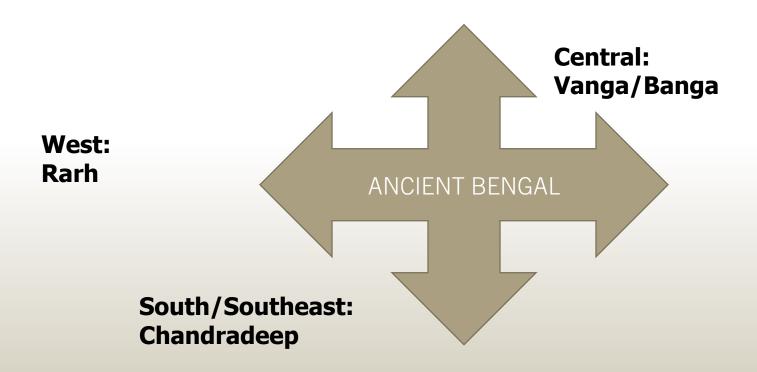


## JANAPADS OF ANCIENT BENGAL

North: Pundra, Varendri/Barendra, and Gaur



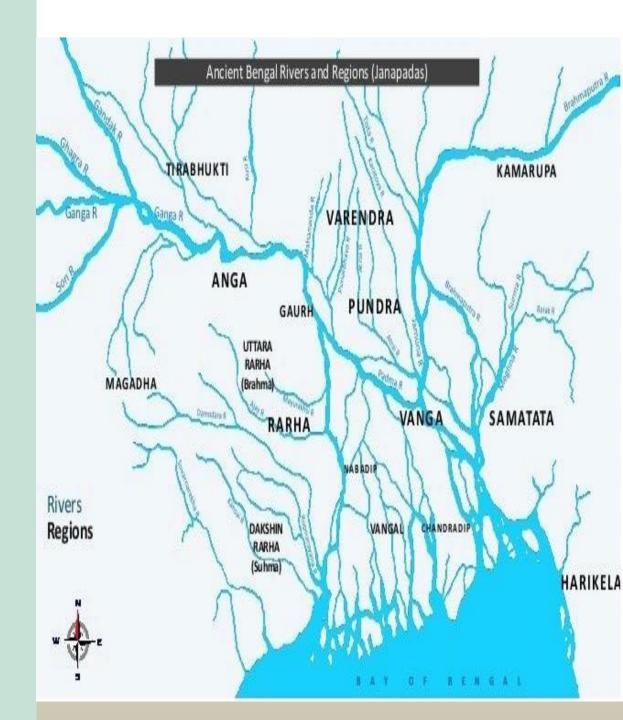
**East: Samatata** and Harikela

# Janapada

Ancient Bengal was not a unique or soveriegn state like present Bangladesh.

Different parts of Bengal were divided in many small regions in their own way.

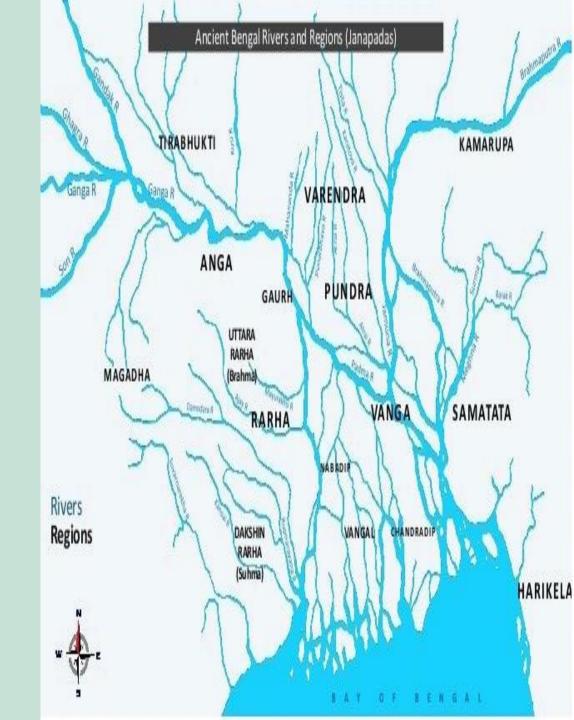
These regions of Bengal were collectively named as 'Janapadas'.



