

= Nawabs of Bengal and Murshidabad =

The Nawabs of Bengal (full title , the Nawab Nizam of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa) were the rulers of the then provinces of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa . Between 1717 and 1765 , they served as the rulers of the subah (or province) of Bengal . However , they were subordinate to the Mughal Empire . Siraj ud @-@ Daulah , the last independent Nawab of Bengal was betrayed in the Battle of Plassey by Mir Jafar . He lost to the British , who took over the charge of Bengal in 1757 , installed Mir Jafar on the Masnad (throne) and established itself to a political power in Bengal .

In 1765 the system of Dual Government was established , in which the Nawabs ruled on behalf of the British and were mere puppets to the British . In 1772 the system was abolished and Bengal was brought under direct control of the British . In 1793 , when the Nizamat (governorship) of the Nawab was also taken away from them , they remained as the mere pensioners of the British East India Company . The last Nawab of Bengal , Mansur Ali Khan abdicated on 1 November 1880 in favour of his eldest son .

Nawabs of Murshidabad succeeded the Nawabs of Bengal as Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad , following Mansur Ali Khan 's abdication They got the title changed as the title of the Nawab of Bengal was abolished in 1880 . They had little or no say in the share of the revenue collected and were ceased to use any force . After Indian Independence in 1947 it was declared that the princely states must accede to either India or Pakistan (East / West Pakistan) . It is a fact that Murshidabad (the capital city) became a part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) for two days , as it had a Muslim majority . The Pakistani flag was brought down from the Hazarduari Palace and the Indian tricolour was hoisted atop the palace . After merging with India , they had no power as the Government of India took over all the princely states in India . The house of the Nawabs came to end in 1969 with Waris Ali Mirza being the last Nawab . Although he left three sons and three daughters there has been no clear successor to the title since his death as he died without declaring one .

= = Bengal = =

The term " Bengal " incorporates to delineate the ethno @-@ linguistic region of Bengal which including but not limited is all districts within the People 's Republic of Bangladesh , as well as West Bengal , India . During the first partition of Bengal in the early 20th century a new province , Eastern Bengal was created as a Lieutenant @-@ Governorship along with Assam . In 1911 , East Bengal (now Bangladesh) was reunited with Bengal , and the new provinces in the east became : Assam , Bengal Province , Bihar and Orissa . The Nawab thus gained rule over Bihar and Orissa , which were earlier part of Bengal . So sometimes That is why the Nawabs of Bengal were also mentioned as " Nawab of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa " or " Nawab Nazim of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa " - where Nazim (or , Subahdar) means the provincial governor - as they ruled over three subahs while the Nawabs of Murshidabad were the local ruler of the city of Murshidabad . The majority of modern Bengal is inhabited by Bengali people who speak the Bengali language .

= = History before the Nawab 's rule = =

= = = Sultans of Bengal = = =

The early Sultans of Bengal ruled until 1282 which was followed by the rule of several successive dynasties . Ilyas Shah founder of the Ilyas Shahi dynasty , took complete charge of the then Bengal and the capital was shifted to Sonargaon (near present day , Dhaka in Bangladesh) . He was one of the independent rulers of Bengal . His son , Sikandar Shah , who succeeded him , built the Adina Mosque at Pandua , near Gour , Adina Mosque in the medieval times , was considered to be the largest in undivided Bengal , as well as the entire Indian subcontinent .

= = = Mughal Empire = = =

The Mughal Empire emerged as a powerful Empire in northern India . Babur , who was related to two legendary warriors ? Timur and Genghis Khan , invaded north India and defeated Ibrahim Lodi of the Lodi dynasty . Babur thus became the first Mughal emperor . He was succeeded by his son , Humayun . At the same time , Sher Shah Suri (alias Farid Khan) of the Suri dynasty rose to prominence and established himself as the ruler of the present day Bihar by defeating Ghiyasuddin Shah . But he lost to capture the kingdom because of sudden expedition of Humayun . In 1539 , Sher Khan faced Humayun in the battle of Chausa . He forced Humayun out of India . Assuming the title Sher Shah , he ascended the throne of Delhi . He also captured Agra and established control from Bengal in the east until the Indus River in the west . After his death he was succeeded by his son , Islam Shah Suri . But in 1544 the Suris were torn apart by internal conflicts . Humayun took this advantage and captured Lahore and Delhi , but he died in 1556 AD . He was succeeded by Akbar , who defeated Daud Khan Karrani of Bengal 's Karrani Dynasty (or , Karnani Dynasty) . After this , the administration of the entire region of Bengal passed into the hands of governors appointed by the Mughal emperors , who ruled Bengal till 1716 AD .

