Abstract:

This report deals with some aspects of the partition event of the region of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which was divided in 1905 during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon. This research has been done to find out the real purpose of the partition of Bengal. Curzon made this division mentioning only a sheer adjustment of administrative boundaries. In his explanation, Curzon said that folks of Memon Singh and Baker Ganj divisions were often notorious for disorder and crimes and therefore the police were unable to take action against these people. A sub-governor was unable to take required actions of those elaborate territories. Additionally, similar territories were split before, in 1865, modern Uttar Pradesh was created as a North Western state and Assam was separated from this region in 1873. In 1904, Curzon visited East Bengal and in October 1905 this plan took the ultimate shape of order . As a consequence, on October 16, 1905, Bengal was divided into two parts.

Introduction:

The new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam came into being on 16 October 1905. Before its creation, it formed a neighborhood of Bengal which grew gradually too vast for efficient administration. From time to time, efforts were made to detach Bengal's distant areas so that it makes them into separate administrative units. The thought was to make sure a far better local administration of these outlying areas and, at an equivalent time, to supply relief to Bengal. The Partition of Bengal (1905) and the creation of a new province opened a replacement chapter within the history of this region. Whatever may need been the important motive of the colonial government behind the scheme, it divided the Hindus and thus the Muslims of Bengal. Most of the upper caste Hindus opposed it on the bottom that by partitioning Bengal, In effect, they had planned to divide the Bangla speaking people. They also argued that it had been a part of the government’s grand design of ‘divide and rule’. On the opposite hand, most of the upper crust Muslims generally supported the scheme. They thought that their interests would be better protected within the newly created province and therefore they would be ready to overcome decades of backwardness. Yet, there have been some Muslims who opposed the partition. As they belonged both to class and ordinary section of the Muslim population, their reasons for supporting the partition also varied. Personal, community, national, and economic interests prompted them to oppose the partition of Bengal.

Purpose / Objectives:

The idea of the partition had been mentioned just for administrative reasons. Therefore, Curzon planned to divide Bengal and unconnected Orissa and Bihar and join fifteen eastern districts of Bengal with Assam. The eastern region held a population of 31 million, most of whom were Muslim, which center is at Dhaka.

Lord Curzon was the governor-general of India at that time(1899 to 1905). The partition of the Bengal region came into effect on 16th October 1905 during his governance. From 1765 (following the Battle of Bexar) the region of Bengal, including present-day West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Bangladesh and Assam was under the British governance. It was a really large area and then the population rose to almost 80 million by the primary few years of the 20th century. Calcutta was the capital of the region and also of British India. There were difficulties in administering such an outsized area. The eastern part, especially in rural areas, was neglected by them. That region was lacking within the fields of industry, education and employment. Much of the industry was surrounded by Calcutta. For administrative purposes, the partition of the region had been proposed even before Curzon had arrived in India as a governor-general. In 1874, Assam was sliced away from Bengal and anesthetized by a Chief Commissioner. Initially, Lord Curzon proposed the partitioning of the region as an administrative change solely. In 1904, he visited eastern Bengal. The idea of using the Bengal partition as a political tool to diminish the growing nationalism in Bengal and other parts of India occurred later. As per Curzon, after the partition, both provinces would be Bengal (including modern West Bengal state, Odisha and Bihar) and on the other hand Eastern Bengal and Assam, Bengal would also lose five Hindi-speaking states of the Central region. it might gain Odia-speaking states from the Central Provinces. On the other hand, Eastern Bengal would contain Hill Tripura, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions. The capital would be Dhaka. Bengal would have a Hindu majority region. Eastern Bengal and Assam would have a Muslim majority-based populated region. the capital would remain Calcutta.