# Janapada

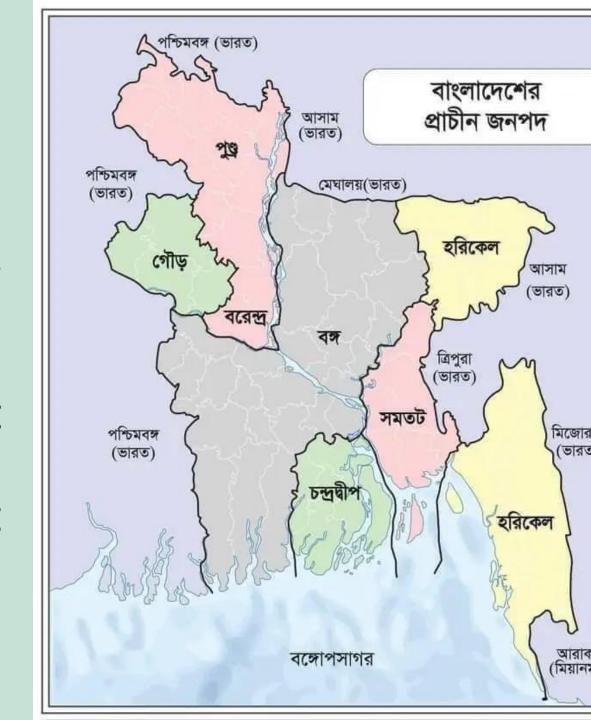
From different inscriptions and literary works, we came to know approximately *sixteen* Janapadas of Bengal.

The **borders** of the Janapadas never remained the same. Sometimes, the area of some Janapadas extended as well as declined.



# Gaura

- No clear evidence about the location.
- In the 7th century, Shashanka was called the Gaurraj (King of Gaur).
- Its capital was Karnasubarna.
- Gaur was situated at the present Murshidabad.
- Later, Maldah was called Gaur at the beginning of the Muslim period.



# Banga

A Janapada named **Banga** was built at the centre and south-east regions of present Bangladesh.

It is supposed that a nation named 'Banga' lived here.

The old stone inscriptions, validate two parts of Banga. One was *Vikrampura* and the other was *Navya*.

It is thought that the *Faridpur, Barisal and Patuakhali* are included in this Navya' region. The old Banga was a very powerful region.

# **Pundra**

It is said that a nation called Pundra built up this Janapada.

**Pundra** of that time was extended at least across the regions of *Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Rajshahi*.

Pundranagar was the name of the capital of the Pundras. Subsequently it became known as Mahasthangar.

# Harikela

The writers of the seventh century have also described another region called Harikela.

Harikela was situated at the end of eastern Bengal.

It can be assumed that Harikela spread from *Sylhet to Chittagong* at the present time.

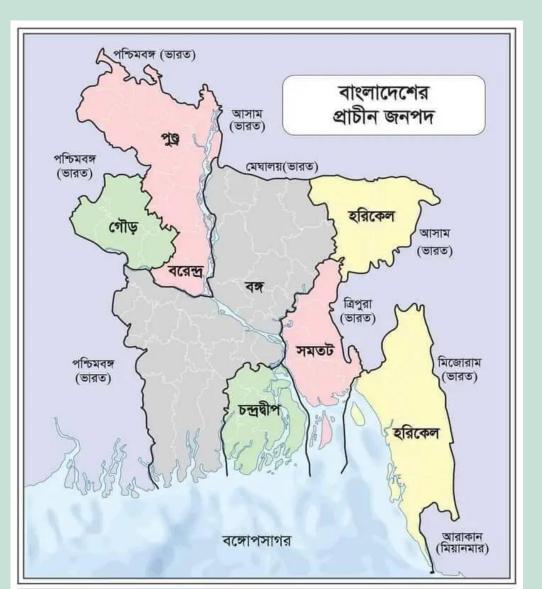
# Samatata

**Samatata** was situated in the East and South-east Bengal as a neighboring Janapada of Banga.

Some think that Samatata was the ancient name of present *Cumilla*.

In the seventh century its capital was the place named Bara Kamta, 12 miles west of Cumilla city. Some ancient remnants have been found at Mainamati, Cumilla. The Shalbana Bihara is one of them.

