was able to profit by High English education, many prefer to go to the Entrance Schools directly to do so through the medium of Middle English Schools. A desire to minimize the cost coupled with the question of distance of the Jenkins School, led many a parent to send the children to the village schools first.²⁴ Those whose circumstances compelled them to take advantage of the Middle English scholarships were wise to stay for the preliminary lessons in the Anglo – Vernacular schools. The pupils had not altogether gone out of the influence of the Educational Department but had simply been transferred from one class to another.²⁵ The fixed nature of the grant for primary and secondary education and the progressive increase of schools made it necessary to devise means to reconcile the ever increasing demand for Cooch Behar State authorities' assistance. Accordingly during the year 1892 the conditions under which schools received grants from the State were closely watched. State schools were carefully looked after, both as regards their strength and fee – income, the grant – in – aid schools were required strictly to conform to the departmental rules as to pay

-ment of local subscriptions and the up-keep of houses and furniture, while the keen competition for state grant stimulated the primary schools to make greater efforts to secure support.²⁶

The following comparison shows the position of primary education in Cooch Behar –²⁷

Table – 3

District	No. of boys of School going age	No. of boys at school	% of boys at school to boys of school - going
Dinajpur -----	1,21,807	21,925	17.2
Jalpaiguri -----	54,698	9,146	16.7
Rajshahi -----	98,150	17,141	17.5
Rangpur -----	1,59,271	24,394	15.3
Cooch Behar -----	45,368	7,996	17.6

Source : Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State (1895-96), p, 58 .

An important point in the history of education at Cooch Behar was the establishment of Entrance School in the sub-divisions namely, Mekhligunj, Mathabhanga and Dinhata.²⁸ In 1898 a boarding institution started functioning at Mekhligunj for the use of boys reading in the Higher Class English School at that place. As the institution was deserving support, it was recommended to Maharaja that a grant of Rs.200 should be made towards improving the accommodation, and that a small monthly contribution should be allotted for its support.²⁹

In 1899 – 1900 for the benefit of Mahomedans, a

Persian School at the town of Cooch Behar and a Muktab at Maricha, an almost entirely Mahomedan village in the sub-division of Mathabhanga was formed. The following table shows the social position and religion of the pupils reading in different classes of schools in Cooch Behar :³⁰

Table - 4

Name of School	Religion				Social position				R E M A R K
	H I N D U S	M A H O M E D A N S	O T H E R S	T O T A L	U P P E R C L A S S	M I D D L E C L A S S	L O W E R C L A S S	T O T A L	
Higher Class English -----	315	104	-----	419	24	306	89	419	
			47						
Middle Class English -----	170	153	6	329	11	221	97	329	
Middle Class Vernacular -----	1,153	569	8	1,730	63	729	938	1730	
Total -----	1,638	826	14	2,478	98	1256	1124	2478	
Corresponding total For 1898 -99 -----	1586	833	10	2,429	136	1,247	1,046	2,429	
PRIMARY SCHOOL.									
Upper Primary Schools -----	646	354	6	1,006	3	315	688	1,006	
Lower Primary Schools -----	4,940	1,934	75	6,949	26	1,852	5,071	6,949	
Night Schools -----	512	201	9	722	----	94	628	722	
Girls' Schools -----	157	41	----	198	7	61	130	198	
Indigenous Schools -----	13	----	----	13	----	----	13	13	
Muktab -----	---	59	----	59	----	4	55	59	
Total -----	6,268	2,589	90	8,947	36	2,326	6,585	8,947	
Corresponding Total 1898 -99	6,086	2,647	121	8,854	49	2,408	6,397	8,854	
Grand Total	7,906	3,415	104	11,433	134	3,582	7,709	11,425	
Corresponding Grand Total	7,672	3,180	134	11,283	185	3,655	7,443	11,283	

Source: Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State (1899-1900), p, 68 .

Regarding the aspect of entrance examination, boys set the example of success and talent . In 1899 – 1900 the percentage of successful candidates was 73 .³¹ The Haldibari School house has been entirely rebuilt during the year 1900 .³² In 1901 a scheme of re - organisation of the educational system was taken by the State (Cooch Behar) education department to bring the Cooch Behar State educational arrangements in line with those which will obtain in Government districts in Bengal under the term of the recent resolution of the Government on the subject , is being carefully considered .³³

As regards the lower primary scholarship examination , it was conducted by the local boards , a boy and a girl passed in the first division .³⁴ In 1902 – 03 the class teacher, pundits, selected from the various State schools were being trained in batches . In due course, a subordinate officer of the State Educational Department would be sent for training in Kurseong . The training class started locally of course, on a trial purpose . During this year slight modification of the rules regarding scholarship in the State was sanctioned by the State Council with special reference to cases in which a student becomes qualified for a scholarship both within the State of Cooch Behar and under Government .³⁵

In 1904 – 05 attention was given to the following issues in connection with Primary and Secondary education :³⁶

- i) The measures adopted for the improvement of sub – divisional Higher English School ;
- ii) The training of the teachers of Higher English and Middle Class schools in drill ;

- iii) The preparation and publication of an authorized book for teaching elementary drill ;
- iv) The appointment of drill Inspector for systematically going round the schools to look to the teaching of drill to both the pupils and their teachers .
- v) The revision of the rules for the award of Middle and Primary scholarships on the lines adopted in Bengal and with the view of training up a body of local men for teachership ;
- vi) For inauguration of a system of local competitive examinations for Middle and Upper Primary Schools for selecting candidates for Scholarship Examinations and granting certificates to those that pass ;
- vii) The supply of drawing and drill books and few other educational appliances first to Secondary and then to some Primary schools,
- viii) The steps taken for the rigid observance of the inter – school rules and the general improvement of discipline ;
- ix) The care taken to enforce the maintenance of all the different records in every class of schools and their systematic examination during periodical inspection; and
- x) The greater stringency exercised in the realisation of school fees and subscriptions for the better payment of the teachers, so that they might be more contented and do better work .

A lower grade Pleadership Examination was held in Cooch Behar in December, 1906 in which only natives of Cooch Behar , passed the examination .³⁷

The educational history of the year 1909, ending on 31st March 1909

was rendered important by the promulgation of the new regulations of the Calcutta University which necessitated the raising of the Higher English Schools in the State to a higher level of efficiency in order to secure and maintain their affiliation to the University. For a thorough re-organization of these schools, great effort had to be made during the year by the aid of liberal grants from the State of Cooch Behar. The development of local resources also strengthened the teaching staff and took effective measures for preventing constant changes in it. For the improvement of general condition and sanitary arrangements of the school buildings separate accommodation was provided for the Vernacular Departments. Enlarging the class rooms and also securing a supply of good drinking water for the pupils was provided. The Boarding Institutions attached to these schools were built on approved plans and were quite healthy and commodious. The system of annual prize distributions has been inaugurated and a regular grant for this purpose was allotted in the budget.³⁸

Thus the education system was at the peak of success during the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan.

Maharaja Library : During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan a library was established in Cooch Behar in Nilkuty area. But within a few days, it was shifted to the centre of Cooch Behar town (at the western side of Sagar Dighi) in 1870. It was known as Maharaja Library. As regards the rule of library it was notified that 'The library was a public library of reading and reference (but not a circulating library), open to all classes of community. No book shall, however, be allowed to go out of the building. Any one who likes to read in the Library will

receive a ticket entitling him to read in the Library'. The official records of Cooch Behar state stated that 'It is a good English Library and full of handsomely bound books and better classes of native officials are permitted to use it'.³⁹ From 1903 – 04 the Maharaja Library was named as State library.⁴⁰ Such a measure indicated Maharajas special care for the subject. At present it is an archive for the north – eastern region named as “North Bengal State Library”.

Artizan School : Among the self – employment institutions one such institution was the Artizan School. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was well aware of the unemployment which was also a fundamental issue during those days. Therefore, such an institution was organized on 9th September 1869, and till 1874 it was under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner. In 1875 it was made over to the Education department and subsequently transferred to the Public works Department (P.W.D) in 1878. The improvement was effected since this school had been under the supervision of the superintendent of works, there were three departments in the school viz; tailoring, carpentry and blacksmith's forge. The first was self supporting, but the other two were receiving financial help from the State of Cooch Behar.⁴¹ Such an institution shows the farsightedness of the Maharaja.

Medical : Before 1819, the European system of medicine was unknown in Cooch Behar State. The mode of treatment was Ayurvedic. In the rural area people believed in ojhas or village quacks. In 1819 an Indian doctor was sent to Cooch Behar on a salary of Rs. 40 per month but there was no record as to what his

qualification or training was . In 1841 Maharaja Shivendra Narayan applied to the British Government for a qualified medical man and in February 1842 Dr. Syama Charan Sarkar , a graduate of Medical College of Calcutta was appointed Medical officer of the Maharaja's Court.⁴² In 1846 Maharaja asked for a European Medical officer and Dr. Ralph Moore was appointed medical officer by the Maharaja. Before 1842 there was no attempt to open any Hospital and dispensary in Cooch Behar . The first dispensary was opened in Cooch Behar in charge of a Sub – Assistant Surgeon in 1865 .