Methodology:

In 1905 the choice of the Partition of Bengal and the creation of a replacement province (Eastern Bengal and Assam) by Lord Curzon was an epoch making step of the British Government. It created a replacement sensation both in the political and social history of Bengal & the Indian Sub-continent. The event also brought out a novel rise within the Muslim education of East Bengal. However, there was a mixed reaction within both major communities of Bengal viz. Hindus and Muslims after the partition of Bengal. The Muslims, the bulk community of this part, welcomed the decision; on the opposite hand, the educationally more developed Hindu community rejected it. To them, the partition of Bengal was done merely to weaken the Indian nationalistic stroll. But the goodbye disregarded Muslim society of Eastern Bengal felt rather much encouraged and regarded it as an accurate step within the event of their own society. The difference and disagreement on this issue caused a collision between these two communities of the region. Alongside, it gave birth to political unrest within the sort of terrorist and allied movement of 'Swadeshi'.Within the face of terrorist agitation, British Government was compelled to announce its annulment in 1911. But despite numerous negative reactions, the positive influence of the Partition of Bengal within the tutorial arena of East Bengal was unprecedented and surprising within the contemporary social history of Bengal. Especially at that point, extension within the education sector, which was recorded within the Muslim majority Eastern Bengal, was quickest ever at any period of British India. So Partition of Bengal deserves a special study within the history of Bengali Muslims and then the spread of education. therefore the foremost purpose of this text is to elaborate on this development. Since the spread of Muslim education within the Eastern part of the new province was remarkable compared to the Assam region, geographically the study focuses only on Eastern Bengal.

Main Body:

Descriptive Part:

The Partition of Bengal (1905) and also the creation of a replacement province opened a replacement chapter within the history of this region. Whatever that might have been the important motive of the colonial government behind the step, it divided the Hindus that the Muslims of Bengal. Most of the upper caste Hindus opposed it on the lowest that by partitioning Bengal the government. In effect of that, they had planned to divide the Bangla speaking people. They also argued that it had been the world of the government’s grand design of ‘divide and rule’. On the opposite hand, Most of the social class Muslims generally supported the step. They thought that their interests would be better protected within the newly created province and then they would be ready to overcome decades of backwardness. Yet, there have been some Muslims who opposed the partition. As they belonged both to class and ordinary sections of the Muslim population, their reasons for supporting the partition also varied. Personal, community, national, and economic interests prompted themselves to oppose the partition of Bengal. Bengal was partitioned in 1905 by Viceroy Curzon. At that point, Bengal was the foremost important province of British India. It included Bihar and parts of Orissa. Administrative convenience was cited because of the reason for the partition of Bengal. Most of the analysts believe that the partition was done to cut back the influence of Bengali politicians and to separate the Bengali people.

Analytical / Discussion:

The Bengal Partition may be a special place within the history of the Indian National Liberation War. The history of dissolution is extremely ancient. The Partition of Bengal (1905), also documented as ‘Bang-Bhang’ (Bengali: বঙ্গভঙ্গ) was a local restructure of the Bengal Presidency implemented by the authorities of British governance in 1905. The partition separated mostly Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas on 16th October 1905 .After being announced on 19th July 1905 by the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon. consistent with Lord Curzon, the Partition of Bengal was done thanks to some administrative reasons. But Indians believed that it had been a result of the "Divide and Rule" policy of British Government. Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa had formed one province of British India since 1765. By 1900 the province had grown overlarge to handle under one administration. East Bengal, lack of communications had been neglected in favor of West Bengal and Bihar. Curzon chose one reason among several ones for partition: to unite Assam, which had been a neighborhood of the province until 1874, with 15 districts of east Bengal and thus formed a replacement province with a population of approximately 31 million. The capital was named "Dacca" (now Dhaka.)The people were mainly Muslim. The Hindus of West Bengal, whose main livelihood Bengal’s business and rural life complained that the division would make them a minority during the partition that might not corporate the state of Bihar and Orissa. Hindus were tortured as a result of the “divide and rule” policy (where the colonizers turned the native population against itself so as to rule), albeit Curzon stressed it might produce administrative efficiency. The partition animated the Muslims to make their own national organization on general lines. so as to appease Bengali sentiment, Bengal was reunited by Lord Hardinge in 1911. In response to the "Swadeshi "movement’s strike in protest against the policy. The growing belief among Hindus was that East Bengal would have its own courts and policies as a result of partition.

The elected officers of Bengal had to administer a neighborhood of 189,000 sq miles and by 1903 the population of the province had risen to 78.50 million. Consequently, many districts in eastern Bengal had been practically neglected due to isolation and poor communication which made good governance almost impossible. Calcutta and its nearby districts attracted all the energy and a spotlight of the government. The condition of farmers was miserable under the exaction of absentee landlords. Trade, commerce and education were being impaired. the executive machinery of the province was understaffed. Especially in east Bengal, in the countryside so stop by rivers and creeks, no special attention had been paid to the peculiar difficulties of police investigation till the last decade of the 19th century. Organized piracy within the waterways had existed for a minimum of a century.

