

Origin of the word Bangla

Definition of Bengali:

A person whose linguistic, cultural or ancestral are from Bengal

Indo-Aryan Bengalis vs Non-Indo-Aryan Tribes:

The Indo-Aryan Bengalis are ethnically differentiated from the non-Indo-Aryan tribes inhabiting Bengal.

Theories on the origin of the word Bangla:

There are two main theories on the origin of the word Bangla

- Dravidian Theory: The word Bangla is derived from the Dravidian-speaking tribe that settled in the region in Prehistoric 1000 BCE.

- Austrie Theory: The word Bangla is derived from the Austrie word Bongo, meaning sun god, which was later referred to as vanga (Bongo).

Etymology of Bengali and Bangla:

The etymology ethnonym, Bengali, along with native name of the language and region, Bangla, are both derived from Bangalah, the Persian word for the region.

Historical context:

Prior to Muslim expansion, there was no unitary territory by the name of Bangalah. The region was instead divided into numerous geopolitical divisions, including:

1. Vanga (A region in Present-day Barisal, considered to be the Vanga Kingdom).
2. Vangala (Bengal): A region mentioned in the Nersari plates (805 CE) of Govinda III

✓ Early Accounts of Vanga

Early accounts of Vanga can be found in:

- Abrahamic Genealogists: Suggested that Vanga was founded by a man named Bang, a son of Hind who was the son of Ham (Son of Noah)
- Mahabharata, Puranas, and Harivamsha: State that Vanga was the founder of the Vanga Kingdom and one of the adopted sons of King Vali.

✓ Historical Records:

- Nersari plates (805 CE): Mention Dharmapala as the king of Vangala.
- Rajendra Chola's records: Mention Govindachandra as the ruler of Vangaladesa (a Sanskrit cognate to the word Bangladesh)
- Ain-i-Akbari (16th century): Mentions that the addition of the suffix "al" came from the fact that ancient rajahs of the land raised mounds of earth 10 feet high and 20 inch breadth in lowlands at the foot of the hills. ✓

Unification of Bengal:

In 1352 CE, a muslim nobleman named Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah united the region into single political entity known as the ~~Bengla~~ Bengal Sultanate. This marked the beginning of the formalization of the socio-linguistic identity of the region's inhabitants as Bengali, by state, culture and language.

Geographic Details

- Location: Situated in South Asia between $20^{\circ}34'$ to $26^{\circ}38'$ N latitude and $88^{\circ}01'$ to $92^{\circ}41'$ E longitude.
- Boundaries: Shares borders with India (93.9%) and Myanmar (6%) and has a coastline along the Bay of ~~Bengla~~ Bengal. West Bengal (India) on the west. West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya (all the Indian states) on the north. India States of Assam, Tripura and Mizoram together with Myanmar on the east; and Bay of Bengal on the south.
- Area: 147,570 Sq km of 560000 Sq mile.

Population:

Total population: 169,356,251 (2022 census), making it the eighth-most ~~pop~~ populated country.

Ethnicity : Predominantly Bengali (98%) with various tribal groups in regions like Chittagong Hill Tracts and Sylhet.

Religion : Major Muslim (91.04%), followed by Hindus (7.95%) and smaller groups of Buddhists and Christians.

Demography in short

- Population : ~~106~~ 169,356,251 (2021 est)
- Birth rate : 17.71 births/1000 population (2020 est)
- Growth rate : 0.98% (2021 est).
- Death Rate : 5.54 deaths/1000 population (2020 est)
- Age Structure : 0-14 years (27.21%), (15-64) (67.61%), 65 & over (5.18%) (2019 est)
- Sex ratio : Total 0.97 M/F, At birth 104 M/F, under 15 103 M/F and over 97 M/F (2021)
- Infant mortality rate : 24.73 deaths/1000 live births (2020 est)

Economy and Resources

- Natural Resources : Includes natural gas, coal, lime stone and various minerals like zircon and garnet.
- Water Resources : Rich in both surface water and ground water with significant aquifers in flood plain and terraces. Surface water in flows of the country

vary from a maximum of about 140,000 cumec in August to a minimum about 7,000 cumec in february.

Energy Source: Includes natural gas, coal, solar power and biogas.

Administrative Divisions:

- Divisions: 8 major divisions, including Dhaka, Chittagong etc.
- There are 12 city ~~cor~~ corporations such as Dhaka South, Dhaka North etc.

Administrative unit of Bangladesh

