

Q<sub>1</sub>. discuss the influence of geography and environment on socio-economic, cultural life of EB?



Q<sub>2</sub>. What are the geographical features of EB? How do you think EB is unique geographically? Explain

### ANSWER 1

Since we have monsoon climate and our crop & livelihood depends on <sup>the</sup> nature, we are <sup>the people</sup> believe in <sup>the</sup> concept of absolute power.

Goddess Kali and Durga consider as the sense of nature.

In every day life, in every day economic activities we are asking for well-being and protection from the god and goddesses. For example,

Goddess Durga / Gionga, <sup>we call it ma</sup> (Mother), because it's consider as provider. Hindu fisherman pray for ma-ganga before fishing to get a good catch also keeping them safe.

where Meghna & Brahmaputra meet

# **Langal Badh** in near Dhaka, is an annual traditional dipping, signifies spiritual connection with water. since all these are worship.

Livlihood is very much influenced by the nature and environment. So, there are dominance of agricultural, textile

### #Water:

Local god and goddesses are mixed with sufis.

exm: There was a local pira named "Badar pira"

Remembering the badar pira before go to fishing. Also muslim fishes arranges milad and prays before going out first fishing voyage of the season.

→ He found water after the devastating flood.  
Saint

# "Khaja Khijin" is known as water. A story goes he was so old. He is famous for giving protection from ship-wrecks. That he met prophet 'Nuah'

## # Disease:

Because of the hot weather and climate, specially in "Bhadra month", people avoid to go outside as much as possible because of diseases like Cholera, heat stroke etc. ~~inflammatory fevers, paralyses~~ <sup>brain stroke</sup>   
~~western world winter brutal~~

In EB, winter is the proper season of wedding ceremony so that groom's party can travel to bride house.

In time of hot climate, we dependend on fruits that are consider as cooling body. Sharbat, juice.

Nalapat - Jute works as tonic-leaf. Houses are made of mud and low-roofed ~~mud~~ <sup>leaf</sup> ~~houses~~ for privacy, keeping it dark for cool. These are the tactic for overcoming hot weather.

Moslin — Textile industry or knitting have allocated all communities for livelihood. cotton, Moslin Dhuti, Sharee, punjabi is much suited for the <sup>humid</sup> hot weather/humidity.

Speaking of nature — Forest is very much connected to our livelihood. Even in ~~fairytale~~ we see this ~~fairytale~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>banishment</sup> ~~banishment~~ → when you go for refinement from your ~~chaos~~ life.

Your history is decided by your geography and environment.

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Bonobibi: In the Sunderban, till even now the villagers visits the forest <sup>to attain</sup> ~~for~~ honey and timber and they take gunin with them. This person continuously recite tantra-mantra while moving around the forest to receive protection from "Bonobibi." As a story goes, Bonobibi was abandoned in the Sunderbans and by the will of Allah, he was raised by a deer.

And now she is being the protector of Sunderban.

'Ay brishdi nighhepe

Dhan debo mrpe'

This shows the hospitality of the villagers.

-sigrot (Modumodi) → Honey flowing

Bhairav → means ~~gratefully~~ dreadful.

Agricultural practices indigenous people not just based on religion but also some tactics.

There are record of 52 tactics and associated tool as recorded by the tribal to people for the water management in the hill areas.

## ANSWER 2

To simplify the matters, the entire discussion of the geographical specificities and features of Bengal could be arranged as following

for these  
criteria  
EB is  
unique.

- ① Structural history
- ② geographical settings
- ③ geographical location
- ④ Rivers of Bengal
- ⑤ Climate condition or seasonal cycle
- ⑥ Contact and communication routes between Bengal & beyond.

Indian plate presses with the African and Eurasian plates. We see the rise of the new land.

Based on the food production, civilization can be divided into two groups.

china, Bhutan, Vietnam

① Rice civilization / <sup>wet</sup> wheat civilization

middle East, north India,

AFG, Europe ② Dry civilization / wheat [Bread] while inventors come from dry civilization

EB falls into wet civilization. In this way EB becomes the transit point of the two ~~condidation~~ cultural exchange of civilization.

