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Know Your State **West** **Bengal**

— WITH —
LATEST STATE MAP

Know Your State

West Bengal

WITH
LATEST STATE MAP

Compiled By
Goutam Chakraborty
Madhumita Pattrea



Arihant Publications (India) Limited



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About The Book

General Knowledge of West Bengal is essential for the competitive examinations of the State. For the same purpose this book (Know Your State West Bengal) is designed to serve as a reference book for the students who appear in West Bengal Public Service Commission (WBCS) and other state level competitive examinations.

The book provides comprehensive information about West Bengal to familiarize the readers about the state. This book provides detailed study of History, Geography, Polity, Art and Culture and State Government Welfare Schemes and Current Affairs of West Bengal.

A systematic chapter by chapter study will result in marked improvement in the performance of the students. Box, Tables, Map, Figures are also used to make the presentation more clear.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) at the end of each chapter are given to test the candidates understanding of the subject from the examination point of view. The book provides the most relevant, authentic and up to date information on various aspects of West Bengal.

We invite and welcome any feedback or suggestion for the further improvement of this book in subsequent editions.

Authors
Goutam Chakraborty
Madhumita Pattrea

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West Bengal

BASIC INFORMATION

● Basic Information

Capital	Kolkata
Created on	15th August, 1947
Geographical Area	88,752 sq km
Latitude of the state	21°20'N to 27°32'N
Longitude of the state	85°50'E to 89°52' E
State Boundary (International)	Bangladesh on the Eastern side, Bhutan in the North, Nepal in the West.
General Boundary	Sikkim, Bhutan in the North, Assam, Bangladesh in the East, Nepal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha in the West and Bay of Bengal in the South
Secretariat	Nabanna (Howrah)
High Court	Calcutta High Court

● Administrative Units

Lok Sabha Constituencies	42
Rajya Sabha Constituencies	16
Vidhan Sabha Constituencies	295
State Legislature	Unicameral
Total Population	91,276,115
• Male Population	46,809,027
• Female Population	44,467,088
Urban Population	29,093,002
• Percentage of Urban to Total Population	31.87%
Rural Population	62,183,113
• Percentage of Rural to Total Population	68.13%
Population Density/km ²	1028
Sex Ratio	953
Dacade/Growth Rate of Population	13.8%
Total Literacy Rate	76.26%
• Male Literacy	81.69%
• Female Literacy	70.54%

Schedule Caste Population	21,463,270
Schedule Tribes Population	52,96,953
Most Populous District	North 24 Parganas
Largest District	South 24 Parganas
Percentage of SC to Total Population	11.91%
Religiouswise Distribution of Population	
• Hindu	66.5%
• Muslim	30.8%
• All Other Religious Community	3%

● Famous Universities in West Bengal

University of Calcutta (1857)	Kolkata
Jadarpur University (1906)	Kolkata
Indian Institute of Technology (1951)	Kharagpur
University of Kalyani (1960)	Kalyani
Rabindra Bharati University (1962)	Kolkata
University of North Bengal (1962)	Siliguri
University of Burdwan (1962)	Bardhaman
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (1974)	Mohanpur, Nadia
Vidyasagar University (1981)	Midnapore
Presidency Univeristy (2010)	Kolkata

● Famous Bengali Theatres

Star Theatres (1883)	Kolkata
Minerva Theatre (1893)	Kolkata
Rabindra Sadan (1967)	Kolkata
Sisir Manch (1978)	Kolkata
Girish Manch (1986)	Kolkata
Madhusudan Mancha (1995)	Kolkata
Nazrul Manch (2013)	Kolkata

● Famous Bengali Books and Authors

Authors	Books
Abanindranath Tagore	Raj Kahini
Aurobindo Ghosh	Life Divine
Bankim Chandra Chatterjee	Anandamath
Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay	Chander Pahar , Pather Panchali, Aranyak
Mani Shankar Mukherjee	Chowringhee
Rabindranath Tagore	Gitanjali, The Home and the World, Chokher Bali, Shesher Kabita, Galpo Guchchho
Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay	Dena Paona, Devdas , Parineeta
Sukumar Ray	Abol Tabol, Badshahi Angti, Gorosthaney Sabdhan
Swami Vivekananda	Bartaman Bharat

● Bharat Ratna Awardees from West Bengal

Awardees	Field
Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1961)	Physician, Freedom Fighter, Second Chief Minister of West Bengal
Mother Teresa (1980)	Social Work
Satyajit Ray (1992)	Filmmaker, Screen Writer, Music Composer, Author
Amartya Sen (1999)	Economist, Philosopher
Ravi Shankar (1999)	Musician, Sitar Player

● Nobel Prize Awardees from West Bengal

Awardees	Field
Sir Ronald Ross (1902)	Medicine
Rabindranath Tagore (1913)	Literature (First Asian to win Nobel Prize)
CV Raman (1930)	Physics
Mother Teresa (1979)	Peace
Amartya Sen (1998)	Economics

● First in West Bengal

First Chief Minister	Prafulla Chandra Ghosh
First General Election	1951 (Lok Sabha Election)
Assembly Election	1952
First Governor	Chakravorthy Raja Gopalachari
First Lady Chief Minister	Mamta Banerjee
First Speaker in Legislative Assembly	Ishwar Das Jalan
First Female Governor	Padmaja Naidu
First Chief Justice	Sir Bames Peacock
First Police Commissioner	S Wanshope
First University	University of Calcutta

West Bengal

State Symbols

State Animal : Fishing Cat

In Bengali the fishing cat is known as 'Mach-baghol' and 'bagh-dasha'. Mach means fish and bagha means tiger. It is a medium-sized wild cat of South and South-East Asia. It is the largest of the Prionailurus cats. Its coarse fur is olive-grey to ashy-grey with darker stripes on the shoulder and roundish or oval-shaped spots on its flanks and sides. It has short tail. It is about twice the size of domestic cat. It inhabits in swamps and marshy areas. Their existence is threatened by the destruction of wet lands. In 2018, the IUCN classified them as Endangered animal.



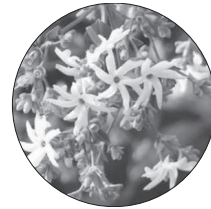
State Bird : White Throated Kingfishers

White throated kingfishers have bright blue back. The large legs are bright red. They have thick, reddish-orange bills and dark chocolate coloured heads, bellies and shoulders. They are carnivorous. A brilliant white patch can be found on the throat and sometimes the breast. The flight of the bird is rapid and direct.



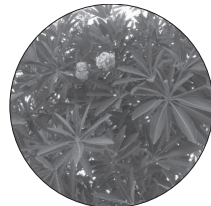
State Flower : Night Flowering Jasmine

Night Flowering Jasmine, *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* or Parijat is West Bengal's state flower. Locally it is known as 'Shephali'. The tree of the flower falls into the category of shrub. It bears scintillating fragrance. The magnificence of the flower consists in its scintillating fragrance. The flowers are born with the tendency at growing in clusters of two or seven, they open at dusk and closes at dawn. The flower also has also the usage in commercial purpose as a natural resource of a yellow dye.



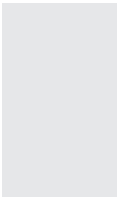
State Tree : Chattim

Chatian or Chattim is the state tree of West Bengal. It is an evergreen tree that can attain height of up to 100 feet. With its small flowers greenish yellow in colour, the tree comprises of large leaves organised in clusters of seven. It provides many medicines. It is also a major contributor of paper.



CHAPTER 1

ANCIENT HISTORY OF WEST BENGAL



West Bengal is located in Eastern India and is one of major states of India. The history of Bengal includes Bengal as a whole, i.e. both West Bengal and East Bengal (now Bangladesh). The first mention of Bengal can be found in Mahabharata. Different dynasties have ruled over its region.

The history of Bengal goes way back to the period of Aryan invasion of India. Bengal is known as **Gauda** or **Vanga** in ancient Sanskrit literature. Some of the evidences excavated in various parts of West Bengal reveals information about the settlement and pre-historic stone implements. The region of Bengal was also known to the ancient Greeks and Romans as Gangaridai. Some scholars believed that the origin of name 'Banga' is derived from 'Bong tribe'.

Origin of People in West Bengal

The Bengalees are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group who mainly lives in Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Jharkhand. They are not the descendants of Aryans. Some primitive settlers in this region were Kola, Sabara, Pulinda, Hadi, Dom and Chandala. There are anthropological and archaeological evidences to indicate that the Bengali-speaking people belong to several racial elements with different ethnic origins. There were three major racial elements which came together to form the Bengalee race. These were the Dravidians, the Mangolian tribes and the Aryans.

Some scholars also emphasise on the concept that people in Bengal are descendants of Homo-alpinus, which resided in the parts of Pamir and Taklamakan regions. The first scientific investigation on the origin of Indian people was done by Sir Herbert Risley. He was the first to trace the relation of the round head of Bengali people with Mongoloid characteristics. He considered these people as a common descendants of Dravidians and Mongoloid people.

His view was strongly opposed by RP Chanda who argued in favour of the Bengalee race originating from the Homo-alpinus type of people that came from the Pamir region and spoke in an Indo-European language.