There were several posts under the Mughal administrative system during Akbar 's reign . Diwani was a system of provincial revenue administration under the Mughals . Nizamat (civil administration) and Diwani (revenue administration) were the two main branches of the provincial administration under the Mughals . A Subahdar (provincial viceroy or governor) , also called a Nizam was in @-@ charge of the Nizamat . There was a chain of subordinate officials under the Nizams on the executive side and under Diwans on the revenue and judicial side .

= = = Emergence of the Nawab Nizam of Bengal = = =

Murshid Quli Khan arrived as the Diwan of Bengal in 1717 AD . Before his arrival , there were four Diwans . And , after his arrival , Azim @-@ ush @-@ Shan held the Nizam 's office . Azim got into conflict with Murshid Quli Khan over imperial financial control . Considering the complaint of Khan , the then Mughal emperor , Aurangzeb ordered Azim to move to Bihar . Upon his departure the two posts united in one and Murshid Quli Khan became the first Nizam cum Diwan of Bengal . Murshid Khan was appointed the " Nawab Nizam of Bengal " and he emerged as the ruler of Bengal under the Mughals . Murshidabad remained the capital of the Nawabs of Bengal until their rule . The Nawab Siraj ud @-@ Daulah , was betrayed in the Battle of Plassey by Mir Jaffer . He lost to the British East India Company , who took installed Mir Jaffer on the Masnad (throne) , as a " puppet ruler " and established itself to a political power in Bengal .

In 1765 , Robert Clive , of the British East India Company , became the first British Governor of Bengal . He secured in perpetuity for the Company the Diwani (revenue and civil justice) of the then Bengal subah from the then Mughal Emperor , Shah Alam II and thus the system of Dual Government was established and the Bengal Presidency was formed . In 1772 the Dual Government system was abolished and Bengal was brought under direct control of the British . In 1793 , when the Nizamat (military power and criminal justice) of the Nawab was also taken away from them , they remained as the mere pensioners of the British East India Company . After the Revolt of 1857 , Company rule in India ended and the British Crown took over the territories which were under the direct rule of the British East India Company in 1858 , which marked the beginning of the British Raj . These territories , including the territory of the Nawab Nazims came under the direct rule of the British Crown and British Raj was established in India . Thus , the Nawab Nizams remained just the titular heads of their territory , which was now ruled by the British Crown , and they had no political or any other kind of control over the territory . The last Nawab of Bengal , Mansoor Ali Khan abdicated on 1 November 1880 in favour of his eldest son .

= = History during the Nawab 's rule = =

== = Dynasties == =

From 1717 until 1880 , three successive Islamic dynasties ? Nasiri , Afshar and Najafi ? ruled what was then known as Bengal .

The first dynasty , the Nasiri , ruled from 1717 until 1740 . The founder of the Nasiri , Murshid Quli Khan , was born a poor Deccani Odia Brahmin before being sold into slavery and bought by one Haji Shafi Isfahani , a Persian merchant from Isfahan who converted him to Islam . He entered the service of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and rose through the ranks before becoming the Nawab Nizam of Bengal in 1717 , a post he held until his death in 1727 . He in turn was succeeded by his son @-@ in @-@ law , Shuja @-@ ud @-@ Din Muhammad Khan . After Shuja @-@ ud @-@ Din 's death in 1739 he was succeeded by his son , Sarfaraz Khan , who held the rank , until he was killed in the Battle of Garia in 1741 , and was succeeded by Alivardi Khan , former ruler of Patna , of the Afshar Dynasty in 1740 .

The second dynasty , the Afshar , ruled from 1740 to 1757 . Siraj ud @-@ Daulah (Alivardi Khan 's grandson) , the last Afshar Nawab was killed in the Battle of Plassey in 1757 . They were succeeded by the third and final dynasty to rule the whole Bengal , the Najafi .