# **Barendra**



Another Janapada of ancient Bengal could be known in the name of Barendree, Barendra or Barendra Bhumi.

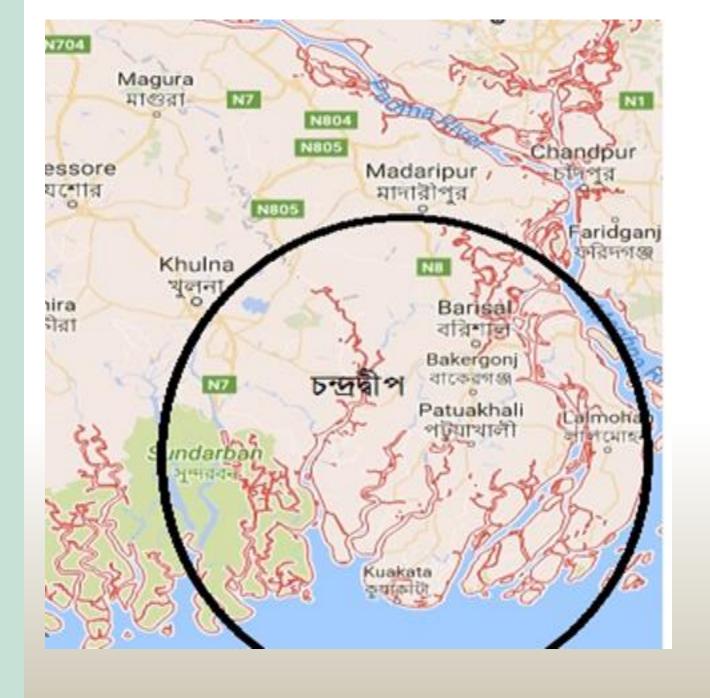
It was also a Janapada of North Bengal. It is thought that **Barendra** was located in the vast area of Pundra.

The Barendra region was extended across areas of *Bogra, Dinajpur and Rajshahi* region as well as probably of *Pabna* region.

# Chandradeep

Another smaller Janapada in ancient Bengal was **Chandradeep**.

The very *Barisal* region of today was the mainland and the heart of Chandradeep.



# MEDIEVAL BENGAL

**Socioeconomic and political condition** 

## MEDIEVAL BENGAL

- ☐ Began in the **13**<sup>th</sup> **century**.
- ☐ Main feature: end of the Hindu and Buddhist rule and the establishment of the Muslim rule in Bengal.
- □ In 1203 A.D. the Turkish hero Bakhtiar Khalji conquered Bihar near Bengal.
- ☐ The trained warrior chose to advance through the jungle of Jharkhand instead of the mountain pass of Teliaghri.

## **BAKHTIAR KHALIJ 1203-1206 CE**

- □ Bakhtiar Khalji conquered *Bihar* near Bengal.
- ☐ He divided his army into small groups to conquer Nadia.
- ☐ The people of *Nadia* thought that a band of horse merchant has come, so nobody stopped them.
- ☐ Bakhtiar Khalji occupied the Palace of Lakhshmana Sena; who fled to East Bengal.



### **BAKHTIAR KHALIJ 1203-1206 CE**

- □ Bakhtiar Khalji took hold of the famous capital of Sena Dynasty, Lakhsmanabati and renamed it as *Lakhnauti*.
- ☐ Established capital at Devakota (Dinajpur) and did not conquer Bengal any further.
- ☐ He failed in the expedition of Tibet and came back to Devakota.
- □ Died in 1206.

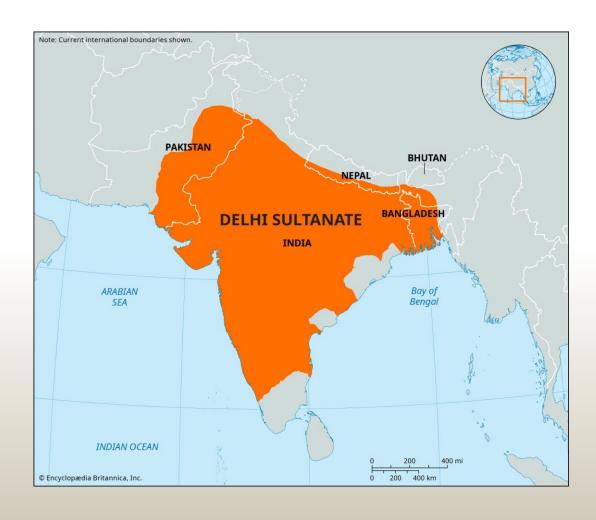


## ALI MARDAN AND OTHERS

After the **assassination** of Bakhtiar Khalji by his own officer Ali Mardan in 1206, Bengal was administered by various Maliks belonging to the **Khalji** tribe till Delhi Sultan Iltutmish sent forces under his son, Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, to bring Bengal under the direct control of the **Delhi Sultans**.