Pre-historic Period

The pre-history of West Bengal includes the Palaeolithic period, Mesolithic period, Neolithic period and Chalcolithic period. *These are discussed below:*

Palaeolithic Period

There are 162 lower Palaeolithic sites in this state. The majority of the lower Palaeolithic sites have been reported from Radh plain and are located on the foothills, valley slopes and river banks. The tools in this region were mainly made by pebbles of quartz and quartzite. Some important sites are **Egara Mail** (Burdwan), **Parihati**, **Mohanpur**, **Satbati**, **Tarapheni** reservoir bridge (all in Midnapore), **Nakbindhi**, **Patina**, **Jibdharipur** (Birbhum), **Jagannathpuri**, etc.

A total of 41 sites of Middle-Palaeolithic period have been reported from West Bengal which are located in Bankura, Midnapore, Birbhum and Burdwan districts. The presence of flake tools mark the middle Palaeoliths of this region. A total of 10 Upper Palaeolithic sites have been found in West Bengal. These are in Midnapore, Bankura and Burdwan district. Upper Palaeolithic tools of West Bengal are characterised by backed blades, spear heads, etc and were made by green quartzite, chert, quartz, sandstone, etc.

Mesolithic Period

Only three sites, namely Birbhanpur in Burdwan district, Paruldanga in Birbhum district and Chamargora in Midnapore district have been excavated. Mesolithic sites of this region have yielded lithic (related to stone) collection of both non-geometric and geometric types. Artefacts include spears, scrapers, agricultural tools, etc and were made of quartz, quartzite, fossil wood, etc.

Neolithic Period

A total of 84 Neolithic sites have been identified in West Bengal. The nature and distribution of Neolithic records in West Bengal suggest two focal areas of Neolithic culture with opposite patterns of developments. They are the Himalayan foothills comprising Kalimpong and adjacent Sikkim state and the plateau fringe area comprising the districts of Midnapore, Bankura, Purulia, Burdwan and Birbhum.

Neolithic tools with a distinct grey and pale ceramics are characterised the Neolithic culture of the plateau area whereas in Himalayan foothill area, Neolithic culture is characterised by Neolithic tools without ceramics.

Chalcolithic Period

In 1954-57, during the excavation done by BB Lal and Pandu Rajar Dhibi, the first Chalcolithic or Copper Age site was discovered on the bank of Ajay river in the East Bardhaman district of West Bengal. It dates back to 1600 BC. These discoveries revealed that the people of West Bengal had a clear idea about the importance of town planning and its formulation. They built well-planned towns. The roads were made of stones, gravels and clay with the combination of water. The streets were attached with small channels that drained the water to a common point.

Pre-historic people used copper in making hand tools and implements, which were used for agriculture and hunting. Agriculture and trade was the strength of their economy. They cultivated rice and other such seasonal crops. Besides this, they tamed the domestic animals as a livestock and for milk. Pre-historic sites have been found concentrated in South-Western part of West Bengal.

Vedic Period

There is clear evidence through archaeological research that there was a highly developed culture in Bengal before the Aryan settlement. There is no reference to Bengal in the Rigveda. Some references indicate that the primitive people in Bengal were different in ethnicity and culture from the vedic people beyond the boundary of Aryavarta and the people who were classed as **Dasyus** (Pundras).

Scriptures suggest that Bengal was divided into many small kingdoms. These kingdoms were **Vanga** (Southern Bengal), **Pundra** (Northern Bengal), **Suhma** (Western Bengal), **Anga**, **Harikela** and **Samatata** kingdoms. The *Mahabharata* speaks of Bengali kings who were defeated by Bhima. Kalidasa mentions that Raghu defeated a coalition of 'Vanga' kings.

Post-Vedic Period

Post-Vedic era starts from the time when the Aryans settled on the land of Bengal. Subsequently, the 16 Mahajanapadas were consolidating themselves in the Post-Vedic period. The term 'Janapada' means 'the foothold of a tribe'. These were the 16 great nations which are quoted in Buddhist text called **Anguttara Nikaya**. These Janapadas are also mentioned in *Mahabharata*.

These 16 Janapadas are Anga, Kosala, Kashi, Magadha, Videha, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchal, Matsya, Surasena, Asmaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja. Out of these 16, the **Anga** and **Magadha** were sited in Bengal and symbolise the Post-Vedic era in Bengal. These two are mentioned in Atharvaveda.

Ancient Kingdoms/Dynasties of West Bengal

There were various ancient kingdoms/dynasties in West Bengal. *Some of these are discussed below:*

Vanga Kingdom

The Vanga kingdom was an ancient kingdom during the Post-Vedic period on the Indian sub-continent, which originated in the region of Bengal. It was referred by epic *Mahabharata*. Its contemporary neighbouring states included Suhma, Anga, Pundravardhana, Samatata or Harikela. In *Mahabharata*, it was referred that Vanga army was skilled in handling war elephants and they sided with the Kauravas. The boundary of the Vanga kingdom was formed by the Padma and Bhagirathi river in the West, North and East and the South was bounded by the Bay of Bengal. The founders of Angas, Vangas, Kalingas, Pundras and Suhmas shared a common ancestry. They were all adopted sons of a king named Vali or Bali, born by a sage named Gautama Dirghatamas. There is a little bit of information about Vanga.

Anga Kingdom

Anga was an early kingdom covering parts of Bengal and modern central Bihar state. Its capital was Champa (formerly known as Malini). Anga rulers were all descended from King Bali. According to the *Mahabharata*, **Duryodhana made his friend Karna King of Anga**. The *Ramayana* mentions Anga as the place in which Lord Shiva burned Kamadeva, the god of love to death.

Pundra Kingdom

It was an Eastern kingdom located in West Bengal. This group of people was led by King **Pundravardhana** who had his territory from North Bengal to the land which is now under Bangladesh. Pundra, referred to as a realm of **Bharata Varsha** or India, belonged to the warrior Kshatriya tribes. The Pundra dynasty did not conform to the Vedic culture of the period. One of the legendary leaders of Pundra dynasty was **Paundraka Vasudeva**. He united the three regions, i.e. Pundra, Vanga and Kirata and further entered into an alliance with Jarasandha of Magadha.

Suhmas Kingdom

The earliest reference to the Suhmas and their country is found in the *Acharanga Sutra* of the Jainas belonging to the 6th century BCE. Regarding the origins of the Suhmas, there are many traditional and mythical stories recorded in the early texts. In the *Mahabharata*, it is stated that the Suhmas originated from Suhma, the son of Bali. Suhmas were spread over a large territory which included parts of the area covered by the modern districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, Nadia, portions of Murshidabad and also of 24-Parganas, i.e. extending upto the sea. In other words, the land lying on West of the Bhagirathi extending upto the sea was included within the territorial jurisdiction of the Suhma country wherein lived the Suhmas.

Harikela Kingdom

Harikela was a kingdom in ancient Bengal encompassing much of the Eastern regions of the Indian sub-continent. There are numerous references to the kingdom in historical texts as well as archeological artefacts including silver coinage.

Arab traders recognised Harikela (known as Harkand in Arabic) as the coastal regions of Bengal in the early period. In 10th century CE, Harikela rulers were defeated by Chandra rulers.

Samatata Kingdom

Samatata was an ancient Indian region in South-Eastern Bengal. Its earliest reference is found in the Allahabad Prashasti. Samatata boundaries were well defined by the mountains of Tripura and Arakan in the East and the Meghna (the combined waters of the Padma, Meghna, and Brahmaputra rivers) in the West.

Not much is known about this kingdom. It was ruled by Buddhist kings in the late 7th century. Chinese travellers like Xuanzang and Yijing and Roman geographer Ptolemy mentioned about this kingdom in their writings.

Gauda Kingdom

Gauda kingdom was a Hindu power during the late classical period on the Indian sub-continent, which originated in the present-day region of Bengal. The citadel of Gauda served as the capital of the Gauda kingdom.

King Shashanka, first created the separate political entity in a unified Bengal called Gauda. Shashanka was a strong ruler who developed Bengal's architecture and calendar. He is famous for oppressing Buddhist communities and driving them out of Bengal. Shashanka's capital **Karnasuvarna** is now known as Murshidabad.

It was during the rule of Shashanka that Bengal witnessed a flourishing period. After his death, Shashanka was succeeded by his son, Manava who ruled only for eight months.

Nanda Dynasty

The Nanda dynasty originated from the region of Magadha in ancient India during the 4th century BCE and lasted between 345-321 BCE. At its greatest extent, the empire ruled by the Nanda dynasty extended from Bengal in the East, to the Punjab region in the West.

The rulers of this dynasty were famed for the great wealth which they accumulated. Jaina, Buddhist and Puranic sources stated that the Nanda Kings were nine in all. Mahapadma Nanda and Dhana Nanda were famous rulers of this dynasty.

Mauryan Dynasty

It came into existence in 322 BCE when Chandragupta Maurya established his rule around Magadha. The Mauryan empire was one of the world's largest empires in its time, and the largest ever in the Indian sub-continent including Bengal. The empire was expanded into India's Central and Southern regions by the emperors Chandragupta and Bindusara. Entire region of Bengal came under the Mauryan empire. After the Kalinga War, the empire experienced nearly half a century of peace and security under Ashoka.