== = Under the Mughals == =

Bengal Subah was one of the wealthiest parts of the Mughal empire . As the Mughal empire began to decline , the Nawabs grew in power , although nominally subordinate to the Mughal emperor . They wielded great power in their own right and finally became independent rulers of the Bengal region , for all practical purposes , by the early 1700s .

== = Maratha expeditions == =

Marathas undertook six expeditions in Bengal from 1741 ? 1748 . Maratha general , Raghunath Rao was able to annex Orissa to his kingdom and the larger confederacy permanently as he successfully exploited the chaotic conditions prevailing in Bengal , Bihar and Orissa after the death of Murshid Quli Khan in 1727 . Constantly harassed by the Bhonsles , Orissa , Bengal and parts of Bihar were economically ruined . Alivardi Khan made peace with Raghunathrao in 1751 ceding in perpetuity Orissa up to the river Suvarnarekha , and agreeing to pay ? 12 lacs annually in lieu of the Chauth of Bengal and Bihar .

The treaty included ? 20 lacs as Chauth for Bengal (includes both West Bengal and Bangladesh) and ? 12 lacs for Bihar (including Jharkhand) . After this , Maratha promised never to cross the boundary of the Nawab of Bengal 's territory .

Thus , Baji Rao is hailed as the greatest Maratha chief after Shivaji because of his success in subjecting Muslim rulers of east India in states such as Bengal , Bihar and Orissa to the Maratha rule .

== = Nawabs of Bengal under British rule and their decline == =

The break @-@ up of the centralised Mughal empire by 1750 , led to the creation of numerous semi @-@ independent kingdoms (all provinces of the former Mughal empire) . Nawab Siraj ud @-@ Daulah was defeated by the British forces of Sir Robert Clive in the Battle of Plassey in 1757 . Thereafter the Nawab of Bengal became a " puppet ruler " depending on military support from British East India company to secure their throne . Siraj @-@ ud @-@ Daulah was replaced by Mir Jaffer . He was personally led to the throne by Robert Clive , after triumph of the British in the battle . He briefly tried to re @-@ assert his power by allying with the Dutch , but this plan was ended by the Battle of Chinsurah . After the defeat at Battle of Buxar and grant of the Diwani (revenue collection) of Bengal by the then Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II , to the British East India Company in August 1765 and the appointment of Warren Hastings by the East India Company as their first Governor General of Bengal in 1773 , the Nawabs authority became restricted . By 1773 , British East India

company asserted much authority and formed the Bengal Presidency over areas ruled by the Nawabs i.e. the Bengal subah , along with some other regions and abolished the system of Dual Government . In 1793 (during Nawab Mubarak ud @-@ Daulah 's reign) , the Nizamat (military power , civil and criminal justice) was abolished , British East India company thus annexed this former Mughal province as part of their empire and took complete control of the region , and the Nawabs of Bengal became mere pensioners of the British East India Company . All the Diwan offices except the Diwan Ton were also abolished .

After the Revolt of 1857 , Company rule in India ended , and all the territories which were under the rule of the British East India Company came under the British Crown in 1858 , which marked the beginning of the British Raj . And administrative control of India came under the Indian Civil Service , which had administrative control over all areas in India , except the Princely States .

Mansoor Ali Khan (aka Feradun Jah) was the last Nawab of Bengal . During his reign the Nizamat at Murshidabad became involved in debts . The then Government of India involved it into an action of preventing further claims . Feradun Jah left Murshidabad in February 1869 and started living in England . The title of " Nawab of Bengal " was abolished in 1880 . He returned to Bombay in October 1880 but spent most of his time pleading his case against the orders of the Government of India . After it was not resolved the Nawab renounced his styles and titles of Nawab Nizam of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa and abdicated in favour of his eldest son at St. Ives , Maidenhead , on 1 November 1880 .

= = = Emergence of the Nawab of Murshidabad and the Nawabs post Indian independence = = =

The Nawabs of Murshidabad succeeded the Nawab Nizams of Bengal , Bihar and Orissa as Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad , following Mansoor Ali Khan 's abdication Nawabs of Murshidabad were the successors of the Nawabs of Bengal . After Lord Clive secured the Diwani of Bengal from Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II in 1765 for the East India Company they did not have any effective authority . So they lavishly enjoyed their title , privileges alongside with the honours they received . They got the title changed as the title of the Nawab of Bengal was abolished in 1880 . They had little or no say and ceased to control any significant force .