During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan medical facilities were at their peak as never before . He was concerned about the health of his subjects which reflects the benevolent attitude of the ruler. In 1878 a new building for the sudder dispensary was built at the town of Cooch Behar . One remarkable feature of the medical practitioners need to mentioned , was that the officers in charge of the dispensaries were permitted to sell the medicines from the dispensary stock at 10 per cent . over cost price to all the persons for whom they prescribed in their private practice, as medicine cannot be obtained elsewhere . The State officers had the privilege of receiving medicine gratis , when prescribed for them by the medical officers of the State , which formerly they used to pay for.

A private dispensary was , however , opened during the year by the Assistant – Surgeon on his own account , but when this was brought to the notice of the authorities by the Civil – Surgeon , Cooch Behar State authority promptly suppressed it, as the authority did not think that , as a medical officer in

charge of the sudder dispensary, the Assistant Surgeon should have anything to do with the sale of medicine on his own account.⁴³ Apart from that in 1880-81 initiatives were taken for sanitation and vaccination system. The sanitary condition of the town had been well attended to, drainage improved, jungle and rank vegetation frequently cut down, earth utilized in filling up holes.⁴⁴ Regarding vaccination it was true that many of people of the sub-divisions of Cooch Behar town namely, Dinhata, Mathabhanga, Mekhligunj and Tufangunj did not yet appreciate the value of vaccination, but it was otherwise with those who saw its efficacy during the late epidemic of small-pox, the people could not or would not in many cases understand why it was necessary to puncture the upper arms in four places in stead of one on the forearm, as was done in inoculation, and not until the reasons were thoroughly explained would some consent to have their children vaccinated.⁴⁵ In the process of vaccination work throughout the State of Cooch Behar each head vaccinator had six vaccinators working under his supervision. The Deputy Superintendent inspected and verified the work of every man, also arranged the head vaccinator for carrying on of the work from village to village.⁴⁶ In 1885 Maharaja in Council was pleased in compliance with the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon to sanction the entertainment of a supernumerary Native doctor.⁴⁷ During this year Maharaja also sanctioned an aided dispensary being opened at Haldibari.⁴⁸ The Civil Surgeon of the State stated that over 300 cases surgical operations performed at the Sudder dispensary of the town which was noticeable.⁴⁹ Such type of argument shows that medical treatment in Cooch Behar ushers in an era of healthy medical

atmosphere . In 1889 the superintendent of the State of Cooch Behar and the civil judge agreed with the Dewan of Cooch Behar to the proposal of opening an outdoor dispensary at Phulbari for the benefit of the State Officers and the people in the neighbourhood of purgannah Tufangunj. The dispensary formally opened on 6th July 1889 .⁵⁰ In 1890 special precautions were taken to ward off the disease of Cholera at Cooch Behar . Disinfectants were used freely and tar & sulphur were kept burning both outside and inside of jail walls .⁵¹ The police and military hospitals serve the purpose of treatment of the infected police and sepoys of State .⁵² In 1891 the following number of hospitals and dispensaries were working in tandem –⁵³

1. The Sudder Charitable Dispensary.
2. The Dinhata Charitable Dispensary.
3. The Mathabhanga Charitable Dispensary .
4. The Mekhligunj Charitable Dispensary.
5. The Police and Military Hospital , Sudder .
6. The Jail Hospital, Sudder .
7. The Haldibari Charitable Dispensary .
8. The Phulbari Charitable Dispensary .

In 1893 a temporary dispensary was opened at Takagach area to cope with the epidemic malaria .⁵⁴ During this year some initiatives were taken in favour of the Sudder Dispensary, which were as follows :⁵⁵

1. A pucca postmortem – room ;
2. A pucca building for infectious diseases ;

3. A fence round the Hospital compound;
4. Quarters for Hospital servants .

In 1897 – 98 a survey operation was taken by the Cooch Behar State Regency Council to show what kind of responsibility was taken by the State for medical treatment of the people of Cooch Behar . The survey showed that “ Bengal has an area of 1,51,535 square miles and a population of 71, 346, 787 . Cooch Behar has an area of 1307 square miles and a population 578, 868 . Up to 1895 – 96 including Calcutta hospital , there were 445 hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal or one to 340.5 square miles , while in Cooch Behar there were 6 dispensaries (2 – sudder and Phulbari was flexible) or one to 218 square miles . In Bengal one Dispensary to each of 1,60,330 population . In Cooch Behar the number was also one to each of 96,478 population .”⁵⁶

Modern outlook was visible in some other areas . In 1898 – 99 owing to a recrudescence of plague at Calcutta in the cold – weather , the superintendent of Cooch Behar made arrangements at Gitaldaha and Haldibari for the examination of passengers entering the State of Cooch Behar by railway at these two places . Four constables and a native doctor were deputed to Gitaldaha while the examination at Haldibari was carried out by the native doctor posted at that place . No attempt was made to segregate or detain passengers ; the arrival of the passengers from any plague - infected area being merely reported to the Fauzdari Ahilkar of the State of Cooch Behar .⁵⁷ In this year another initiative was taken in the field of medical arrangement for railway . The Superintendent of Cooch Behar

after consultation with the manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway and the civil surgeon, proposed the entertainment of a native doctor to travel up and down to give medical attendance in all ordinary cases occurring within railway limit.⁵⁸ In 1900 an important step was taken for cattles. In view of large number of deaths of cattle every year and the loss the people suffered on this account, a boy (native of the State of Cooch Behar) was sent to the Veterinary College, Bengal with a stipend from the State to qualify himself as a Veterinary practitioner. As the boy would not be able to complete his studies before three years then the Superintendent of the State of Cooch Behar proposed to appoint a veterinary assistant in the rural area.⁵⁹ In this year another new hospital was opened at Dinhata.⁶⁰ In 1902 - 03 the official records speaks that the number of hospital and dispensaries were increased from eight to nine respectively.⁶¹ In 1905 on the suggestion of the Superintendent of the State, an arrangement was made for the recruitment of compounders in Cooch Behar and in the zamindari dispensaries under the supervision of the State Civil Surgeon only licensed and fully qualified Compounders are to be employed.⁶²

In 1909 – 10 an elaborate anti – cholera campaign was organized at the initiation and with sanction of Maharaja, with a view to prevent the havoc caused by the disease when it broke out in virulent epidemics in the interior of the State. Some of the principal preventive measures to be adopted are the supply of good drinking water by digging pucca wells throughout the State of Cooch Behar on the grant – in - aid system, an undertaking in which the landlord of the State would be encouraged to co – operate. A large number of Norton's Tube wells were to be

kept ready for emergencies . Pamphlets containing short and simple hygienic rules in the Vernaculars were to be widely distributed and village pandits were to teach their pupils the elements of hygiene .⁶³ Chaukidars promptly reported cases of cholera whereupon a party formed of a Hospital assistant , head – constable , constables and a scavenger was to proceed at once to the affected village with a supply of medicines , disinfectants , sago and barley and sale of raw fruits , rotten fish and bad sweets is to be prohibited .⁶⁴ Thus the scheme was on the whole successful .

In such a way , during the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, medical treatment in Cooch Behar was at its best position.

Public Works Department During the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan public works department (P.W.D) worked in the following area –

i) Development of communication by the construction of roads and bridges

a) Lowkuti Road construction was completed in 1878 . The new earth work having suffered considerably from the flood , repairs had to be executed . It was also thought advisable to increase the number of bridges, and accordingly two new ones of 60 feet in length and one of 14 feet were constructed in the 12th and 4th mile respectively, and one between the Gurghurrea and Kaljaneerivers, enlarged to 60 feet .⁶⁵

b) Cross road from Dinhat and Mekhligunj was constructed in 1878.

c) The iron bridge over Torsa river (Kalighat) was constructed in 1880. The length of the bridge was 240 ft. divided into 8 spans of 30ft. each . The bridge has three girders of iron resting on cross girder also of iron .⁶⁶

d) Wooden bridge over Gadadhar River on Lowkuti road was 235 ft. long divided

into 11 spans of 20 feet .