Gupta Dynasty

The Gupta Dynasty (320 to 550 CE) was an ancient Indian empire, founded by **Srigupta** covered much of the Indian sub-continent including Bengal. A portion of Northern or Central Bengal have been the home of Guptas at that time which is evident from the writings of Buddhist Monk Yijing of around 690 CE. The Poona copper inscription of Prabhavati Gupta, daughter of Chandragupta, describes Maharaja Srigupta as the founder of the Gupta dynasty.

Ghatotkacha was a pre-imperial Gupta King in Northern India, the son of Maharaja Srigupta, who started the Gupta dynasty. He ruled from 280-319 CE.

Chandragupta I was a major king of the Gupta empire around 320 CE. As the ruler of the Gupta empire, he is known for forging alliances with many powerful families in the Ganges region.

Samudragupta was the ruler of the Gupta empire and successor to Chandragupta I. His empire included whole Bengal and Assam. He was the third ruler of the Gupta dynasty who ushered in the Golden Age of India. He was perhaps the greatest king of Gupta dynasty.

Chandragupta II was also known as Vikramaditya and was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire in India. His rule spanned 380-415 CE during which the Gupta empire reached its peak.

Malla Dynasty

It came into existence in 694 CE. The Western district (Bankura) in modern day West Bengal was once known as Mallabhum, the land of the Mallas. The Malla kings ruled the Western provinces of Bengal from the 7th century and their dynasty can be traced to this date. Some prominent Malla kings are **Adi Malla** (694-710), **Jay Malla** (710-720), **Benu Malla** (720-733), **Kinu Malla** (733-742), **Indra Malla** (742-757), etc. Mallabhum was the kingdom ruled by the Malla kings of Bishnupur. Their last king Kalipada Singha Thakur became the king of Mallabhum in 1930 and ruled till his death in 1983.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1 In ancient Sanskrit literature Bengal is known as
(a) Ganda (b) Vanga
(c) Bangla (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 2 The name of the state Bengal is derived from
(a) Bong tribe
(b) A Vedic caste 'Banga'
(c) A republic state 'Banga'
(d) A king named 'Banga'
- 3 The three major racial elements which came together to form the Bengalee race were the Aryans, the Dravidians and the
(a) Mangolians (b) Sabara
(c) Pulinda (d) None of these
- 4 Who among the following was the first to trace the relation of round head of Bengali people with Mongoloid characteristic?
(a) Paul Topirard
(b) Sir Herbert Risley
(c) GS Ghurye
(d) William Henry Sleeman
- 5 "Bengalee race originated from the Homo alpinus type of people from the Pamir region and spoke in an Indo-European language". Who is the speaker?
(a) RP Chanda
(b) Herbert Risley
(c) Rakhal Das Bandopadhyay
(d) Shusovan Sarkar
- 6 How many lower, middle and upper Paleolithic sites are found in West Bengal?
(a) 162, 41, 10
(b) 162, 43, 5
(c) 150, 41, 10
(d) 150, 46, 10
- 7 The earliest evidences of tool-making were found in which of the following districts of West Bengal?
(a) Burdwan (b) Midnapore
(c) Birbhum (d) All of these
- 8 Sites of Mesolithic period have been excavated in Burdwan, Birbhum and
(a) Bankura (b) Midnapore
(c) Murshidabad (d) Phrulia
- 9 How many Neolithic sites have been identified in West Bengal?
(a) 110 (b) 80
(c) 84 (d) 90
- 10 The people of Chalcolithic period residing in Bengal, used to cultivate seasonal crops and
(a) wheat (b) maize
(c) rice (d) bazra
- 11 Pundras inhabiting the region of Bengal were referred by which other name?
(a) Gangaridal (b) Dasyus
(c) Varga (d) None of these
- 12 Name the Janapada(s) which was/were sited in Bengal.
(a) Anga (b) Magadha
(c) Sursena (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 13 The contemporary neighbouring states of Vanga kingdom included
(a) Suhma, Anga
(b) Pundravardhana, Samatata
(c) Harikela
(d) All of the above
- 14 The capital of Anga kingdom was
(a) Champa
(b) Vaishali
(c) Pataliputra
(d) None of the above
- 15 The legendary leader of Pundra dynasty was
(a) Duryodhana (b) Karna
(c) Paundraka Vasudeva
(d) None of the above
- 16 The earliest reference to the Suhmas and their country is found in the
(a) Acharanga Sutra
(b) Mahabharata
(c) Anguttara Nikaya
(d) None of these
- 17 Arab traders recognised Harikela as the
(a) Capital of Bengal
(b) Coastal regions of Bengal
(c) Main trading centre of Bengal
(d) None of the above

18 The earliest reference of Samatata Kingdom is found in the

- (a) Mahabharata
(b) Anguttara Nikaya
(c) Allahabad Prashasti
(d) None of the above

19 Shashanka belonged to the

[WBCS Pre 2014]

- (a) Pal dynasty (b) Sen dynasty
(c) Gauda dynasty (d) Kamrup dynasty

20 Which of the following rulers developed a calendar in Bengal?

- (a) Shashanka (b) Chandragupta
(c) Ghatotkacha (d) Srigupta

21 Where was the capital of Shashanka?

[WBCS Pre 2009]

- (a) Samatata (b) Tamralipta
(c) Karnasuvarna (d) Lakhnawati

22 King Shashanka's capital was Karnasuvarna. It is now known as

- (a) Pandua (b) Murshidabad
(c) Bardhaman (d) None of these

23 The rulers of the Nanda dynasty were famed for the

- (a) great wealth they accumulated
(b) large extent of their empire
(c) good administration
(d) None of the above

24 Mauryan dynasty expanded to the

- (a) entire region of Bengal
(b) Southern part of Bengal
(c) Northern part of Bengal
(d) None of the above

25 Name the Gupta ruler when the whole of Bengal and Assam included in Gupta dynasty.

- (a) Srigupta (b) Chandragupta I
(c) Samudragupta (d) None of them

26 Name the district of West Bengal which is known as Mallabhum.

- (a) Bankura (b) Birbhum
(c) Purulia (d) Purba Bardhaman

27 The last king of Malla dynasty in Bengal was

- (a) Kalipada Singh Thakur
(b) Dalip Singh Thakur
(c) Nandi Singh Thakur
(d) Govind Singh Thakur

28 Consider the following statements

- I. Pundra dynasty was in Northern Bengal.
II. Paundraka Vasudeva was a legendary leader of Pundra dynasty.
III. Vasudeva united the three regions, i.e. Pundra, Vanga and Kirata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct.

- (a) One I
(b) Both I and II
(c) II and III
(d) All of the above

29 Match the following

List I	List II
A. Bindusara	1. Gupta dynasty
B. Ghatotkacha	2. Malla dynasty
C. Shashanka	3. Mauryan dynasty
D. Kalidas Singha Thakur	4. Gauda dynasty

Codes

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A B C D | A B C D |
| (a) 3 1 4 2 | (b) 3 4 1 2 |
| (c) 4 3 1 2 | (d) 1 2 3 4 |

30 Which pair is incorrect?

List I	List II
(a) Anga Kingdom	The Mahabharata
(b) Vanga Kingdom	The Ramayana
(c) Suhmas Kingdom	Acharanga Sutra
(d) Samatata Kingdom	The Allahabad Prashasti

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (c) 16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (a) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. (a) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (b)

CHAPTER 2

MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF WEST BENGAL

The medieval history of Bengal was dominated by the Pala and the Sena dynasty along with different Muslim dynasties. Development in late medieval history was not only significant for Bengal but it eventually influenced the history of whole India.

The medieval history of Bengal witnessed disturbance in the law and order for more than a century. But in 8th century, the political structure of Northern and Eastern India including Bengal changed. The rule of Pala dynasty from about the middle of 8th century mark a new era in the history of West Bengal.

Early Medieval History of Bengal

Medieval history of Bengal included invasions, cultural reforms and architectural experts by different Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim rulers. *The main rulers of medieval period were as follows:*

Pala Empire

The Pala Empire (750-1120) was the **first independent Buddhist dynasty of Bengal**. The Pala dynasty lasted for four centuries and ushered in a period of stability and prosperity in Bengal. They created many temples and works of art as well as supported the important ancient higher-learning institutions of Nalanda and Vikramashila. It was during the Pala period Bengal became the main center of Buddhist as well as secular learning.

Gopala I was the founder of the Pala dynasty of medieval Bengal. He came to power in 750 CE in the Gauda. Gopala reigned from about AD 750-770 and consolidated his position by extending his control over all of Bengal. Gopala's empire was greatly expanded by Dharmapala and Devapala.

Dharmapala was the second ruler of the Pala empire of Bengal region in the Indian sub-continent. He was the son and successor of Gopala. He adopted the title Paramesvara **Paramabhattaraka Maharajadhiraja**. He ruled from 770 to 810 CE. He built Somapura Mahavihara in Paharpur (Naogaon district, now in Bangladesh) which is one of the greatest Viharas in the Indian sub-continent.