## BENGAL UNDER DELHI SULTANATE

Rulers of Delhi tried to control
Bengal by appointing governors
but most of the governors
revolted against the Delhi
Sultanate.



# THE INDEPENDENT SULTANATE (1338-1538 CE)

- □Bahram Khan was made governor of Sonargaon and Satgaon. In 1338 Bahram Khan died.
- □Upon his death at Sonargaon, Fakhruddin (Armour bearer of Bahram) captured power, proclaimed independence and assumed the title of "Sultan Fakhruddin Mobarak Shah".
- ☐ Beginning of the Independent Sultanate that continued for two hundred years.



# THE INDEPENDENT SULTANATE (1338-1538 CE)

Eakhruddin Mubarak Shah ruled from **1338-1349.**  He conquered Chittagong and built a highway from Chandpur to Chittagong.

He extended the area of his kingdom in the North-West direction.

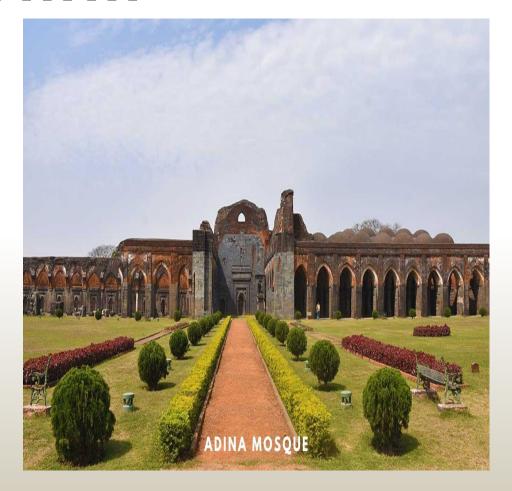
Gazi Shah ruled Sonargaon for three years after the death of Fakhruddin.

# ILIYAS SHAH

- □ Haji Iliyas Shah conquered Bengal by defeating Gazi Shah and established a Dynasty in Bengal in 1352.
- ☐ He was the founder of Ilyas Shahi Dynasty.
- □ Pandua (West Bengal, India) was the capital of the Bengal Sultanate under his reign.

# SIKANDAR SHAH

- He was the son of Ilyas Shah.
- He defeated Firoz Shah
   Tughlaq and later
   acknowledged the
   independence of Bengal
   Sultanate.
- Adina Mosque was built during Sikandar Shah's reign.



# GHIYASUDDIN AZAM SHAH

☐ He was the **third** Bengal Sultan.

- ☐ He established diplomatic relationship with the Ming dynasty (China).
- □ Ramayan was translated into Bengali by Krittibas Ojha during his reign.

# GANESHA DYNASTY (1414-1432/35)

- □Raja Ganesha, a Hindu landlord of Bhaturia and Dinajpur. Ganesha became the king of Bengal by usurping power from the weak Iliyas Shahi sultans in the early 15th century.
- ☐ He was the founder of **Ganesha Dynasty**.
- □ Later his son Jalaluddin Muhammad Shah succeded the kingdom. He contributed to the reconquest of Arakan. Fatehabad (Now, Faridpur in Bangladesh) came under his control.
- □Iliyas shahi dynasty continued till 1497.



# The Habshi Rule (1487 - 1493)**A.D.**)

- □Before the Ilyas Shahi dynasty, it was customary for Muslim rulers to purchase Abyssinian (Ethiopian) slaves and appoint them to royal palaces or important positions in the kingdom.
- ☐ Even during the reign of Jalaluddin Fateh Shah, some slaves were appointed as palace guards, who gradually increased their power among themselves.
- □ Jalaluddin tried to rein them in. But they killed the Sultan and seized the throne.