From 1878 onwards several road construction plans were drawn by P.W.D . In 1882 such a plan shows the length and number of roads , as follows :⁶⁷

1. Emigration road West of Cooch Behar -----	43 Miles
2. Emigration road East of Cooch Behar -----	19 Miles
3. Rangpur road -----	22 Miles
4. Buxa Road -----	12 Miles
5. Bowty Road -----	4 Miles
6. Lowkuti Road including a branch at Falimari -----	26 Miles
7. Cross road from Dinhata to Mekhligunj -----	40 Miles
8. Cross road from Mathabhanga to Shitalkhuchi -----	12 Miles
9. Ditto Cooch Behar to Gosanimari -----	14 Miles
10 Ditto Emigration road near patgram to Bhutan -----	15.25 Miles
11. Kalighat Road -----	2 Miles
12. Purbabhag Road -----	12 Miles
13. Shitai Road -----	6 Miles
14. Sagardighy Road -----	3 Miles
15. Falakatta Road -----	6 Miles
16. Village Road from town to Godown -----	2 Miles
17. Ditto from Buxa Road to Baneswar hat -----	2 Miles
18. Ditto from town to Suktahat -----	2 Miles
19. Ditto from town to Sisabtalaha Ghat -----	2 Miles

20. Feeder road from Changra banda to Mekhligunj -----	5.50	Miles
21. Ditto from Dewangunghat to Emigration Road -----	3	Miles
22. Ditto from Kassiabaryhat to Haldibari -----	2.50	Miles
23. Ditto from Manikgunghat to Haldibari -----	3.50	Miles
24. Ditto from Balarampore to Dinahata -----	12.25	Miles
25. Ditto extention from Tufangunghat to Lowkuti Road -----	4.25	Miles
26. Feeder Road from Chawdhurihat to Dhubri and Teesta Road -	2	Miles
27. Ditto from Shitai hat to Durgapore -----	7	Miles

In this connection it is important to mention the road from Shitaihat to Durgapore on the border of Cooch Behar . It was originally intended to be made from Shitaihat to Gitaldaha via Durgapore with a view to opening direct communication between Shitaihat and Gitaldaha , where a market complex formed .⁶⁸ It was thought that if the Mahajans settled at Gitaldaha this road would attract traffic to that place from the tobacco and jute producing districts of the state, especially , the Government railway line was extended beyond the Dhurlah . Accordingly it was considered sufficient to make a Road from Shitai via Durgapore .⁶⁹

In 1884 – 85 the work of road construction carried on the following projects :⁷⁰

- a) Town road from railway station to Nilkuty , mettaled at a cost of Rs. 3,619 .
- b) Fair weather track from Bhaiskhuchi to Garodhat , 5 miles was an extension of the Lowkuti Road and was opened in 1881 for the shooting party , since then it is being maintained as a fair weather track .

- c) Fair weather track from Emigration road west of Cooch Behar to Pundibarihat , 4 miles was a portion of old road opened during the Bhutan expedition and leading to Patlakhawah . It is useful as a feeder for the Pundibari market .

In 1887 a railway feeder road from Chatnai to Chilahati was proposed by the Road Cess Committee of Rangpur. But the plan was not sanctioned by the Cooch Behar State Council .⁷¹

In 1888 the following fair weather tracks were opened and since then these tracks were serving as important feeders to the adjoining markets :⁷²

- a) From Phulbari to Chilkiguri , 10 miles .
- b) From Takuamari to Majherdabri , 4 miles .
- c) From Pundibari to Patlakhawah , 7 miles .

During this year for the purpose of shooting party the following paths were opened :⁷³

- a) Majherdabri to Bholka , 4 miles .
- b) Garodhat to Bholka , 4 miles .
- c) Garodhat to Haldibari , 10 miles .

In 1892 a light Iron screw pile bridge was constructed over the Torsa river at Kalighat . It was named the “Sunity Bridge” after Her Highness Maharanee of Cooch Behar .⁷⁴

It served the purpose , when the river gradually began to expand and the abutment commenced giving way .

In 1893 a number of roads and bridges were constructed , which were as follows :⁷⁵

- a) Diversion road , Mathabhanga was constructed with the iron bridge over the Dolong . It was built on two wrought iron piles 5" diameter as piers , screwed to a depth of 12 ft. each. The road way was made of corrugated iron sheets , 14 B.W.G., bolted to rolled iron joists 14" x 6" . The diagonals and bracings are of T iron and the railings are of T iron standards and gas tubing , at the cost of Rs. 5,369.
- b) Dodua Bridge on the Buxa road was made at the cost of Rs. 3,644 .
- c) Feeder road from Dewanhat to Balarampore was taken up with three branches village paths , at a cost of Rs. 5,071.
- d) Feeder Road from Pundibari, Sukandighi and Chok – kata was constructed with a cost of Rs. 2,066.
- e) Kethurghat Road was made at a cost of Rs. 224.
- f) Khagrabari Road was constructed with one culvert .
- g) Takagach Road was made at a cost of Rs. 854 .
- h) Pucca bridge on Emigration Road was done at a cost of Rs. 332.
- i) Janakinath Tewari road from Chaurahat to Bhubungamari was commenced at a cost of Rs. 2000.

In 1893 – 94 another road was constructed at Ghughumari , named , Ghughumari road , 10 feet wide . It created a road communication between Torsa Railway Station to Ghughumari , a distance of 2 miles .⁷⁶

In 1896 a track from Mathabhanga to Ratherdanga Hat, in the South – West of the sub – division Mathabhanga was made at the cost of Rs. 650.⁷⁷ Changrabanda- Ranirhat road was made during this year .⁷⁸

In 1897 – 98 the following works were taken up :⁷⁹

a) A bridge on the Philkhana road was rendered necessary by the diversion of the town drainage to the Mora - Torsa at a cost of Rs. 1,775 .

b) Diversion of the Rangpur road and conversion of the Manshai bridge into a cart bridge was made at a cost of Rs. 2,066 .

c) Katamari to Manbari road was made at a cost of Rs. 4,011.

In 1898 – 99 P.W.D made a comparative figures on what amount of roads were constructed and repairs from 1898 to 1900 . The following statement was made in this regard : ⁸⁰

Table - 5

Year	Meta lled Road miles	Un-metalled Road miles	Total	cost of re-pair per mile	village path mile	Cost of re-pair per mile	Total out lay in repairs	R e m a r k
1898-99	5	376.50	381.50	87.12	187	19.51	36,843	
1899-00	5.25	358.50	363.75	58.8	164.50	16.2	21.053	

Source : Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State (1899-1900), p,46.

In 1903 – 04 the following works were in process : ⁸¹

a) Two bridges were constructed over Haskhawa and Kalapani at a cost of Rs. 416 .

b) New village path on the Abutara Bamanhat road was completed at the cost of Rs. 1,309 and Latkabari to Chowdhurihat track and Cooch Behar to Bhaiskuchi with branches to Baneswar were commenced in the same year .

In 1904 – 05 there were a number of bridges and roads constructed , which were as follows : ⁸²

Table - 6

<u>Name of work</u>	<u>Estimate</u> Rs.	<u>Expenditure</u> Rs.
1. Permanent bridge over shaniajan river on Emigration Road -----	7,130	7,568
2. Pucca bridge on the Changrabandha road -----	12,600	8,911
3. New village paths from Cooch Behar to Natabari	5,271	3,441
4. Ditto Abutara to Bamanhat -----	2,631	1,218
5. Pucca bridge on the Haldibari portion of Emigration road -----	11,806	2,647
6. Approach road to Pagla Paiker's bridge -----	529	158

Source: Annual administration Report of the Cooch Behar State(1904-05) , p, 14 .

In 1906 – 07 only two new bridges were
constructed, which were as follows : ⁸³

- a) Wooden bridge over Fulkumar to Nazirhat .
- b) Pucca culvert – Nowdanga – Gangerhat Road .

Due to flood damage the following principal works were done
in the same year : ⁸⁴

- a) Filling up gaps in the Emigration Road and reconstruction on a separate alignment a bridge over the Teesta Char at Mekhligunj and repairing a bridge at the 46th mile .
- b) Filling up 3 big gaps and many small ones on the Coch Behar – Shitalkuchi Road .
- c) Filling up seven gaps on the Kakina Road .
- d) Filling up one large gap in the Dinhata – Mekhligunj Rangpur Road.

e) Restoring the washed away portions of the Lowkuti Road .

f) Re – constructing wooden bridge on the Patgram, Bhutan , Kashiabari and Mekligunj Road .