Devapala was the third king in the line and had succeeded his father Dharmapala. He is regarded as the **most powerful Pala ruler**. He ruled from 810 to 850 CE.

Like his father, Devapala was a great patron of Buddhism and his fame spread to many Buddhist countries outside India.

Chandra Dynasty

From the beginning of the 10th century CE they ruled over the kingdom of Harikela in Eastern Bengal. Their empire was ruled from their capital, **Vikrampur** (modern Munshiganj) and was powerful enough to militarily opposed the Pala Empire to the North-West. The rule of Chandra dynasty came to end after the last ruler of the Chandra dynasty Govindachandra was defeated by the South Indian Emperor Rajendra Chola I of the Chola dynasty in the 11th century.

Sena Dynasty

The Sena rulers were descendend of the Karnataka migrants. They established their rule in Bengal after Chandra dynasty. The founder of the dynasty was Samantasena. His son Hemanta flourished in the last quarter of the 11th century AD who took advantage of the unstable political situation of Bengal. His son Vijayasena brought the family into limelight during his long reign of more than sixty years. The greatest ruler of the dynasty was **Vijayasena** (1095-1158 CE). He conquered nearly the whole of Bengal and was succeeded by his son **Ballala Sena** (1158-1179 CE).

Ballala Sena conquered Gauda from the Pala and became the ruler of the Bengal delta and made **Nabadwip** his capital. Ballala Sena was the author of **Danasagara**, a work on **Smriti** and **Adbhuta Sagara**, a work on astronomy. Ballala Sena is assigned with an important social movement known as **Kulinism** by which the nobility of birth and purity of blood were carefully protected.

Ballala Sena's succeeded by his son **Lakshmana Sena**. Some scholars regard him as the founder of the Lakshmana Sena era of 1119 CE. On coming to the throne, he established himself as a conqueror and a patron of learning. He conquered Kalinga, Kamarupa and Benares.

Lakshmana Sena's court was adorned with literary personalities like Jayadeva, the author of Gita Govindam, Halayudha, the linguist and Dhoyi, the poet of Pavanadutam. In 1203 CE, Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked the capital Nabadwip, capture the capital city Gaud and annexed much of Bengal.

Deva Dynasty

It was a Hindu dynasty of medieval Bengal that ruled over Eastern Bengal after the collapse of Sena Empire. The capital of this dynasty was Chittagaung in present-day Munshiganj district of Bangladesh. The inscriptional evidences show that this kingdom was extended up to the present-day Comilla-Noakhali-Chittagong region. Four rulers of this dynasty are known from the inscriptions : Shantideva, Viradeva, Anandadeva and Bhavadeva.

The rule of the Devas was indeed a period of peace, prosperity and creative excellence, Damodardeva (1231-1243) was the most powerful ruler of this dynasty. He took the title of Ariraja-Danuja-Madhava Dasharathadeva and extended his kingdom to cover much of East Bengal. He 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.

Late Medieval History of Bengal

The late medieval history of Bengal started from the advent of Turk-Afghan rule in Bengal in the 13th century to the rule of Mughal Nawabs of 18th century CE in Bengal.

Turk-Afghan Rule

Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion to Bengal marked the advent of Turk-Afghan rule in Bengal. Khilji's rule in Bengal lasted from 1203 to 1213 CE. From the 13th century CE onwards Bengal region was controlled by the **Bengal Sultanate**, **Hindu Rajas** and *Baro Bhuyan* or warrior chiefs and landlords.

In 14th century, Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320-25 CE) of Tughlaq dynasty turned his attention towards Bengal. After annexing Bengal in 1324, CE he placed **Nasiruddin** on the throne of Bengal. He attempted to ensure the loyalty of Bengal by dividing it into three administrative divisions with capitals at **Lakhnauti** (North Bengal), **Sonargaon** (East Bengal) and **Satgaon** (South Bengal); but his measures failed. After the end of Turk-Afghan, Ilyas Shahi Dynasty started and Bengal came under the rule of Ilyas Shah.

Ilyas Shahi Dynasty

Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah founded the Ilyas Shahi dynasty which lasted from 1352-1414 CE in Bengal. They were patrons of art and literature. The massive Adina Masjid and Darasbari Masjid was built during this period. They encouraged Bengali culture and literature. Ilyas Shahi dynasty was interrupted by an uprising by the Hindus under Raja Ganesha.

Ganesha Dynasty

This dynasty was founded in the Bengal region by **Raja Ganesha** in 1414 CE. Other kings of this dynasty were Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah and Shamsuddin Ahmad Shah who were originally Hindu but converted to Islam. They were son and grandson of Raja Ganesha respectively.

Hussain Shahi Dynasty

Alauddin Hussain Shah established this dynasty after defeating the Arabs in 1494 CE. He was an unbeatable warrior and his generosity to both Hindus and Muslims was legendary. Alauddin Hussain Shah (AD-1493-1519) is regarded as the **greatest independent Muslim ruler of Bengal** who brought cultural renaissance in Bengal. During his reign, Chaitanya preached Vaishnavism in Bengal.

Alauddin Hussain Shah was a prominent personality of Bengali literature. The Hindus honoured him as an avatar of Krishna, 'Nripati Tilak' (Crown of Kings) and 'Jagat Bhushan' (Adornment of the Universe). Hussain Shah's son, Nusrat Shah (AD 1519-32) succeeded him. He kept the kingdom intact but his hold on the Trans-Gandak region weakened due to the Mughal invasion.

Afghan Rule

Sher Shah established Afghan rule in Bengal by killing Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Shah the last independent Sultan of Bengal in 1538 CE. He extended Grand Trunk Road from Chittagong in the frontiers of the province of Bengal in North-East India to Kabul in Afghanistan. After Sher Shah's successor, Afghan rule in Bengal was carried by Karrani family, who were among the principal ministers and officials of Sher Shah.

Karrani Dynasty

The Karrani dynasty was founded in 1564 CE by **Taj Khan Karrani**. It was the last dynasty to rule the Sultanate of Bengal. Taj Khan was formerly an employee of the Afghan Emperor Sher Shah Suri. From 1562 to 1564 CE, Taj Khan captured South-Eastern Bihar and Western part of Bengal. After the assassination of the last Muhammed Shahi ruler, he seized all of Bengal. Bengal had its capital at Sonargaon. Other prominent Karrani rulers were Sulaiman Khan Karrani and Daud Khan Karrani.

Mughal Rule in Bengal

After the defeat and death of Daud Khan Karrani, Bengal was made one of the Subas of Mughal empire by Akbar and Khan-i-Jahan was made the Subedar who ruled ably for over three years before his death in 1578 CE. **Man Singh**, appointed as Governor of Bengal in 1594 CE, strengthened the Mughal rule in Bengal.

During the reign of Mughal emperor Jahangir, Bengal was finally integrated as a Mughal province. During this time Bengal witnessed many revolts by powerful *zamindars*, prominent among which were the revolts of Musa Khan, Satarajit, Raja Pratapaditya, Ramchandra, etc. On the whole, peace and prosperity prevailed in Bengal from 1628 to 1707 CE during the reign of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.

During this long period, Bengal did not have any separate identity and its history merely formed a part of the history of the Mughal empire. Bengal remained under Mughal control till the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 CE. Taking privilege of Aurangzeb's death, his Governor Murshid Quli Khan declared himself Nawab making Murshidabad his capital.

Hindu Kings

Apart from the Afghan rule, several Hindu kings also ruled the region. Maharaja Pratap Aditya (1561-1611 CE) ruled in Jessore. Raja Sitaram Ray, a vassal of Mughal empire, revolted and established his rule in Burdwan (Bardhaman). The kingdom of Bhurshut in 14-15th centuries was established by King Rudra Narayan in Southern Bengal. The Koch dynasty in Coochbehar is another Hindu dynasty established by King Viswa Singha. This is the longest running dynasty in the history of Bengal starting from 1515 to 1949.

Nawabs of Bengal

Nawab is the title given by Muslim Emperor to the Muslim rulers of the Princely States. They were given primary duty to administer their province. *The popular Nawabs of Bengal were as follows:*

Murshid Quli Khan

The first of the Nawabs, who was appointed by Mughal emperor **Farrukhsiyar** as the Nawab of Bengal in 1717 CE, reigned over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from his capital Murshidabad which he had transferred from Dacca. He changed Jagirdari system to the Mal Jasmani system, later which transformed into Zamindari system. He sent revenues from the state to the Mughal empire. He also opened a mint and introduced the 'Zurbe Murshidabad' coin. Murshid Quli Khan had built the magnificent Katra Masjid. After his death in 1727 CE, he was buried under the steps of Katra Masjid.

Sarfaraz Khan

Sarfaraz Khan (1739-1740 CE) was the son of Shuja-ud-Din and grandson of Mursid Quli Khan. He received the imperial titles of 'Motamul-ul-Mulk' and 'Ala-ud-Din Haridar Jung'. His throne ended in 1740 CE only after 13 months of reign, when he was defeated in the 'Battle of Giria' on 10th April, 1740 by Alivardi Khan. The Nasiri dynasty of Murshid Quli Khan ended with the death of Sarfaraz Khan.