It is already clear that Bengal was covering a huge area and was an area for a really large population of British India. The province was lacking advancement of education, infrastructure, industrial development and therefore the problem of unemployment.

The British Government said that the Bengal was overlarge to be administered single-handedly and therefore the eastern Bengal was less prosperous than the western Bengal. Also one among the explanations that Curzon described was that he wanted to separate the Bengalis from other native Indians.

The Indians and particularly Hindu wasn't within the support of the partition of Bengal. consistent with them, the partition of Bengal was just a policy of the British Government to separate Hindu and Muslim of British India. They wanted to form Bengal a Muslim majority state and with the event of the state, they might achieve the trust of Indian Muslims and their support. Indian Hindus called it a neighborhood of the "Divide and Rule" policy of the British Government.

The enlarged plan received the approval of the governments of Assam and Bengal. The new region would contain the state of Hill Tripura, the Divisions of Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi (excluding Darjeeling) and therefore the district of Malda amalgamated with Assam. Bengal was to surrender not only these large territories on the East but also to put away the five Hindi-speaking states from the Central Provinces. In the west, it might gain Sambalpur and a minor tract of 5 Uriya-speaking states from the Central state. Bengal would be left with a neighborhood of 141,580 sqft. miles and a population of around 54 million. Here around 42 million would be Hindus and 9 million Muslims.

The new state was named ‘Eastern Bengal and Assam’ with its capital at Dhaka and subsidiary headquarters at Chittagong. It might cover a neighborhood of 106,540 sq ft. miles. Its population is about 31 million consisting of 18 million Muslims and 12 million Hindus. Its administration would contain a legislature, a Board of Revenue of two members. The jurisdiction of the Calcutta supreme court would be left undisturbed. the government acknowledged that the new state would have a clearly demarcated western boundary and well defined geographical, ethnological, linguistic and social characteristics. The foremost striking feature of the new region was that it might concentrate within its own bounds the hitherto ignored and neglected typical homogenous Muslim population of Bengal. Moreover, the entire tea industry (except Darjeeling), and the greater portion of the jute growing area would be brought under one administration. The government of India promulgated their final judgment during a Resolution dated 19 July, 1905 and therefore the Partition of Bengal was effected on 16 October of an equivalent year.

The partition divided Bengal into two provinces. The primary one was Bengal including West Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar and therefore the second was East Bengal and Assam. East Bengal had its capital Dhaka while West Bengal had the Capital Calcutta. West Bengal was declared the state with Hindu majority while East Bengal was a state having the bulk of Muslims.

Conclusion:

The decision to effect the Partition of Bengal (Bengali: বঙ্গভঙ্গ) was announced on 19 July 1905 by Curzon who was the viceroy of India at that time. The partition happened on 16 October 1905. This partition separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas of Bengal . The Hindus of West Bengal who survived Bengal's business and rural life complained that the division would make them a minority during the partition. which might not cooperate with the province of Bihar and Orissa. Hindus were tortured when they saw it as a "divide and rule" policy (where the colonizers turned the native population against itself so as to rule), albeit Curzon stressed it might produce administrative efficiency. The partition animated the Muslims to make their own national organization on communal lines. So as to appease Bengali sentiment, Bengal was reunited by Lord Harding in 1911, in response to the Swadeshi movement's riots in protest against the policy. Therefore the growing belief among Hindus that East Bengal would have its own courts and policies. Bangladesh's Partition literature deserves to be considered alongside similar priority from other parts of the subcontinent. But more important than literary criticism is that the task of transcending the incidents that have given rise to the literature. Perhaps the foremost deleterious outcome of Partition has been the partitioning of the subcontinental mind. we've not only become a relative of squabbling nations, but we've also grown to deny our civilizational unity. it's imperative that we make efforts to rediscover our commonality. this is often true in every realm of experience, the cultural also because of socio-economic and political. We cannot return to the established order ante, we cannot undo a tragedy, but we will attempt to transcend towards a far better order of things. Dealing critically with the cultural fallout of Partition may be a necessary initiative effort.