In 1907 – 08 the following culverts were constructed : ⁸⁵

6 feet span	
1. Cross road from Dinhata to Mekhligunj -----	1
2. Janaki Tiwary Road , 8 th mile -----	1
3. Purbabhag Road -----	1
4. Cooch Behar - Garodhat Road -----	1
5. Ratherdanga village path -----	1
6. Chowdhurihat Road -----	1
7. Lowkuti Road -----	1

4 feet span

1. Shahebgunj Road -----	2
2. Balarampore Road 3 rd and 14 th mile -----	2

10 feet span

1. Chowdhurihat Road -----	1
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In 1909 – 10 the following works were done -⁸⁶

a) Construction of feeder road from Falimari Railway Station to Purbabhag Road 15 feet wide with side slopes 2 to 1 has been made.

b) A diversion road from 3rd mile of the Lowkuti road to the tobacco garden with two pucca culverts were constructed connecting Nilkuty with the tobacco garden and the Garodhat Road at a cost of Rs. 1,780.

c) A fair weather track from Changrabandha to Jamaldah was constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,170 .

d) Four new paths were constructed in the Tufangunj sub – division , namely – 1) Krishnapur Road , 2) Debagram Road , 3) Marugunj – Balarampore Road , 4) Salbari

Road ; at a cost of Rs. 1,351 .

Thus the communication through road was formed in planned way in Cooch Behar and in adjacent areas .

ii) Cooch Behar State Railway: The introduction of railways is a landmark in the field of transport and communication of an area . In India railway started in 1853 and extended so rapidly that by 1910 it became the fourth largest railway line in the world.⁸⁷ In case of Cooch Behar it started in 1890.⁸⁸ The enthusiastic effort of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan regarding the construction of railway at Cooch Behar should be mentioned here . In 1890 Maharaja requested the Government of Bengal to construct and work the proposed railway , agreeing to repay the money at the rate of one lac of rupees per annum . The Government of Bengal forwarded this request to the British Government of India .Government of India did not receive the appeal favourably and stated in reply that the project would not be beneficial to the Government and that it was doubtful whether the State could afford .⁸⁹ Cooch Behar State Council advised Maharaja to ask the British rulers to reconsider the whole matter and to lend Maharaja , the money required, the repayment being assured by the hypothecation of the revenues of the chaklarjat estate. The Government of Bengal was addressed accordingly. As regards the prospective benefit of the line to the Government of India pointed out that had Cooch Behar being an isolated country not connected with , and distant from the main arteries of trade in Bengal the plan would have been otherwise . Such a scheme would have had importance only for Cooch Behar itself . But as matters are the Government Railway line actua

-lly terminated upon the Southern border line of the State at a point (Mughalhat) where not even a village exists still less any centre or source of trade . The proposed Cooch Behar line would not only connect this point with the large and increasing town of Cooch Behar but it was joined, (if produced) to Alipur 11 miles further north . It also brought railway communication within 20 miles of the Bhutan frontier post of Buxa . As to the ability of the State to meet the charge of repayment without embarrassment , it was stated that a re- settlement of the land revenue of the State was about to be completed . An increase was expected there from upwards of 2.50 lacs of rupees . Maharaja Nripendra Narayan saw here an opportunity of undertaking a work of permanent benefit to the state and people and was prepared to devote a number of such an increase to meet the purpose .⁹⁰

Sir John Ware Edger , the chief secretary to the Government of Bengal, communicated the terms upon which Government was advised that the loan could be made to the state of Cooch Behar . There were more cogent difficulties standing in the way of the scheme in the form in which it had been presented before the Colonial Government . These difficulties were as follows :

Firstly- The State would not consider it prudent to construct a meter gauge railway from Gitaldaha to Cooch Behar unless the British Government would guarantee the co-temporary conversion to meter gauge of the narrow gauge line between Kawnea and Mughalhat . It would be obviously anomalous to have the terminal portion of this line constructed on a broad gauge than the portion of which it will form an extension .⁹¹

Secondly – Sir Theodore Hope Railway scheme was designed to connect the Assam line with Mymensing (received sanction in England) . It would seem to be very improbable that the older project of connecting Dhubri with Kawnea through Gital-daha, would be proceeded with . The railway scheme of Cooch Behar as submitted to the British Government was bound up with this latter project . Its abandonment would necessitate a complete and radical change of the whole plan . Thus the proposed alignment of Cooch Behar Railway was drawn with the object of effecting a junction with the prospective Government line from Gitaldaha to Dhubri at a point (Abutara) some 5 or 6 miles should fall on the State . For such a plan the estimates would be increased by possibly four or even five lakhs of rupees, as more than one large bridge would have to be made by the state .⁹²

Thirdly – If Government should resolve to abandon the project of connecting Kawnea with Dhubri via Mugalhat , then it was even possible that the narrow gauge line between Kawnea and Mughalhat might be done away with .⁹³

At last the construction of the Cooch Behar State Railway was completed in 1890 and the line opened for goods and passenger traffic .⁹⁴ In the mean time the rules of the Eastern Bengal State Railway have been adopted in their entirety in this State , and the British Indian Railway Act of 1890 has been introduced with necessary modification . Certain suggestions regarding the management of the line have been accepted by the manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system , and the line is being managed as economically as possible. The police arrangements for the line during this time still form the subject of corr

- espondence between Cooch Behar State authority and the Railway authority . The manager of Eastern Bengal State Railway has accepted Cooch Behar State Council's suggestion that three men only – two constables and one head constable – were to be entertained . The line was still under the supervision of the local police .⁹⁵

Apart from that the encroachment of the Torsa river at Ghughumari towards the Railway line has caused great apprehension as to its safety . All protective measures were taken by the State Public Works Department under instructions received from Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities. The chief engineer, and the manager inspected the spot during the year 1892.⁹⁶ Under report and being so ordered the construction of spurs was approved for the cutting of a channel to divert the course of the river, which in a due course was carried out . In spite of these precautions, however, the river has, since the close of the year approached towards the line during the late flood, and is now with nearly 200 ft. of the Railway line .⁹⁷

In 1892 another project was under discussion on the extension of railway line to the town by bridging the river Torsa. The proposal for opening two flag stations at Fakirtakia and Bhetaguri was sent for consideration of the Railway authorities. The proposal was sanctioned and the manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway took steps to carry it out .⁹⁸

In 1896 the Cooch Behar State Railway was proposed to extend up to Santarabari . Thus Santarabari Railway was surveyed by the Superintendent of works , Cooch Behar, under the supervision of Manager , Eastern Bengal

State Railway System.⁹⁹ Maharaja Nripendra Narayan expressed his willingness to bear the expenses of the line up to Kholta, which would amount roughly to Rs. 2.75 lakhs, and asked the Bhutan Government for permission to prospect in Bhutan territory for coal and minerals.¹⁰⁰

In the end of December, 1897 the Government of India sanctioned the construction of the part of line to Jainti, as well as a loan of two lacs of rupees to Maharaja of Cooch Behar to meet part of the construction of the portion of the line in Cooch Behar territory, and directed construction to be passed on as fast as possible.¹⁰¹

In 1898 the manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway submitted a financial report on railway in which the railway expenditure was increased on the following heads:¹⁰²

Table – 7 (A)

	<u>Rs.</u>
Preliminary expenses -----	----
Land -----	253
Formation -----	6714
Bridge work -----	58,187
Fencing, & c. -----	1,248
Ballast and permanent way -----	19,779
Stations and buildings -----	8,353
Plants -----	377
General charges -----	4,144

The amount held in suspense was Rs. 24,885.

Source: Annual administration Report of the Cooch Behar State(1898-99), p, 20.

Table – 7 (B)

	For the Year 1897	For the Year 1898
Mean –mileage worked -----miles	22.12	22.13
Train mileage ----- miles	22,740	38,374
Gross earnings ----- Rs.	64,261	66,123
Working expenses ----- Rs.	28,917	29,756
Net earnings ----- Rs.	35,344	36,367
No. of passengers carried ----- No.	62,492	72,698
Earnings from above ----- Rs.	21,083	24,355
Tonnage of goods carried ----- Tons	14,607	15,048
Earnings from above ----- Rs.	31,771	33,008
Percentage of working expenses to gross earnings	45.00	45.00
Percentage of net earnings on capital outlay, including suspense -----	4.58	4.52

Source: Annual administration Report of the Cooch Behar State(1898-99), p, 20.

In 1899 the railway was also opened for both passengers and goods traffic up to Alipur Duar. The British section of the line has, subsequently to the close of the year, been opened between Alipur Duar and Rajabhat-khawa from this place to Jainti.¹⁰³ In 1900 it was pointed out to Maharaja Nripendra Narayan that it was obviously necessary to try and obtain some modification in terms of the existing working agreement, with special reference to the existing portion of the agreement dealing with the provision of rolling stock and to facilitate such a modification line should be converted from 2' 6" to meter – gauge so as to secure similarity of gauge between the parent and branch line.¹⁰⁴

In this way Cooch Behar State railway ushered in an era of better communication for Cooch Behar State and its people . Apart from that Cooch Behar State railway became the most convenient means of transport in this state as well as in India as a whole . As till the introduction of railway , road was the most convenient and cheapest mode of traffic, trading purpose and also for movement of troops in remote areas . One feature here was noticeable that through the railway cultural assimilation originated among the people of Cooch Behar and with the neighbouring areas .

iii) The Cooch Behar Palace The construction of a prosperous Palace at the heart of the town of Cooch Behar for the royal family was taken during the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan . The construction work had a history of arrangement . In 1881 Major Mant's design in the Indo – Sarcenic style having been abandoned in favour of a new design by Mr. Martin in the Italian style and the services of Messers . Cane and Robins having been dispensed with the contract for the whole Palace was given to Messrs .¹⁰⁵ Marllier and Edwards of Calcutta , who commenced actual work in January 1881, having been spent a good deal of time in making preliminary arrangements .