Alivardi Khan

Alivardi Khan (1671-1756 CE) was the Nawab of Bengal during 1740-1756 CE. In 1733 CE, he was assigned as the Deputy Subedar of Bihar. One year later, he was given the rank of **Paach Hazari Mansabdar** by Nawab Shuja-ud-Din. On 10th April, 1740 in the Battle of Giria, he defeated and killed Shuja-ud-Din's successor Sarfaraz Khan.

Then he took control of Bengal and Bihar in 1740 and ruled for 16 years thereafter. During his glorious reign (1740-1756 CE) as Nawab of Bengal, Alivardi successfully defended his kingdom from his enemies to expand his dominion across Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

Siraj-ud-Daulah

Mirza Muhammad Siraj-ud-Daulah (1733-1757 CE) was the grandson of Alivardi who ascended the throne after the death of Alivardi in 1756 CE. He appointed Mir Madan as Bakshi (paymaster of the army) in place of Mir Jafar. On 24th May, 1756, Siraj occupied the Cossimbazar factory of the British. Then he went on to occupy Calcutta in June, 1756.

The British amassed forces and reconquered Calcutta in February, 1757 and then struck a secret treaty with Mir Jafar. The British captured the French factory at Chandernagore. The Nawab and the British army, under Robert Clive fought in the **Battle of Plassey**. In an act of great betrayal by Mir Jafar, Siraj was defeated on 23rd June, 1757 and killed and Mir Jafar ascended the throne of Bengal.

Battle of Plassey (AD 1757)

The Battle of Plassey was fought between British East India Company and Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah. **On 23rd June, 1757**, Siraj-ud-Daulah's army with 50,000 soldiers, 40 cannons and 10 war elephants was defeated by 3000 soldiers of Colonel Robert Clive. Mir Jafar and Rai Durlabh and Yar Lutuf Khan assembled their troops near battle field but did not join the battle, only a small force under Mahanlal and Mir Madan fought the battle. In this battle, the last independent Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah was defeated.

After Siraj, Mir Jafar was proclaimed Subedar of Bengal. Siraj-ud-Daulah was captured and murdered by the orders of Miran, the son of Mir Jafar. Robert Clive and his colleagues secured large rewards for themselves in addition to the *zamindari* of the 24 parganas and a large sum for the Company. This battle paved the way for the British conquest of Bengal and eventually of the whole of India.

Mir Jafar

Mir Jafar (1757-1760 CE and 1763-1765 CE) was the **first Nawab of Bengal who came into power with the support of East India Company**. He was an incompetent ruler and was under the control of British administration.

Mir Qasim

The British replaced Mir Jafar with his son-in-law, Mir Qasim in 1760 CE on account of non-payment of dues. Due to this Mir Jafar invited the Dutch forces to fought the British East India Company. Consequently, the **Battle of Chinsura** took place in 1759 CE in which British defeated the Dutch forces.

After Lord Clive, Vensittart became the new Governor of Bengal from 1760 to 1765 CE. The Company ordered the Nawab of Bengal, Mir Qasim to pay for war expenses and expenses to purchase the presidencies of Bombay and Madras. Company had also taken the *zamindari* of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong. This angered Mir Qasim and he shifted his capital from Murshidabad to Munger in 1762 and also established a gun factory. This marked the beginning of the conflict between the Company and Nawab.

Conflict of Nawabs and Company: Battle of Buxar

Due to conflict between Mir Qasim and Company rule, the Battle of Buxar was fought on 23rd October, 1764 between the forces under the command of the British East India Company led by Major Hector Munro on one side and the combined army of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal King Shah Alam II on other side. This battle gave a decisive victory for the British East India Company.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1 *In the early medieval history of Bengal, the Pala dynasty started its rule from AD 750. Who was the founder of the kingdom.*

[WBCS Pre 2011]

- (a) Gopala I
- (b) Devapala
- (c) Dharmapala
- (d) Rajyapala

2 *Name the Pala ruler who built the Sompura Mahavihara in Paharpur.*

- (a) Dharmapala
- (b) Devapala
- (c) Mahipala
- (d) Gopala

3 *Who is regarded as the most powerful Pala ruler?*

- (a) Gopala
- (b) Dharmapala
- (c) Devapala
- (d) Mahipala I

4 *The great ruler of Sena dynasty in West Bengal who conquered the whole of Bengal in AD 1095 was*

- (a) Ballala Sena
- (b) Vijayasena
- (c) Keshava Sena
- (d) Lakshmana Sena

5 *Which was the capital of Sena dynasty?*

- (a) Satgaon
- (b) Sonargaon
- (c) Lakhnauti
- (d) Nabadwip

6 *Which Muslim invader conquered Bengal during the time of Lakshmana Sena?*

[WBCS Pre 2011]

- (a) Muhammad Ghori
- (b) Bakhtiyar Khilji
- (c) Qutb-ud-Din Aibak
- (d) Iltutmish

7 *The capital of Dev dynasty was in*

- (a) Chittagaung
- (b) Comilla
- (c) Noakhali
- (d) None of these

8 *Who divided Bengal into three administrative divisions, viz, Lakhnauti, Sonargaon and Satgaon?*

- (a) Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji
- (b) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- (c) Nasiruddin
- (d) Mahmud Khan

9 *Name the founder of Ilyas Shah dynasty in Bengal.*

- (a) Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah
- (b) Ghiyasuddin Ilyas Shah
- (c) Nasiruddin Ilyas Shah
- (d) None of them

10 *Ganesha dynasty was founded by Raja Ganesha in*

- (a) 1414 CE
- (b) 1410 CE
- (c) 1415 CE
- (d) 1510 CE

11 *Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah and Shamsuddin Ahmad Shah are kings of*

- (a) Ilyas Shahi dynasty
- (b) Ganesha dynasty
- (c) Hussain Shahi dynasty
- (d) None of the above

12 *Name the greatest independent Muslim ruler of Bengal.*

- (a) Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Shah
- (b) Shamsuddin Ahmad Shah
- (c) Alauddin Hussain Shah
- (d) None of them

13 *Chaitanya preached Vaishnavism in Bengal and Orissa during whose reign?*

- (a) Karrani dynasty
- (b) Hussain Shahi dynasty
- (c) Sena dynasty
- (d) Pala dynasty

14 *Alauddin Hussain Shah was given a title by the Hindus in Bengal. What was the title given to him?*

- (a) Maharajadhiraja
- (b) Nripati Tilak
- (c) Jagat Bhushan
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

15 *After Hussain Shahi dynasty, which ruler ruled Bengal?*

- (a) Sher Shah Suri
- (b) Raja Ganesh
- (c) Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah
- (d) None of them

16 *Who among the following established the Afghan rule in the Bengal province?*

- (a) Alam Shah
- (b) Sher Shah
- (c) Mahmud Shah
- (d) Daud Khan

17 Who was the last independent Sultan of Bengal? [WBCS Pre 2011]

- (a) Hussain Shah
- (b) Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Shah
- (c) Muscat Shah
- (d) Ilyas Shah

18 Name the last dynasty to rule the Sultanate of Bengal.

- (a) Karrani dynasty
- (b) Hussain Shah
- (c) Ilyas Shahi dynasty
- (d) None of the above

19 Who was appointed as Governor of Bengal in 1594 CE?

- (a) Sulaiman Khan
- (b) Man Singh
- (c) Taj Khan
- (d) None of them

20 The first Nawab of Bengal who became the Subedar of Bengal in 1717 CE was

- (a) Murshid Quli Khan
- (b) Suja-ud-Din
- (c) Sarfaraz Khan
- (d) None of them

21 Who succeeded Murshid Quli Khan as the ruler of Bengal? [WBCS Pre 2012]

- (a) Sarfaraz Khan
- (b) Shaukat Jung
- (c) Alivardi Khan
- (d) Shuja-ud-Din

22 Siraj-ud-Daulah was the grandson of

- (a) Murshid Quli Khan
- (b) Sar Faraz Khan
- (c) Alivardi Khan
- (d) None of them

23 Battle of Plassey was fought on

- (a) 23rd June, 1770
- (b) 23rd June, 1757
- (c) 3rd May, 1757
- (d) 3rd May, 1770

24 Who was the first Nawab of Bengal under the East India Company?

- (a) Mir Jafar
- (b) Mir Qasim
- (c) Shah Alam II
- (d) None of these

25 Mir Qasim shifted his capital from Murshidabad to

- (a) Bardhaman
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Munger
- (d) Midnapore

26 Battle of Buxar was fought on

- (a) 30th September, 1780
- (b) 23rd October, 1780
- (c) 23rd October, 1764
- (d) 30th September, 1764

27 Consider the following statements

1. Gopala I was the founder of the Pala dynasty of medieval Bengal.
2. Dharmapala was the second ruler of the Pala empire of Begal region in the Indian sub-continent.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of these

28 Which pair is incorrect?

List I	List II
(a) Vijaysena	1095-1158
(b) Dharmapala	770-810
(c) Alauddin Hussain Shah	1493-1519
(d) Sher Shah Suri	1342-1348

29 Which pair is incorrect?

List I	List II
(a) Maharaja Pratap Aditya	Jessore
(b) Raja Sitaram Ray	Burdwan
(c) King Rudra Narayan	Southern Bengal
(d) King Viswa Singha	Birbhum

30 Match the following

List I	List II
A. Karrani dynasty	1. Allauddin Hussain Shah
B. Hussain Shah dynasty	2. Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah
C. Ganesh dynasty	3. Sulaiman Khan
D. Deva dynasty	4. Anandadeva

Codes

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | A | B | C | D |
| (a) 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | (b) 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| (c) 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | (d) 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (d) 6. (b) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (a)
 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (a)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (a) 25. (c) 26. (c) 27. (c) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (a)

CHAPTER 3

MODERN HISTORY AND POPULAR MOVEMENTS IN WEST BENGAL

The medieval history of Bengal was dominated by the Pala and the Sena dynasty along with different Muslim dynasties. Development in late medieval history was not only significant for Bengal but it eventually influenced the history of whole India.