Himalaya plays a vital role in your climate/weather. There are two wind of monsoon.

① North east wa wind (dry & moist) which came from Russia, Syberia, Anter. Because of the Himalaya mountain, it gets p and the winters we face is mild, tolerable. Otherwise we will experience dry weather, dry weather would have been prolonged. Even we could experience snowfall we couldn't culti so much wheat, could have been dessent.

② Another thing is → South-west wa wind This wind is coming from Bay of Bengal

EB doesn't have high mountain, desert, valley, plateau. EB is flat surfaced, fertile by the tangle networks of rivers. and some high lands.

### Structural History:

EB is under water for thousand years. Water began to shift gradually southwards, new land emerged which are extensive, fertile, alluvial land tract. Varendra, Madhupur and Lamai<sup>Bardwan, Bakwa</sup> belong to the old alluvium. The hilly tracts of the Rajmahal Garo, Khasi, Jyotiaria emerged through this process.

### Geographical settings:

There are two types of land

- ① Old Alluvium land
- ② New land

Old Alluvium lands belongs to Rajmahal, Santal Parganas, Manbhum-Singbhumi, Dhalbhum old alluvium land

The old alluvium land came to radish, sandy in texture (Raktamrittia). Bogura, Rangpur, Barendra, Madhupur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, North of Dhaka also belongs to old Alluvium land.

## New alluvium:

<sup>New alluvium land</sup> basically the whole eastern Bengal except for Chittagong hill tract and Sylhet. The land is drenched by the waters of Ganges, Padma, Brahmaputra and their tributaries and rich in their alluvial soil.

## Climate condition: [Slide]

Topic of Cancer went through EB

Monsoonal wind causes heavy rainfall.

Natural disasters like জলবায়ু, cyclone

heavy rainfall is being measured as 75 inches

## Contacts and Communication Routes between Bengal and Beyond:

WB is much more exposed to Delhi north-India which is the center for the invaders. The history is so much connected to NI. NI is always invaded by invaders. WB majority become Hindu.

EB was isolated geographically. Because it had forest natural barrier, rivers, zangals and it's wet weather.

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Aryan Empire establish in north India  
in 4th Century 2nd century AD. Aryan আর্য  
বাইরে থারা অয়া অন্তর্ভুক্ত Beast.

Eventually they conquered us. We started  
to feel

By that time, FB local culture got deeply  
rooted.

Even though FB was isolated but that doesn't  
mean bengal contact <sup>with</sup> outer ~~with~~ world  
is jeopardized. There are some historical  
important contacts and communication roots  
mentioned below.

- ⇒ North bengal to Varanasi and Ayodhya
- ⇒ Pataliputra and Bodhgaya.
- ⇒ Bengal is Kampupa (Assam) and China  
and Tibet in the north.
- ⇒ Chittagong to southern Burma
- ⇒ the most significant of them being  
Sumandar or Sodkawan or Chodgaon

## Socio - Political profile of the Delta culture:

### Intro:

#### 1. Foundation Period:

Continuous migration before agriculture was settled

Migration of different ~~communty~~ population groups

Mongoloids dominated by south-East zone.

They were attracted by the wet climate because of food availability potential.

#### 2. Economics:

Non-settled and shifting cultivation to settled agriculture. Society was forming at a very nascent stage. No organization or state system. Some 'Superimposed' advanced habitation possible but scant reference. We haven't ~~from the~~ established sophisticated society yet.

This is the period foundation period of ethnicity ~~agricultural~~. This is the period where ethnicity formed and earour culture is being developed.

From the Vedic literature, non-aryan people lived in ~~Vanga~~, <sup>Vanga</sup> Gouto, Rara, Punidra, harikela, Samatata EB falls out of the Aryan circle (Beast, Asur, <sup>non-Aryan</sup>)

## Aryanisation:

was felt

- Aryan ancient ~~ancient~~ influenced in the north in the second millennium BC in north-west part.
- Bengal experienced the Aryanisation quite late.
- The Pre-Aryan culture of people of Bengal got enough time to become deeply rooted.
  - Aryans became to arrive ~~from~~ North Bengal <sup>through</sup> ~~from~~ North India.
  - They are coming from dry zone, they ~~try~~ <sup>here first time</sup> to come wet area for food potentiality.
  - Rise of the mixed Hinduism and Animism.
  - Our culture is basically nature worshipping culture.