Mr. Martin had shaped his design so as to utilize the foundations already put in for the East portion and it was stipulated in the contract , though not , in so far as , under any separate or express penalty that this portion should be finished in time for the Maharaja's installation in October 1883 . Not with standing that Messers Marllier and Edwards had the experience of previous contractors and of

the local officers to steer by, they failed in keeping a sufficient quality of good bricks during an exceptionally favourable season . They also failed in keeping a sufficient staff of masons and coolies to ensure a rate of progress commensurate with the fulfillment of their promise .¹⁰⁶ The following extract from the report of Mr. Barkley, the clerk of works, would show the progress made – “In preparing the design Mr. Martin has, except with slight modifications , utilized the foundations of the North portion that had already been built , besides affording more accommodation , has helped greatly in adding to the completeness and beauty of the outward appearance of the building . The execution of the work was entrusted with Messers Marllier and Edward of Calcutta . The preliminary arrangements of the work commenced in October and a good deal of time was taken up in obtaining labour , bringing up engines from Calcutta and also organizing a regular system of work . Till the beginning of January 1882 that the work was not properly commenced”.¹⁰⁷ Mr. Martin inspected the works on the 9th April of 1882 and was satisfied that the building was being subsequently and carefully carried out and as a good start had once been made . The building was completed up to the plinth , and substructure commenced . In 1885 – 86 the ornamental lake was taken in hand and nearly finished during the year . The earth obtained from excavation was used in filling up holes and levelling the Palace compound . The spare earth might be utilized in filling up the places that would sink and slip during the first rains . It also used for levelling the portion towards the north end of the compound .¹⁰⁸

In 1886 the north and west wings were quite completed and became

fit for the occupation of Maharaja and his family.¹⁰⁹

Thus all the rooms were ornamented under the guidance of the Public Works Department and the Palace got its fulfilled shape . The magnificent royal palace of Cooch Behar with its artistic beauty attracted the tourist from all over the world . It bears the symbol of power and grandeur of this small Princely State situating furthest corner of India . The palace is now declared as a Heritage building and is under the supervision of the Archeological Survey of India .

iv) The Madanmohan Thakur Bari During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan , the Madanmohan Thakur Bari was built which was a replica of temple architecture . The superintendent of work describes the new building in the following way :¹¹⁰

The necessity of removing the mass of old buildings with any architectural pretensions which constituted the Thakurbari from a prominent place in the Palace compound was left for a long time , but owing to the want of funds the much desired improvement could not have been carried out . In the beginning of the year 1889 the Dewan of the State of Cooch Behar found out a sum of Rs. 7472 by selling the ornaments of the idols which formed the nucleus of the fund for carrying out the project . The estimate cost was Rs. 19,510 , which was sourced from three channels – **First** , by sale proceeds of the ornaments of the idols , as stated above was Rs. 7473 , **Second** , the estimated value of the old materials was Rs. 3000 , **Third** , the grant from the revenue therefore came to Rs. 9037 , out of

which Rs. 800 was adjusted during the year . The new site was selected on the north of Bairagidighi on the jail road , and an entire block as bounded by the north by a new lane , west by market road , south by jail road and east by Gopal Babu street .

Apart from that this temple had other elements too , which were as follows :¹¹¹

a) A gateway with an octagonal Nahabutkhanah above two side rooms 10' x 10' have been constructed of the same style as the main building .

b) A corrugated iron shed on brick walls of 3rd class bricks constructed for cock room and other out houses . It contains five rooms and the length is 73 feet and breadth 12 feet .

c) An enclosure wall was been constructed of 3rd class bricks . The total length of which is 1210 feet .

Two gateway on each side of the main entrance with ornamental pillars had been provided with three doorways in the three other walls . The walls facing the main streets had been perforated with ornamental openings on the top, which added to the appearance of the walls .

Thus the temple formed a center of sects' assimilation in Cooch Behar .

v) Construction of several buildings at Cooch Behar

a) The construction of the printing press , was consequently in progress since 1878 at a cost of Rs. 5432 .¹¹²

b) Guard – house , store – room and jailor' s office - among them two buildings each 68' x 20' had been constructed .¹¹³

c) House of kumar Gajendra Narayan was 44' x 33' with a portico in front 20' x 17' , and a separate sleeping room attached 20' x 17' . These house had been constructed with thatched roof on sal posts .¹¹⁴

d) Kumar Jotindra Narayans' House was 42' 8" x 33' 4" and was divided into four rooms with an open verandah in front on pillars .The work commenced in 1884 and the foundation and plinth completed .The work was completed in 1885 at a cost of Rs. 8,186 .¹¹⁵

e) Brahma Samaj building commenced in 1886 and was finished during that year . It had a portico in front with a tower and projecttions at each end for stair case and galleries and one semi – circular projection at the back for the pulpit .¹¹⁶

f) Lansdowne Hall, was Italian in style . Its external length , north to south was 109' – 4" feet and breadth 85" – 3" . The Hall was placed under a select committee and used occasionally as a place of public meeting . The main doors are 12' x 6' four – fold , have sashes embossed with Lord Lansdowne's and Maharajas crests . The total cost of construction was Rs. 12,318 .¹¹⁷ The Lansdown Hall on the bank of Sagardighi reminds us the architectural taste of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar .

g) The Rajmata hospital building was constructed in 1909 at a cost of Rs. 17912 .¹¹⁸

Thus in the long process of work P.W.D took active role in the construction of several buildings .

Tonga Service in Cooch Behar In October 1885 a combined Mail and Passenger service opened for the conveyance of mails and passenger from Gitaldaha to Alipur by the State and the Postal Department . Due to some obligations the service was

suspended on first October 1886, and re – opened on May 1887 for passengers .¹¹⁹

During the Shooting camp contractors managed to provide an extra dak from Cooch Behar to the Camp, a distance of a week without interfering with the regular service . The State authority hoped that the service would continue . In 1888 a new system namely , Palky Gharry dak with a pair for the convenience of the native female was introduced .¹²⁰

In this way the Tonga service continued to serve the purpose for which it was formed .

Agricultural work on tobacco in Cooch Behar The subject of improving the quality of tobacco was taken up by the Commissioner in 1877 – 78 . In this year 100 bighas of land were taken up, the greater portion at Kowadara near Mathabh -anga , and a small plot at Situlkuchi , Mekhligunj , and Cooch Behar for the purpose of experimental cultivation .¹²¹ In 1905 the Cooch Behar State authority decided to undertake an experiment on growing American tobacco (the yellow leaf of Virginai) in Cooch Behar . In Sub – divisional districts of Cooch Behar indigenous tobacco has been grown for centuries . During 1905–06 a few acres were put under Virginian tobacco .¹²² In 1906, 82 bighas of land was selected for tobacco cultivation , because it was decided that agricultural land of Cooch Behar was best for tobacco cultivation .¹²³ In the mean while the Cooch Behar State authority made effort to improve the cultivation of tobacco and have been so far successful that the Peninsular Tobacco Company have bought up the whole crop at an average

rate of Rs.15 per maund , the prevailing market rate for local tobacco being Rs.10 . As a result of that new tobacco seeds were cultivated in 180 bighas .¹²⁴ Maharaja Nripendra Narayan sent his third son Victor Nityendra Narayan to United States to study the agriculture and specially in tobacco , so that it might improve the resource of the State in his return .¹²⁵ Here it can be stated that tobacco was the staple product of Cooch Behar .

The Scheme of Plantation Work at Cooch Behar Regarding plantation a good deal had been done during the year 1878 . In this year one thousand sal trees have been brought from Bhutan forests and planted in the Nilkuty area . Along with that 800 Sishu trees had also been planted near the Stock Yard .¹²⁶ Not only that a number of trees had been planted of different sorts, as a continuation of the old avenue on the Rungpur Road . About a mile of the Emigration Road had also been lined with young trees, in extension of the existing avenue immediately west of Cooch Behar. Existing plantation have been maintained.¹²⁷

Thus the work of Plantation received an impetus in Cooch Behar and it also indicated that Maharaja was well aware of the environment and beautification of the State . Such kind of an attempt (to protect the environment) was identical during those days .