After the Battle of Buxar in 1765, the British East India Company became a major power. After the Revolt of 1857, Bengal was under the direct control of the British crown which continued till 1947. After the independence, Food Movement, split of the Communist Party of India, Naxalbari Movement were the main incidents which occurred in West Bengal.

British Rule in West Bengal

After the Battle of Buxar, the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, formally granted the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company on 12th August, 1765. In this way, Robert Clive gained a legal recognition of the status of the English in Bengal. In less than two years, Clive had reformed the internal administration of the Company's affairs and placed its relation to the Government of Bengal on a definite legal basis. He laid the foundation of the British supremacy in Bengal.

Dual System of Administration of Bengal

In AD 1765, the system of dual government was established. In the Treaty of Allahabad, the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II had given the Diwani right to the Company instead of a pension of 26 lakh per annum. Thus, the Company (under Governor Robert Clive) got both Diwani and Nizamat rights over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

This arrangement was known in history as the Dual or Double System of Administration' introduced by Clive in Bengal which remained in force till AD 1772. Under this system, the administration was divided between the Company and the Nawab, but the whole power was actually concentrated in the hands of the Company. In 1772, the system was abolished and Bengal was brought under the direct control of the British.

Bengal Presidency

The colonial area of British empire in East India was known as Bengal Presidency. It consisted of present East Bengal (now Bangladesh), West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Odisha and Tripura.

This presidency was established with the treaty in 1765 (also known as Diwani of Bengal) between English East India Company and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and Nawab of Awadh. Lord Warren Hastings (1772-1785) integrated the presidency thereby establishing British Imperial rule over Eastern India. He also laid the foundation of civil service in India.

Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal in 1793. **Permanent Settlement** was an agreement between the British East India Company and the landlords of Bengal to settle the land revenue. The landlords were given the rights of the land as long as they paid a fixed revenue to the British Government. This Permanent Settlement was unsuccessful and it was not introduced in the North-Western provinces. These regions were nominally part of the Bengal Presidency, but remained administratively distinct.

Revolts and Rebellions in West Bengal

Revolt of 1857

The Revolt of 1857 was a major but unsuccessful uprising in India. The earliest ignition of the revolt was seen in Dum Dum which was the headquarters of Bengal Artillery. The headquarters was to be shifted to Meerut. In place of the headquarters at Dum Dum, the School of Musketry was to be established for providing training for usage of Enfield Rifle. Rumours started from this place and reached Barrackpore Cantonment. Mangal Pandey started the uprising in 1857 in Barrackpore by killing a British official.

Partition of Bengal

The partition of the large province of Bengal was decided upon by **Lord Curzon** and was carried into execution on 16th October, 1905. Lord Hardinge was responsible for the annulment of Partition of Bengal. The Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions, the

Malda district and the states of Hill Tripura, Sylhet and Comilla were transferred from Bengal to a new province, Eastern Bengal and Assam. This decision proved highly controversial, as it resulted in a **largely Hindu West Bengal**, and a **largely Muslim East Bengal**. British claimed the cause of division as the difficulty in handling a large province.

This division is followed by popular agitations. The people believed that the division of Bengal was the policy of 'divide and rule' of British. People were furious that the centre of interest and prosperity of Bengal that was Calcutta would be divided into two governments.

In AD 1906-1909, the people unrest developed to a considerable extent. Due to the political protests, the British reunited the East and West Bengal in AD 1911. In the 20th century, the partition of Bengal, occurring twice, has left permanent marks on the history and psyche of the people of Bengal.

The first partition occurred in AD 1905 and the second one in AD 1947. The partition of Bengal in 1947, part of the partition of India, was a religion based partition that divided the British Indian Province of Bengal between India and Pakistan.

The predominantly Hindu West Bengal became a province of India and the predominantly Muslim East Bengal became a province of Pakistan. Later, East Bengal became an independent country, Bangladesh after the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. The land that links West Bengal in India and Bangladesh is known as 'Teen Bigha Corridor'.

Chakma Revolt

Chakma is the largest ethnic tribe of Bengal (now in Bangladesh). In 1733 the Chakma Chief **Shermast Khan** had obtained a zamindari sanad for Chakla Rangunia, a hilly tract. The colonial government tried in the 1770s and 1780s to bring the Chakmas under the direct control of the colonial government.

They were asked to pay revenue in cash rather than in cotton. The rent-rate in the Rangunia zamindari was enhanced. When the Chakma Raja Juan Buksh refused to pay the enhanced rent, the Rangunia estate was farmed out to a banian from Kolkata. These measures had alienated the hill people so much that in 1776 they revolted against the British control and asserted their independence under the leadership of Ranu Khan, the diwan of the Raja.

Ranu Khan followed guerrilla tactics to oust the company from the Hill Tracts. Hit-and-run was their war strategy. Ranu Khan was the supreme military leader. Under him were several commanders under whose were the soldiers called palwans who were mostly recruited from the Kukis. The official records indicate that Juan Baksh and Ranu Khan had made the whole of the Hill Tracts independent of British rule.

Chuar Rebellion

Chuar Rebellion was occurred in 1798-99. Chuar Rebellion was a massive rebellion that broke out in South-West Bankura district and in North-West Midnapore district. The British East India Company and some Zamindars of Midnapore were engaged in curbing the rebellion ruthlessly.

In the year 1798, nearly 1500 rebels led by Durjan Singh, established their rule in villages of Raipur Pargana. They attacked the headquarters of the British East India Company, after a fierce battle with the armies of British East India Company. But they were defeated. However, in Shalbandi, the rebels were victorious and destroyed the army barracks of British East India Company. Finally, by means of bloody repression and the usual policy of divide and rule, British were able to crush the Chuar Rebellion.

Santhal Rebellion

This rebellion was started in 1855. The uprising of the Santhals began as a tribal reaction to and despotic British revenue system. Before the British advent in India, Santhals resided in the hilly districts of Manbhum, Barabhum, Chhotanagpur, Palamau and Birbhum. They lived an agrarian lifestyle. But in British period the landlords and moneylenders allured them by goods and loans and gradually they became bonded labour to them.

The Santhals resented the oppression by revenue officials, police, moneylenders, landlords in general by the outsiders (whom they called Diku). The Santhals under Sidhu and Kanhu rose up against their oppressors, declared the end of the Company's rule and asserted themselves independent in 1854. This uprising spread in Bengal.

Indigo Revolution

It was a peasant movement. Indigo farmers revolted against the Indigo planters in 1859 as the farmers got no profit growing Indigo.

Indigo plantation was largely found in Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas and Jessore (now in Bangladesh). 'The Hindu Patriot' newspaper, edited by Harish Chandra Mukherjee described the sufferings of the farmers. Dinabandhu Mitra wrote 'Neel Darpan' against this exploitation, which was later translated by Michael Madhusudan Dutta.

Chittagong Uprising

The Chittagong uprising are the armoury raids carried by revolutionaries in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The first raid was carried on 18th April, 1930 and aim was to destroy the British armouries and disrupt the railway and communication lines. Surya Sen, Nirmal Sen, Kalpana Dutta, Anant Singh and Lokenath Bal were important leaders of this uprising.

Nandigram Violence

The Nandigram Violence was an incident in Nandigram in the year 2006, where, on the orders of the Left Front Government, more than 4000 heavily armed police stormed the area with the aim of stamping out protests against the West Bengal Government's plans to expropriate 10,000 acres (40 sq km) of land for a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to be developed by the Indonesian-based Salim Group. The police shot dead at least 14 villagers and wounded 70 more.

The SEZ controversy started when the Government of West Bengal decided that the Salim Group of Indonesia would set up a chemical hub under the SEZ policy at Nandigram, a rural area in the district of East Midnapore.

The villagers took over the administration of the area and all the roads to the villages were cut off. A large number of intellectuals protested on the streets and this incident gave birth to a new movement.