After Indian Independence in 1947 , all the non @-@ princely states were subject to a test of religious majority in which the Muslim majority areas formed the Dominion of Pakistan , while the other regions formed the Dominion of India . It is a fact that Murshidabad (the capital city for both , the Nawabs of Bengal and the Nawabs of Murshidabad) became a part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) for two days , as it had a Muslim majority . However , it became a part of India on 17 August 1947 . The Pakistani flag was brought down from the Hazarduari Palace and the Indian tricolour was hoisted atop the palace . The Nawabs , after the takeover by the British had no actual power and after merging with India too , they had yielded power , as the Government of India took over control of all the areas that merged with India . Furthermore , with the promulgation of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950 , the Dominion of India was transformed into the Republic of India , and the Article 18 of the Indian Constitution (which is a part of the Right to Equality , a fundamental right in India) , titles were abolished . The Article prevents the state from confirming any title except those titles given by the Government to those who have made their mark in military and academic fields . Such titles and awards include the Bharat Ratna , the Padma Shri and the Padma Vibhushan (the Supreme Court of India , on 15 December 1995 , upheld the validity of such awards) . Thus , with the promulgation of the Constitution , the title of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad was abolished . And although , the Nawab Waris Ali Meerza held titles such as Raes ud @-@ Daulah , they were not officially or legally recognised .

Although , the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad had no political power the office continued to be held by the second Nawab Bahadur Syed Wasif Ali Meerza Khan Bahadur , who had held the office since 1906 , and after his death in 1959 , he was succeeded by his son , Syed Wasif Ali Meerza Khan Bahadur . Waris Ali Meerza died in 1969 , survived by his three sons and three daughters . According to the Nawab ? s law , the eldest son of the Nawab succeeded him , however , Waris Ali 's eldest son , Wakif Ali Meerza Bahadur , was excluded from the succession by his father for

contracting a non @-@ Muslim marriage and for not professing the Muslim religion .

Waris Ali Meerza , the third Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad , died in 1969 , and he took no steps during his lifetime to establish his succession . And before declaring his successor Waris Ali died . There was no clear successor to Waris Ali .

Since then there was no clear successor to Waris Ali and the titular office / post was in dispute , and a legal battle ensued . And following this as the title was in dispute , a legal battle ensued . Abbas Ali Meerza claimed to be the legal heir of Waris Ali on the basis of being the son of the daughter of Waris Ali's father , the second Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad , Wasif Ali Meerza ; while Sajid Ali Meerza claimed the same on the basis of being the son by mut ? ah marriage of Wasif Ali . The case reached the Supreme Court and finally , the Supreme Court judges , Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R K Agrawal , gave their judgement on 13 August 2014 , declaring the then 72 @-@ year @-@ old Abbas Ali Meerza (full name , Syed Mohammed Abbas Ali Meerza) , who happened to be the son of the only daughter of Waris Ali's father , Wasif Ali Meerza (the third Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad) , the successor and the legal heir to the former Nawab of Murshidabad , Waris Ali Meerza . The Court directed Abbas Ali Meerza , son of Syed Md . Sadeque Ali Meerza , to be the direct descendant of Waris Ali Meerza . However , the case against the state 's annexation of the Murshidabad Estate , which is worth several thousand crores , is still on , as of 2014 .

However , as titles have been abolished in India , the title of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad no longer exists . However , Abbas Ali Meerza can now legally succeed Waris Ali Meerza 's office legally , but his title of the fourth Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad would be unofficial , as the title is not legally and officially recognised .

= = List of the Nawabs of Bengal = =

The following is a list of all the Nawabs of Bengal . Sarfaraz Khan and Mir Mohammad Jaffer Ali Khan (Mir Jaffer) were the only Nawabs to become the Nawab twice . The chronology started in 1717 with Murshid Quli Khan and ended in 1881 with Mansoor Ali Khan 's abdication .

= = List of the Nawabs of Murshidabad = =

The Nawabs of Murshidabad succeeded the Nawabs of Bengal after the abdication in 1881 and the abolition of the title of Nawab of Bengal in 1880 . There have been four Nawabs of Murshidabad , as of 2014 , as follows :