Cooch Behar Town Committee Act for municipality In 1883 the Cooch Behar State Council was pleased to sanction the constitution of the municipality for the town of Cooch Behar and appointed a committee consisting of the Superintendent of

the State as President, the Dewan and the superintendent of work as member and the Fouzdar Ahilkar as secretary.¹²⁸ Towards the close of the year 1885 the Municipal Committee submitted a Bill to provide for the appointment of Town Committee in Towns and other places in the State of Cooch Behar and to maintain better provision for the conservancy, improvement and watching there of and levying taxes there in.¹²⁹ As a result of the Act there were four Town Committees namely, Cooch Behar, Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Dinhata formed in the State.¹³⁰ Nevertheless, such kind of Committee represents the local self – government system in Cooch Behar. It also helped to understand the actual condition of people in the State.

Cooch Behar Merchandise Marks Act To provide a law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise in accordance with the law of British India, as enacted in the Merchandise Marks Act of 1889, the Cooch Behar Merchandise Marks Bill was introduced. This Bill was adopted the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act with respect of false trade descriptions and recasted on the lines of that Act that part of the Indian Penal Code which relates trade marks of property marks.¹³¹

Preparation of Census Report of 1901 & 1911 During his rule an important step was taken for preparation of report on population in Cooch Behar. The work of registration of birth and death in the State helped in preparing such a report. The date of taking the census was fixed for the 1st March 1901. For the purpose of the census the courts and offices were closed on two occasions, once on the 20th and 21st February, when the preliminary record was checked, and again on the 1st and

2nd March 1901 for the preparation of the final record .¹³² The census was taken on the date fixed . All forms required for the census purpose were supplied by the Government of Bengal . Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was pleased to sanction Rs. 3000 for Census purpose in the year 1900 under review and a further sum of Rs. 2,200 to meet the establishment charges for the whole of the month of April up to the close of Census operations .¹³³

Similarly in 1911 another Census report , submitted by the Fauzdari Ahilkar, who was in charge of the Census operations in the State of Cooch Behar . In the new census it would be seen that the population of Cooch Behar increased during the last 10 years from 5,66,973 to 5,93,052 I. e. , an increase of 26,079 (4.59 percent) .¹³⁴

Publication of land revenue settlement work of Cooch Behar During the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan an important work was the publication of “The Cooch Behar State and its land revenue settlement” in 1903. Babu Harendra Narayan Chowdhuri an experienced officer of the Cooch Behar State , who was in charge of the Settlement Department for a long time , was considered best fitted to under take the compilation of this book. The Dewan of Cooch Behar State wrote an introduction for the book, briefly summarizing the result of the resettlement . This work discussed the survey and settlement operations commencing in 1885 .¹³⁵ Maharaja in Council expressed his remark in a Resolution in which it was stated that the evils of the old ijaradari system are re – capitulated , and the difficulties experienced by the State officers , who was in charge of the settlement operations can be read on nearly

every page of the book . To all the officers , who performed their arduous duties to his entire satisfaction. Maharaja took this opportunity of expressing his cordial thanks . In this regard it is to be noted that the success of the settlement was the subsequent extension of cultivation and the increase of revenue were due to the untiring energy and active control of the Dewan .¹³⁶

The settlement operations went on during the year 1906 – 07. As , however , the scope of the work wended with the progress of the operations and the increase in revenue expected was over Rs. 4,500 instead of Rs. 3,000 as originally expected. Maharaja was pleased on this matter . On the recommendation of the Dewan of the State, an additional sum of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned for the compilation of the settlement work . The settlement office was closed at the end of the year , as will be seen in the Dewan's report the total area surveyed including the town proper which came under assessment was 1,458 bighas , the jama assessed was Rs.17,013 -3-1 .¹³⁷

The Cooch Behar Landholders Association For better implementation of the Cooch Behar Tenancy bill , the Cooch Behar Landholders Association consisting of landholders of Cooch Behar was formed in 1908 . Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was pleased to order that no individual holding a State appointment could be permitted to join this Association and to grant the Association 6 months ' time to consider the proposed law .¹³⁸ This would mean that Maharaja was a benevolent ruler .

B) Development in Cultural field Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was out and out modern in outlook . During his rule he took many initiatives in the cultural sphere

of Cooch Behar . These initiatives were as follows :

Printing of the Cooch Behar Select Record as an official document During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan an important administrative measure was taken by the work of printing Cooch Behar Select Records in 1882 . The indexes were made after the work completed. This records consists of 871 letters (official) . In this record the Cooch Behar state authority did not exclude any letter of historical or local interest . In these records some of the letters , the views expressed in which were modified by others , in such cases both sets of letters had to be entered , as otherwise the reader would not be in position of all the papers connected with the subject under discussion .¹³⁹ Thus the number of selected letters became large . The connection of the Cooch Behar state with the British Government commenced with the treaty of 1772 . It was after that year that references began to be made with the Government on matters relating to Cooch Behar . The Records have been published in two quarto volumes , there are 359 pages in the first volume , and 279 pages in the second .¹⁴⁰

Keeping records in printed form was nothing but the farsightedness of the Maharaja . The two volumes of Select Records containing day to day correspondence with the British Government is a valuable primary source for the history of Cooch Behar . Researchers who are now investigating the different aspects of the history of Cooch Behar under the Maharajas , to them Select Records are the invaluable source of information .

Introducing Shooting Camp Maharaja was in favour of implementing British

culture of shooting arrangements. Because he loved to play shooting and hunting . For this purposes he maintained reserve forests in Garodhat and Patlakhawa area .¹⁴¹ In 1897 – 98 under the order of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan , lands aggregating 10,418 bighas in taluk Bakshirbosh Putimari and also in taluk Bara shalbari , Cheng - timari , Atea Mochar , Takoamari , Rampore - Garbhanga , Paglirkuti , Rashikbil , Khgribari , Jaldhoa and Pholimari , at Tufangunj , aggregating 19,980 bighas , 1 cotta and 5 dhurs were resumed and were being kept as reserve forest for Maharaja's shooting purpose and suitable compensation were being given to ryots in this regard .¹⁴²

The following table show the amount of shooting expenditure from 1900 - 1905 – ¹⁴³

Table - 8

Year	Rs.	A.	P.
1900 – 01	16,361	0	0
1901 – 02	20,037	0	0
1902 – 03	32,375	0	0
1903 – 04	31,251	0	0
1904 – 05	8 , 623	10	11

Source: Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State(1904-05), p, 26 .

Apart from that in 1906 at Chilapeta , in 1907 at Kolabari and at Bholka shooting camps were organized for big game shooting . ¹⁴⁴ In 1908 Maharaja wrote a memoir on shooting namely , “ *Thiety Seven years of Big Game Shooting in Cooch Behar and Assam* ” in which he vividly describes his shooting arrangements. ¹⁴⁵ Here he also mentioned that in 1907 – 08 the zamindars of Lakhi – mpur, Bijni , Gouripur rendered much helped in making the necessary arrangements

.¹⁴⁶ Thus Maharaja set the tone of a new cultural activity in the state of Cooch Behar .

Fairs and festivals in Cooch Behar : Maharaja was a patron of cultural affairs . As a part of that in 1885 fair was organized at Boda , namely Boalmari Mela .¹⁴⁷ In this occasion the thakurbari (temple) at Boda was renovated by the State authority . The building was 38'- 6" x 26' – 6" and was decorated with terrace roof on 'T' bars and with necessary additions and alterations. The whole building has been plastered and white washed .¹⁴⁸ In 1904 – 05 at Dinhata and at Haldibari fairs were organised by the municipality of these areas .¹⁴⁹ In 1909 the Gadadhar mela and Phulbari mela at Tufangunj and Syam Sunder mela at Mekligunj area were organised by the State authority.¹⁵⁰ Apart from that Rash mela and Rather mela , Pooneah ceremony were organized in the Cooch Behar town in several years . Among these festivals Rash mela had a history of its own . It was started in 1812 by Maharaja Harendra Narayan on the occasion of his entry in a new building at Bhetaguri . In course of time it shifted to the town of Cooch Behar. All these cultural events created an atmosphere of cultural assimilation among the people and it also helped in the arena of trade and commerce among the businessmen .

Royal patronage on Philkhana : From ancient times elephant shows the symbol of royal prestige. In this matter Cooch Behar was not an exception to that . In Cooch Behar town a road was constructed in Philkhana area namely Philkhana Road . It indicates that Maharaja gave lot of importance to this field . Apart from

that during the commencement of year 1883 the number of elephants at Philkhana 41. Towards the end of the year this number was increased to 54. This would suggest that royal patronage was very much favourable on the Philkhana. The Philkhana consisted of one Jamadar, two jamadars, one weighman, two gola-guard (granary-guard), one clerk, mahuts, mates and charakatas.¹⁵¹ In 1892-93 a small catching operation of elephant was taken under the order of Maharaja. The operation would have left a profit to the State of Cooch Behar, after paying all expenses, had the elephants been sold.¹⁵² In this regard it should be concluded that Maharaja organised Khedda operation during his rule for conducting the smooth running of the Philkhana.