Socio-Religious Movements in West Bengal

Fakir-Sannyasi Resistance Movement

The Fakir-Sannyasi Resistance Movement was organised and led by Majnu Shah, a sufi saint of Madaria sect. The Fakir resistance began in 1760 and gathered momentum in 1763. Their main target was the Company kuthi, revenue kacharis of zamindars loyal to the Company rulers, and the houses of their officials. The rebels used swords, spear, gun, fire throwing device, hawai and even revolving cannons.

The rebels attacked the commercial kuthi of the Company at Bakerganj (1763) and kept the factory chief Calley confined for some days, and plundered the kuthi. By 1767, the attack of the rebels intensified in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Kuch Bihar, Jalpaiguri and Comilla. To check the activities of the rebels in North Bengal an English army was sent to Rangpur in 1767 under Captain De Mackenzie.

Fakir-Sannyasi raids got intensified in 1776 in the districts of Bogra, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Chittagong. In 1785, Majnu Shah proceeded towards Mahasthangarh and was defeated in a battle.

In the following year, Majnu Shah planned simultaneous attack in Eastern Bengal under himself and in North Bengal area under his Lieutenant Musa Shah.

In a battle against the Company army under Lieutenant Brenan in Kaleswar area (8th December, 1786) Majnu Shah lost a large number of his followers. He himself was wounded in the battle at Kaleswar and died on 26th January, 1788.

Socio-Religious Movement

In 17th century, Bengal witnessed an intellectual awakening that was in some way similar to the Renaissance in Europe. This movement questioned existing orthodoxies, particularly with respect to women, marriage, the dowry system, the caste system and religion.

One of the earliest social movements that emerged during this time was the **Young Bengal Movement** introduced by an Anglo-Indian **Henry Louis Vivian Derozio**, that adopted rationalism and atheism as the common denominators of civil conduct among upper caste educated Hindus. Young Bengal Movement was launched by Henry Louis Vivian Derozio (1809-1831) who had come to Calcutta in 1826.

He was appointed as a teacher of English Literature and History. He was a great teacher and had a tremendous influence over his pupil both in and outside the class. He always encouraged his students to free discussion on all subjects—social, moral and religious matter.

Prominent Derozians are Krishna Mohan Banerjee, Sib Chandra Deb, Hara Chandra Ghosh, Ramgopal Ghosh, Ramtanu Lahiri, Rasik Krishna Mallick, Peary Chand Mitra, Dakshinaranjan Mukherjee, Radhanath Sikdar etc.

Brahmo Samaj

Brahmo Samaj was one of the most rigorous reformist movements responsible for the making of modern India. In 1828, it was founded in Calcutta by Raja Rammohan Roy.

The Brahmo Samaj does not accept the authority of the Vedas, has no faith in avatars (incarnations) and does not insist on belief in Karma (casual effects of past deeds) and samsara (the process of death and rebirth). The Brahmo dharma discards Hindu rituals and adopts some Christian practices in its worships.

It denounces polytheism, image worship and the caste system. It adopts some good aspects of every religion like Islam, Christianity, etc. Rammohan Roy wanted to reform Hinduism. His successor Debendranath Tagore believed in Vedic authority and making reason and intuition as the basis of Brahmanism.

He founded Tattwabodhini Sabha in 1839 as a small group of the Brahmo Samaj but in 1859, it was dissolved back into Brahmo Samaj by him. He tried to retain some of the traditional Hindu customs. He also condemned idol worship, discouraged pilgrimages, ceremonies and penances among the Brahmos.

Under his leadership, Brahmo Samaj established its branches in different parts of the country. Keshab Chandra Sen joined the Brahmo Samaj in 1858 and became Acharya. Under his dynamic leadership its branches were opened outside Bengal, in the Uttar Pradesh, the Punjab, Bombay, Madras and other towns.

But his liberal and cosmopolitan outlook brought about a split in the Brahmo Samaj. Keshab Chandra Sen and his followers left Samaj in 1866 and formed the Brahmo Samaj of India. Debendranath's Samaj henceforth came to be known as the Adi Brahmo Samaj.

Vedanta Movement or Ramakrishna Movement

Ramakrishna Mission is an organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the Ramakrishna Movement or the Vedanta Movement. It was founded by Swami Vivekananda on 1st May, 1897 at Belur Math in Howrah, West Bengal.

The mission conducts extensive work in healthcare, disaster relief, rural management, tribal welfare, elementary and higher education and culture. The mission bases its work on the principles of Karma Yoga.

It aims at the harmony of religions and promoting peace and equality for all humanity. It subscribes to the ancient Hindu philosophy of Vedanta. The Vedanta Movement prospered principally through Ramakrishna's disciple Swami Vivekananda.

Swadeshi Movement

The Swadeshi Movement had its genesis in the anti-partition movement which started with the partition of Bengal by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon. This movement started in Bengal in 1905 and continued till 1911. This movement marked the beginning of new form of mobilisation. It gave a new orientation to the politics through its policies of boycott, passive resistance, mass agitation, etc.

It was the most successful movement of the Pre-Gandhian era. Its chief architects were Aurobindo Ghosh, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, etc. Ashwini Kumar Dutta founded Swadesh Bandhab Samiti to promote the consumption of indigenous products and boycott foreign goods.

Formation of Muslim League and Anushilan Samiti

The Muslim League was founded in the year 1906 in Bengal. It was the first organisation of the Islamic community fighting for independence in India.

The Anushilan Samiti was founded in 1906 by Pramathanath Mitra. The Samiti challenged British rule in India by engaging in militant nationalism. They started accumulating arms and ammunitions and also made indigenous bombs to attack the Britishers. They also attempted to procure German arms. Anushilan Samiti had two prominent branches known as Dhaka Anushilan Samiti centred in Dhaka and Jugantar Anushilan Samiti centred at Calcutta.

Dhaka Anushilan Samiti It took a radical programme and broke with the Jugantar group in West Bengal due to differences with Aurobindo's approach of slowly building a mass base for further revolution. In 1911, Dhaka Anushilan Samiti took revenge and shot dead sub-inspector Raj Kumar and Inspector Man Mohan Ghosh. This was followed by the assassination of CID Head Constable Shrish Chandra Dey in Calcutta.

Jugantar Anushilan Samiti It was led by leaders like Aurobindo Ghosh, Barindra Ghosh, Bagha Jatin (Jatindranath Mukherjee), etc. In February 1911, members of Jugantar Anushilan Samiti bombed a car in Calcutta. During the 1912 transfer of the imperial capital to New Delhi, Viceroy Charles Harding's Howdah was bombed, his mahout was killed and Lady Hardinge was injured.

Alipore Bomb Case

In 1908, the revolutionaries in Bengal planned to kill the Chief Presidency Magistrate DH Kingsford of Muzaffarpur. Instead of Kingsford, two English women were killed. Kingsford had been in a similar carriage just behind them and was thus saved. The trial of this conspiracy was held in Alipore Court. The Alipore Bomb case, also known as Muraripukur Conspiracy or the Manicktala Bomb Conspiracy, was the trial of a number of revolutionaries of the Anushilan Samiti in Calcutta. The trial was held under the charges of waging war against the government of the British Raj held at Alipore session court between May 1908 and May 1909. Aurobindo Ghosh and other 17 revolutionaries were acquitted, Ullaskar Dutt and Barindra Kumar Ghosh first got 'death by hanging' punishment, later it transformed into life imprisonment and were set to Cellular Jail in Andaman.

The Communist Movement in Bengal

In 1930s, Bengal was one of the main centres of activity of the Communist Party of India. During the period of 1930s to 1940s, Communist Movement in Bengal took a definite shape. The most prominent communist movement was the **Tebhaga movement** which was initiated by the Kisan Sabha of Bengal in 1946. It was the share cropper's movement demanding two-thirds of the produce from land for themselves and one-third for the landlords. Tebhaga literally means 'three shares' of harvests. The movement resulted in clashes between Jotedars and Bargadars.

Ahl-e-Hadith Movement

Ahl-e-Hadith are the adherents of Shariah based on hadith and sunnah. Inspired by the ways of life of the early generation of Muslims, the members of Ahl-e-Hadith launched the movement in second half of the nineteenth century for reviving Islam on the basis of its fundamental principles. As a religious revivalist movement, Ahl-e-Hadith is committed to the practice of the sunnah of the great Prophet Muhammad. According to Allama Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi the Ahl-e-Hadith movement in India has been founded on four pillars i.e. belief in pure Unitarianism, the Sunnah of the great Prophet Muhammad, enthusiasm for jihad or holy war and submission to Allah. Ahl-e-Hadith insists on taking all decisions on the basis of the holy Quran and Hadith and not by applying the methodology of Qiyas or analogy.

In 1914, the Bengali and Assamese students of Maulana Sayyid Miyan Nadhir Husain formed Bengal and Assam wings of 'Anjuman-i-Hadith'. Since 1916, the organisation has been regarded as a branch of the All India Ahl-e-Hadith Conference. The 'Nikhil Banga and Assam Jami'at-e-Hadith' was formed at Calcutta in 1946 under the leadership of Maulana Abdullahil Kafi (1900-1960). After 1947, the headquarters of the organisation was shifted from Calcutta to Pabna. The 'Anjuman-e-Ahl-e-Hadith' was formed in West Bengal in 1951.