## HUSSAIN SHAHI DYNASTY (1494-1538)

□Allaudin Hussain Shah

Bengal Sultanate-Kamata Kingdom War led to the conquer of large parts of Assam.

After the Bengal Sultanate-Kingdom of Mrauk U War; Bengali sovereignty in Chittagong and northern Arakan was restored.

He was famously called **Akbar of Bengal**.

#### ☐Ghiyasuddin Muhammad Shah

- Factories were established in Chittagong and Hoogli after he permitted the Portuguese.
- Sher Shah Suri of Sur Dynasty defeated him and his Portuguese allies in 1538.

#### RULE OF AFGHANS

- **Rule of Afghans** began in Bengal in 1538 following the fall of Hossain Shahi Dynasty. At the Beginning, the period of their rule was very short, about six months (April-September, 1538).
- But the next term lasted for a long period from 1539 to 1576.

• Before the occupation of Bengal by Sher Khan (Afghan) in 1538, Afghans used to serve the Sultans of Bengal. The Sultans of Bengal had appointed them in various government departments.

### **BARO-BHUIYANS**

- During the interregnum between Afghan rule and the rise of Mughal power in Bengal, various parts of Bengal passed to the control of several military chiefs, Bhuiyans and Zamindars.
- These were mostly Afghan and Bengali Hindu elites, some from old ruling families and others new power grabbers.

### **BARO-BHUIYANS**

- They jointly, and more often severally resisted Mughal expansion and ruled their respective territories as independent or semi-independent chiefs. There was no central control, or if there was any, it was nominal.
- Taking the whole of Bengal into consideration, the number of bhuiyans must have been many more than twelve.

#### BARO-BHUIYANS

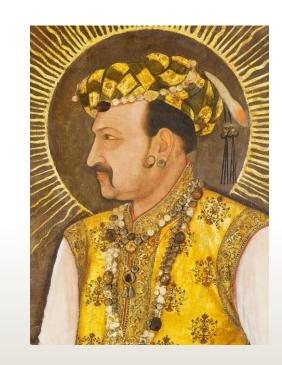
- Isha kha was the leader of Barabhuiyan and zamindar of Sonargaon, the low land name as 'Vati' area.
- Emperor Akbar sent his soldiers several time to conquer the Bengal but they could not defeat Isha khan and zamindars.



### MUGHAL RULE IN BENGAL

• Finally, in 1610, the Mughal governor fought his way east to Dhaka, which he fortified and renamed Jahangirnagar after the Mughal emperor Jahangir.

 He made Dhaka as the capital of Bengal, mainly because it was best positioned to suppress resistance in the delta and to check the growing power of the Portuguese and Arakanese in the southeast.



# MUGHAL RULE IN BENGAL

- Rule of Subadar
- Rule of Nawabs

#### RULE OF SUBADARS

- The Mughal provinces were known as "Subas."
- Bengal became a Suba after the defeat of the Barabhuyinas and Islam Khan introduced the rule of the Subadars in Bengal in 1610 A.D
- Many Subadars ruled in Bengal, but no one could succeed before Mir Jumla's reign.

## SOME SUBADARS IN BENGAL

Islam Khan Kasem Khan Juini

- Shah Suja
- Mir Jumla
- Shayesta khan
- Murshidkuli khan

#### NAWABS

After 1700 the influence of the Mughal imperial court over Bengal declined rapidly. A new diwan (top revenue official) by the name of Murshid Quli Khan presided over a peaceful transition to independence from Delhi and his successors would style themselves nawabs (naba<sup>-</sup>b), or independent princes.

He moved the provincial capital from Dhaka to Murshidabad and reformed revenue collection. By 1713 the posting of officials from Delhi stopped as the Mughal empire descended into disorder.

Although Bengal was nominally still a province, it became independent under the nawabs, who were a non-Bengali dynasty.

#### NAWABS

- Murshid Quli Khan
- ❖ Alivardi Khan
- ❖ Siraj-ud-Daulah

Some of the **Nawabs of Bengal**.

The last nawab of Bengal, Sirajuddaula, attempted to block unauthorised trade from the region. This led to repeated confrontations with British traders and his ultimate defeat at Polashi in 1757.

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