Sporting management of Cooch Behar Maharaja Nripendra Narayan adopted manly forms of exercise such as fencing, racquets, tennis, polo etc. As a part of that he maintained sporting culture at Cooch Behar. In 1878 Maharaja ordered P.W.D, erection of a tennis court similar to the Viceroy's court at Simla. The Superintendent of Works was sent to Simla to take notes and measurements. The proposed court was 80 x 30 feet with masonry walls, iron sheet roofing 24 B.W.G on iron trusses under laid by a teakwood ceiling. It had got a 0.50" teak wood floor of tongued and grooved planks. A gallery of 7 feet was closed along the south side of the pent roofs of this gallery were also of teak.¹⁵³ The inside walls were colored by painters brought from Calcutta. The building which was commenced in October, complete within three months. Apart from that the recreation grounds at Nilkuty was maintained at a cost of Rs. 597 for Lawn Tennis and Polo and Cricket.¹⁵⁴

Here it needs to mention that Maharaja initiated a prize for cricket matches in Cooch Behar namely , Cooch Behar Trophy. He was also a player of game like billiard and for regular practice he constructed a billiard room at the Royal Palace of Cooch Behar .

C)Development in Economic Field : In the economic sphere Maharaja initiated certain measures for planned administration which were as follows :

a) Maintenance of various funds –

i) Communication improvement fund was started in 1893 and for the first six years of its existence it received regularly a grant of Rs. 50,000 . After that it received State grants (according to need) for improving the communication of the State of Cooch Behar .¹⁵⁵

ii) Cooch Behar jubilee Fund was formed in 1887 for the development of work under town committee (municipality) of Cooch Behar .¹⁵⁶

iii) Anndamayee Trusty fund was formed in 1889 as on the basis of a will of Maharajkumari Anandamoyee , who bequeathing all her moveable and immoveable property to Maharaja Nripendra Narayan to use it for the welfare of poor and needy persons .¹⁵⁷

iv) Cooch Behar Mutual Provident Fund was formed in 1902 for providing money as life security for all the officials , who were working in Cooch Behar state .¹⁵⁸

Apart from that there were certain other funds such as Cooch Behar , Mathabhanga , Dinhatata and Haldibari Municipal Fund, Maharaja's Children's Fund , Reserve Fund , Pound Fund , Village Chaukidari Funds were formed to serve the

need .¹⁵⁹

Maintaining budget for several years : Maharaja Nripendra Narayan maintained annual budget in every year for smooth running of the State administration . Because budget is one thing which helped the authority to take decision on what measures would be suitable for the respective year . The budget of 1880 – 81 shows that the revenue of the year would be Rs. 13,42,651 and expenditure Rs. 14,74,212 and that therefore be a deficit of Rs. 1,31,561 .¹⁶⁰ Thus the deficit of Rs. 1,31,561 in the budget estimate for 1880 – 81 became , under the financial event of the year . The budget estimate , more importantly would affect Maharaja's personal expenses , State – stables , Hospitality , Agriculture , Jail , Debuttar departments .¹⁶¹ In 1887 – 88 budget shows that an excessive amount was spent due to Maharaja's 'English Trip Charges ' .¹⁶² These extra expenditure would affect the general allotment of the year . In 1888 – 89 in view of the necessity for general economies in all branches of the administration and certain of a reserve fund , Maharaja sent two alternative proposals of retrenchment to the Regency Council for consideration . The Superintendent of the State could not recommend the scheme , contemplating the division of the State from two main sub – divisions instead of four at that time . More importantly this change would upset the present system of collection of revenue, which was in fact Khas Tehsil system , and in the furtherance of which the sub – divisions viz ., Dinahata , Mathabhanga, Mekhligunj , Tufangunj had their origin .¹⁶³ In 1893 - 94 an increase in finance occurred due to the earnings from Cooch Behar State Railway .¹⁶⁴ In 1904 – 05 budget , it was decided that toll tax system should be introduced on

the bridges namely, Shaniajan, 34th mile Emigration Road, which would provide money to the Communication Improvement Fund.¹⁶⁵ In 1906 – 07 budget, special grant of Rs.10,050 was given to experimental scheme on agricultural sphere.¹⁶⁶ In 1907 - 08 budget, a sum of Rs. 15,000 granted by the Maharaja for an Indian industrial exhibition in the state of Cooch Behar.¹⁶⁷ In 1908 - 09 a sum of Rs. 9,035 was granted as grain compensation allowance to the ryots of the State.¹⁶⁸ In 1909 – 10 budget a provision of ‘control’ was introduced which helped the finance department to rectify the increase on expenditure was due to ‘ Establishment and Travelling Allowances ’of Maharaja’s office budget and the Council Office budget.¹⁶⁹

In 1910 – 11 budget shows the general increase of revenue was under the following heads –¹⁷⁰

- a) Land revenue ----- Rs. 3,892
- b) Stamps ----- Rs. 14,420
- c) Excise ----- Rs. 1,160
- d) Interest on loans and investments --- Rs. 6,340
- e) Sundries ----- Rs. 454

Thus the budget estimate helped the state authority to decided which was appropriate to the prevailing year . It also shows that Maharaja was out and out modern in outlook .

Exchange of Narayani rupees : In 1887 an important step was taken by the Cooch Behar state regarding the exchange of their Narayani rupees . During this year the treasury officer of the State pointed out that the Cooch Behar State was subjected to loss in issuing the Government rupees (British) in exchange of Narayani coins and

a complicated bullion account had to be kept in the treasury .¹⁷¹ The treasury officer recommended the issue of a proclamation to the effect that the state of Cooch Behar would not be bound to give Government rupees for Narayani coins . The Dewan of the State of Cooch Behar supported the above recommendation and suggested that a year's time from 1st January 1888 should be given to people within which those who wished to sell their coins might do so . The Cooch Behar State Council approved of the Dewan's suggestion and authorized him to issue the necessary proclamation.¹⁷²

Revenue Collection System : The State of Cooch Behar maintained a clinical system of revenue collection . This revenue collection system worked under the following heads :

a) Land revenue was divided into two heads namely , Mal and Debuttar . In this connection it could be said that the latter could not be properly styled as revenue at all , as it was set apart for religious purpose and was not available for expenditure on secular administration . On the other hand Khangri or house – hold – revenue was a sub – division of the Mal , and supposed to have had its origin in the fact that the Government of India , in calculating the revenues of the State for the purpose of fixing the tribute , omitted to count the revenue of certain mahals as being appropriated to the Maharaja's special and private maintenance , and these mahals were accordingly set apart for that purpose .¹⁷³ The revenue collection system was divided into three parts , namely Malcutcheri , the Dewanbash Kutcheri and the Sarasari Kutcheri . The first two were offices for the collection of reve-

nue and the last for the trial of summery suits for the realization of rent .¹⁷⁴

b) The Nezarat department was renovated after 1871 with one Nazir to supervise the whole department and through this department the fees used to be realized from the parties to the suit in cash , a halt of which went to the State .¹⁷⁵

c) In 1877 Canoongoes were appointed who had the duty of assisting the revenue officials in the following matters –¹⁷⁶

i) To try to bring waste land under cultivation ;

ii) To see that the boundaries of the State (Cooch Behar) were not transgressed ;

iii) To make enquiries in cases in which remissions of revenue have to be granted ,

iv) To enquire about property belonging to defaulters owing large sums to the State when the areas cannot be realized by the sale of the defaulting jotes ;

v) To make enquiries respecting khas and relinquished jotes ;

vi) To report on the changes caused by rivers ;

vii) To see that the Cooch Behar authorities Hats were fully maintained, and try to develops the commerce of the country by establishing new Hats ;

viii) To take up land for new roads ;

ix) To make enquiries about persons who have got rent – free land, or lands assess -ed at half rates , for their lives , and take steps for setting such lands when the present occupants die ;

x) To look after the Sal and Sishu forests and try to plants trees on khas land .

xi) To collect statistics .

xii) To perform other duties as necessity arises .

d) In 1869 the Government Excise system of revenues collection was introduced in the State and revenues were collected from the opium and ganja as duty fee .¹⁷⁷

e) Before the time of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Stamp paper was not in use in the Cooch Behar courts . Instead of stamps there was a system of charging fees on cases instituted , under the name of ‘Institution Fees’ .¹⁷⁸ The introduction of Stamps was a reform of the Maharaja , who passed the Stamp Act on the 25th Magh 1268 B.E . An interesting point to be noted here that no adhesive Stamps had ever been introduced in Cooch Behar . Like every other sources of income , the history of the Stamp revenue of the State of Cooch Behar had a history of rapid progress . In 1864 – 65 the Stamp revenue amounted to Rs. 25,965 . In 1883 – 84 it was Rs. 1,32,833 and it came up to Rs. 1,70,730 in 1899 – 1900 .¹⁷⁹ Thus the Stamp revenue made a rapid progress .