Khadya Andolan (Food Movement)

The Food Movement of 1959 was the turning point in the history of class struggle in West Bengal. The food insecurity had reached alarming proportions in rural and urban areas. On 31st August, 1959, a huge mass demonstration was organised in Calcutta where hundreds and thousands arrived from the villages under the leadership of Kisan Sabha. At the end of the meeting, 80 people died and many were wounded by the violent action taken by police. The effect of Food Movement was so intense that it changed the political scenario of the state. It did not only ensure a steady decline in Congress support in the state but also became one of the factors that led to the split of the Communist Party of India (CPI). In 1964, the Communist Movement in West Bengal suffered a major set back as the Communist Party of India split into two parties. A new party the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was founded.

Naxalbari Movement

The peasant revolt in Naxalbari started in 1972, in Darjeeling district of West Bengal. It was mainly led by local tribals and the radical communist leaders of Bengal. This event created split in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) was born.

The Naxalbari Movement tried to protect the interests of the peasant and the labouring classes and cover all ethnic (including tribes) and caste groups. The leader preached for developing militancy on the peasant front and prepared the peasants for an armed struggle.

The uprising got moral support from the communists of Nepal and China. The prominent leaders of this movement were Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal, Jangal Santhal, Mahadev Mukherjee, Vinod Mishra, Dipankar Bhattacharya, etc.

First Left Front Government

The Left Front, an alliance of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), All India Forward Bloc, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the Marxist Forward Bloc etc) won 243 seats in the assembly election of West Bengal in 1977 and the CPIM emerged as the largest party. The first Left Front Government was formed with Jyoti Basu as its Chief Minister.

In 1978 registration of names of sharecroppers started in an unprecedented scale under the name of 'Operation Barga' introduced by the Left Front Government. In 1979, the Left Front Government came under serious criticism when the massacre in Marichjhapi took place due to the forcible eviction of refugees. Jyoti Basu served as the Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1977 to 2000. In 2000, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee took over as Chief Minister.

Singur Movement

Tata Motor announced the small car factory in Singur on 18th May, 2006. Just after two months, the Trinamool Congress (founded on 1st January, 1998 by Mamata Banerjee) started protesting the issue. The protest had turned turbulent as many of the internationally framed social activists and Bengali intellectuals like, Medha Patkar, Arundhati Roy, Mahasweta Devi protested against the allocation of factory site which was fertile multi-crop land.

Tata Motors decided to move out from Singur on in October 2008. In 2011, Trinamool Congress won the Legislative Assembly election. Mamata Banerjee became the Chief Minister. Again in 2016 Legislative Assembly election, TMC retained its majority. 'Ma Mati Manush' (Mother, Motherland and People) is the main slogan of All India Trinamool Congress.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1** *The East India Company got Diwani of Bengal on* [WBCS Prelims 2010]
(a) 12th August, 1765
(b) 14th May, 1765
(c) 12th August, 1764
(d) 14th June, 1764
- 2** *The Dual Administration System which was called Nizamat, caused the drain of wealth of Bengal in just three years. The system was introduced by which of the Governors?*
(a) Sir Vansittart
(b) Robert Clive
(c) Sir Verelst
(d) Lord Warren Hastings
- 3** *Who is responsible for the introduction of civil services in India?* [WBCS Prelims 2011]
(a) Lord Cornwallis
(b) Lord Ripon
(c) Lord Warren Hastings
(d) None of the above
- 4** *Lord Cornwallis introduced the permanent settlement in Bengal in* [WBPCS Prelims 2011, 12]
(a) 1780 (b) 1793 (c) 1794 (d) 1785
- 5** *The School of Musketry was established in place of Dum Dum headquarters of Bengal Artillery. The School of Musketry was established for*
(a) providing training for usage of Enfield Rifle
(b) for managing the Barrackpore Cantonment
(c) for establishing watch tower on revolts and uprisings
(d) All of the above
- 6** *The infamous proposal of Partition of Bengal was introduced by which of the following Governors in October 1905?*
(a) Robert Clive
(b) Sir Warren Hastings
(c) Sir Drake
(d) Lord Curzon
- 7** *After the partition of Bengal (1905), the two new provinces which came into existence were*
(a) East Bengal and Bengal
(b) East Bengal and West Bengal
(c) East Bengal and Assam
(d) East Bengal and North Bengal
- 8** *What was the effective date of the partition of Bengal?* [WBCS Pre 2015]
(a) 16th October, 1905
(b) 29th March, 1901
(c) 22nd July, 1911
(d) 14th August, 1946
- 9** *When was East Bengal created?*
(a) 1971 (b) 1954
(c) 1947 (d) 1905
- 10** *Bengal was partitioned twice in history. Which were the two years in which partition of Bengal took place?*
(a) 1911 and 1971
(b) 1905 and 1942
(c) 1906 and 1912
(d) 1905 and 1947
- 11** *In which year was the Bangladesh Liberation War held?*
(a) 1975 (b) 1961 (c) 1971 (d) 1973
- 12** *Ranu Khan is a leader of*
(a) Chakma revolt
(b) Chuar rebellion
(c) Sathal rebellion
(d) None of the above
- 13** *Name the leader of Fakir-Sannyasi rebellion.*
(a) Bulleh Shah (b) Majnu Shah
(c) Salim Chisti (d) None of these
- 14** *Chuar uprising has occurred in which district of Bengal?*
(a) Purulia (b) Midnapore
(c) Siliguri (d) West Dinajpur
- 15** *Chhar Rebellion was occurred in*
(a) 1798-99 (b) 1750-52
(c) 1850-52 (d) 1899-99

- 16** Who was the inspiration behind 'Young Bengal Movement'?
- (a) Michael Madhusudan Dutt
(b) Henry Louis Vivian Derozio
(c) Krishnamohan Banerjee
(d) Ramgopal Ghosh
- 17** Who formed the 'Brahmo Samaj' in 1828 in Calcutta?
- (a) Krishna Mohan Banerjee
(b) Hemendranath Tagore
(c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
(d) Raja Rammohan Roy
- 18** Tattwabodhini Sabha was founded by [WBCS Pre 2015]
- (a) Debendranath Tagore
(b) Shivanth Sastri
(c) Kesab Chandra Sen
(d) Raja Rammohan Roy
- 19** Who among the following was not the active leader of the Brahmo Samaj?
- (a) Debendranath Tagore
(b) Keshab Chandra Sen
(c) Akshay Kumar Dutta
(d) Swami Vivekananda
- 20** Who formed the Brahmo Samaj of India in 1866?
- (a) Debendranath Tagore
(b) Keshab Chandra Sen
(c) Raja Rammohan Roy
(d) None of the above
- 21** Santhals are mainly living in the hilly districts of
- (a) Manbhum, Barabhum
(b) Chhotanagpur, Palamau
(c) Birbhum
(d) All of the above
- 22** Under the leadership of Sidhu and Kanhu, Santhals asserted themselves independent in
- (a) 1852 (b) 1853 (c) 1854 (d) 1855
- 23** Indigo Revolt in Bengal took place in the year [WBCS Pre 2011]
- (a) 1859 (b) 1860 (c) 1863 (d) 1869
- 24** Indigo revolt was regularly highlighted in [WBCS Pre 2012]
- (a) The Hindu Patriot
(b) The Times of India
(c) The Statesman
(d) The Tribune
- 25** Who founded 'Ramkrishna Mission'?
- (a) Dayanand Saraswati
(b) Vivekananda
(c) Pranabananda
(d) Ramkrishnadeva
- 26** Partition of Bengal was withdrawn in [WBCS Pre 2015, 17]
- (a) 1905 (b) 1906
(c) 1911 (d) 1909
- 27** Who among the following annulled the Partition of Bengal? [WBCS Pre 2018]
- (a) Lord Hardinge
(b) Lord Minto
(c) Lord Curzon
(d) Lord Chelmsford
- 28** Who was the founder of Anushilan Samiti? [WBCS Pre 2012]
- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
(b) Barin Ghosh
(c) Barrister Pramathanath Mitra
(d) Chittaranjan Das
- 29** Anushilan Samiti had two branches, viz, Dhaka Anushilan Samiti and
- (a) Rajshahi Anushilan Samiti
(b) Noakhali Anushilan Samiti
(c) Jugantar Anushilan Samiti
(d) None of the above
- 30** Jugantar Anushilan Samiti was led by leaders like
- (a) Aurobindo Ghosh (b) Barindra Ghosh
(c) Bagha Jatin (d) All of them
- 31** The Alipore Bomb case is known as
- (a) Muraripukur Conspiracy Case
(b) Manicktala Bomb Conspiracy Case
(c) Both (a) and (b)
(d) None of the above
- 32** What was the reason behind the Chittagong uprising in 1930?
- (a) Protest against indigo plantations
(b) Destroy British armouries and disrupt telephone lines
(c) Revolt against the use of Enfield rifle
(d) Making indigenous bombs to attack the British offices
- 33** The leader for Chittagong uprising was
- (a) Surya Sen
(b) Kalpana Dutta
(c) Nirmal Sen
(d) All of the above