No local ruling class but also outside Bengal — Aryan and their allies.

## Empirical Indian rule:

From Mauryas to Gupta, rise of the ~~ruling bengal on behalf of north~~ Samantha chakra (overlords and warlords)  
The king conquered his land, he leaves that part and goes back to the capital. Before leaving he appoint a trusted lords, that's called overlords /warlords). Secondary power create chakra. <sup>(Bajnayna)</sup> <sup>that's called samanta chakra.</sup>

Rise of the <sup>Buddhism</sup> in India later in bengal: Since there was high culture let to the rise of power of Samanthas and buddhist monasteries and Samanthas are becoming powerful. Bengal was frequently

regularly exposed to invitation from north India.

Shashanka is the first independent ruler, means he was the first ruler out of north India. Shashanka's capital was 'Karnasuvarna'. He had military strength, had the ambition, had economic stability enough to interfere in north India. He tried to conquer NI.

• Pala dynasty: After the death of Shashanka, Bengal was in a state of "<sup>(political stability firsing)</sup> Matshaynnym" (big fish eating the little fish); lowlessness (অশৰ্ম) for 100 years; there were no political rulers along with internal conflict [between Samanta Chakra]. On the other hand, after the death of 'Harshabardhano', NI was facing political instability also.

Then, Gopala, the founder of the Pala dynasty ruled Bengal for 400 years.

The period of Pala dominance the Bengal saw the dynamic rule of Dharmapala and Devapala. These two man also took the attempt to conquer NI/intering NI politics.

• Rise of the Buddhism: Pala dynasty was the patronizer of Buddhism. Because 'Bajrayana Buddhism' was popular here. They Montair®

wanted to become stable and popular by  
in Bengal by using this.

- Local & popularity use ৱজে - তাৰা নিষ্ঠাপনা -  
establish কৰাৰ ত্ব্য কৰাৰ

This came to an end by the 'Vijayshena'.  
Shena period started.

'Vijayshena' probably was a samanta (feudal lord) & probably was the supporter of 'Pala'.

Unfortunately, they became weak, taking the advantage of the weakness of Pala,

'Vijayshena' took over and Shena period started in Bengal.

#### • Southeastern Bengal: [Chittagong area]

Very rich, flourished, They were largely independent in ancient period. They were ruling southeast bengal independently from the ... up of Gupta empire down to the Shena, this area remain isolated for the political system of the north and western bengal. ~~Banga~~, <sup>Vanga</sup> <sup>Kharga</sup>, Deva, ~~Kharga~~, <sup>chandra</sup> Baerman dynasty — Bengal was ruled by these independence rulers/dynasty. Capital was 'Vikrampur'

Chittagong port belongs to southeastern Bengal, highly rich zone, they had boat building industry, trade they

commanded sea-trade, Arab merchant

Palas were not into trade.

• Sena Dynasty: <sup>the whole</sup>

1. Sena Dynasty unified Bengal. Senas were into trade. We see rise of the traders in Sena period.

2. Sena came and immediately attacked Buddhist monastery and revive conservative Hinduism. Monks fled the country. Revival of conservative Hinduism. Buddhists were the supporter of Pala and they were rich. They earned daring patronization. Buddhist monasteries were powerhouse. That's why Sena attacked B.M., eliminate them and revive Hinduism for the power.

## Q1 Turk-Afghan: [middle age]

They were known as many names. Central Asian ruler were basically lost their because of the Mongol invasion. They were coming from central Asia and they lost their home for the mongol invasion.

Turk afghan conquered India because India ruler were weak that time. Bengal was also conquered. But this was not a fixed position.

Bengal muslim rulers used to revolt against NI and ruled bengal independently.

Naturally there were common threats from NI. Uneasy relationship of Bengal Muslims and India.