Apart from these heads , Cooch Behar State introduced certain other kinds of collection such as criminal fines, chaukidari tax etc.¹⁸⁰

During the rule of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan all sorts of developmental activities were introduced in Cooch Behar which made this tiny Princely State a model of developed – modern well defined State in this part of the country and from the point of view of his achievements it is amply clear to call him as the harbinger of modernization . His successors also followed the same line in order to maintain the tradition .

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Jehangir , Sorabji , *Princes and Chiefs of India* , Vol. – II , London, 1903 , p, 35.

2. Chowdhury , H.N. , *The Cooch Behar State and its Land Revenue Settlement*,
Cooch Behar State Press, Cooch Behar ,1903, p, 294.
3. Majumdar, R.C. , *History of Modern Bengal, Part One (1765 -1905)* , G. Bharaddwaj
& Co., Calcutta , 1978, p, 165.
4. Chowdhury, H.N. , *op. cit.*, p, 307 .
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.* , p, 325.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.* .
10. *Ibid.* , p, 326 .
11. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S (1878 – 79)* , p, 56.
12. Chowdhury , H.N. , *op. cit.* , p, 326.

“ The year 1877 – 78 under report was in one respect was an important one in the history of educational progress in Cooch Behar . Up to the pre-sent time the state contribution towards the cost of mass education has increased yearly in proportion to the increase in the number of schools and the percentage of school – going population . But when the budget for 1877 – 78 was submitted for Government sanction , the Lieutenant – Governor took occasion to say that he considered that the limit to which the state revenue ought to be made liable for educational progress had now been reached . ”

13. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S (1878 - 79)* , p,56.
14. *Ibid.*

15. *Ibid.*
16. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1883 – 84), p,39.*
17. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S.(1888 – 89), p, 39.*
18. *Ibid ., p, 43.*
19. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1888 – 89), p, 45.*
20. *A.A.R of the C.B.S. (1884 – 85), p,39.*
21. *Ibid. , p, 40.*
22. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1889 – 90) , p, 22.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S (1891 – 92), p, 38.*
25. *Ibid.*
26. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1892 – 93),p, 56.*
27. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1895 – 96), p, 58 .*
28. Chowdhury , H.N. – *op. cit. , p, 328.*
29. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1899 -1900) , p, 8.*
30. *Ibid. , p, 68.*
31. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1900 – 01), p, 27.*
32. *Ibid., p, 29.*
33. *Ibid., p, 32.*
34. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1901 – 02), p, 22.*
35. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1902 – 03), p, 3 .*
36. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1904 – 05), p, 16.*
37. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1906 – 07) , p, 4.*

38. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1908 – 09)*, p, 17.

39. *S. N.B.S.L.(1996)* , pp, 9 – 11 .

40. *Ibid .*, p, 14.

41. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1880 – 81)*, p, 63 .

42. *C.B.S.R.* , Vol. - II , p, 140 .

43. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S (1878 – 79)*, p,51 .

44. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1880 – 81)*, p, 48 .

45. *Ibid.*, p, 49 .

46. *Ibid.*

47. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1884 – 85)*, p, 18 .

48. *Ibid.*

49. *Ibid.* , p, 20 .

“ Over 300 were performed during the year 1884 – 85, though only a few of them were of any importance , there were several cases of fracture including compound comminuted , compound and simple . Amputation of leg and knee – joint, amputation of thumb, reduction of dislocation of shoulder – joint, opening of abscesses , boils and whitlows , paracentesis of hydrocele, removal of foreign bodies from eyes , ear , nose and urethra and extraction of teeth , &c.”

50. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1889 – 90)*, p, 10.

“ Annual expenditure of Rs.600 as noted below was sanctioned for the main – tenance of the dispensary –

	Rs.
One Native Doctor -----	30

One Componder -----	10
One Servent -----	3
One Sweeper -----	1
Contingencies -----	<u>6</u>
Total -----	50

51. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1890 – 91), p, 58 .*

52. *Ibid.*

53. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1891 – 92), p, 52.*

54. *A.A.R of the C.B.S. (1893 – 94), p, 58 .*

55. *Ibid. ,p, 59 .*

56. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1897 – 98) , p, 46.*

57. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1898 – 99), p, 9 .*

58. *Ibid.*

59. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1900 – 01) ,p, 5 .*

60. *Ibid. , p, 38 .*

61. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1902 – 03), p, 27 .*

(*Sudder , Dinhata , Mathabhanga , Mekhligunj, Phulbari, Haldibari, Shitalkuchi, Police & Military , Jail Hospital).*

62. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1904 – 05), p, 3 .*

“ Intelligent boys educated in Cooch Behar , who have passed the Middle English Examination and are 17 years old , are given stipends to enable them to attend the Dacca Medical School . The pay approximates that in the adjoining Distri

-cts , and it is hoped that , with the inducements offered , local recruitment may be more successful .”

63. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1909 – 10)* , p, 5.

64. *Ibid.*

65. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1878 – 79)* , p, 69.

66. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1880 – 81)* , p, 61 .

67. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1882 – 83)* , p, 75 .

68. *Ibid.*, p, 76 .

69. *Ibid.*

70. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1884 – 85)* , p, 48 .

71. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1887 – 88)* , p, 29.

72. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1888 – 89)* , p, 33.

73. *Ibid.*

74. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1891 – 92)* , p, 26 .

75. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1892 – 93)* , p, 30 .

76. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1893 – 94)* , p, 32 .

77. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1895 – 96)* , p,16.

78. *Ibid.*

79. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1897 – 98)* , p, 26.

80. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1899 – 1900)* , p, 46 .

81. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1903 – 04)* , p, 16 .

82. *A.A.R. Of the C.B.S. (1904 – 05)* ,p, 14 .

83. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1906 – 07)* , p, 14 .
84. *Ibid.* , p, 15 .
85. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1907 – 08)* , p, 15 .
86. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1909 – 10)* , p, 15 .
87. *B.P.P (2002)* , p, 7 .
88. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1889 – 90)* , p, 13 .
89. *Ibid.*
90. *Ibid.*
91. *Ibid.*, p, 14 .
92. *Ibid.*
93. *Ibid.*
94. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1892 – 93)* , p,10.
95. *Ibid.*, p,11.
96. *Ibid.*
97. *Ibid.* .
98. *Ibid.*
99. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1895 – 96)* , p,14 .
100. *Ibid.*
101. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1897 – 98)* , p, 16 .
102. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1898 – 99)* , p, 20.

“ The total capital Outlay on the open up to 31st December amounted to Rs. 8,04,427, including suspense . The out lay during the year 1898 was

Rs. 1,30,015, of which the expenditure on the open line was Rs. 30,960 and that on the line in course of construction was Rs. 99, 055 .”

103. *Ibid.* , p, 64 .

104. *Ibid.* , p, 67 .

105. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1882 – 83)*, p, 81 .

106. *Ibid.*

107. *Ibid.*, p,82 .

108. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1885 – 86)*, p, 27 .

The Superintendent of works remarks as follows upon the enormous saving effected on the original estimate by Mr. Cane ---

“ I (Superintendent) take this opportunity to bring to your notice that the amount estimated by Mr. Cane, and sanctioned by Government for this piece of ornamental lake on the north side of the Palace , and the main road leading from the Palace, was Rs. 1,07,000, and the amount expended by me for the purpose including what will have to be spent hereafter in connection with this lake, will not exceed Rs. 45,000 effecting the net saving of Rs. 62,000 .”

109. *Ibid.* , p, 34.

110. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1888 – 89)*, p, 23.

111. *Ibid.*

112. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1878 – 79)*, p, 79 .

113. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1880 – 81)*, p,59 .

114. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1882 – 83)*, p, 74 .

115. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1884 – 85)*, p, 44 .
116. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1887 – 88)*, p, 29 .
117. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1892 – 93)*, p, 25 .
118. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1909 – 10)*, p, 11 .
119. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1887 – 88)*,p, 54 .
120. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1888 – 89)*, p, 56 .
121. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1878 – 79)*, p, 16 .
122. Nag , Hiten (ed.) – *America through Hindu Eyes* ,N.L.Publisher , Siliguri ,2004 ,
p, 153.
123. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1906 – 07)*, p, 3 .
124. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1907 – 08)*, p, 3 .
125. Nag, Hiten (ed.) - *op. cit.* , p, 153 .
126. *A.A.R. of the C.B.S. (1878 – 79)*, p, 71 .
127. *Ibid.*
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