

# Partition of Bengal in 1905 ACE and Its Reaction

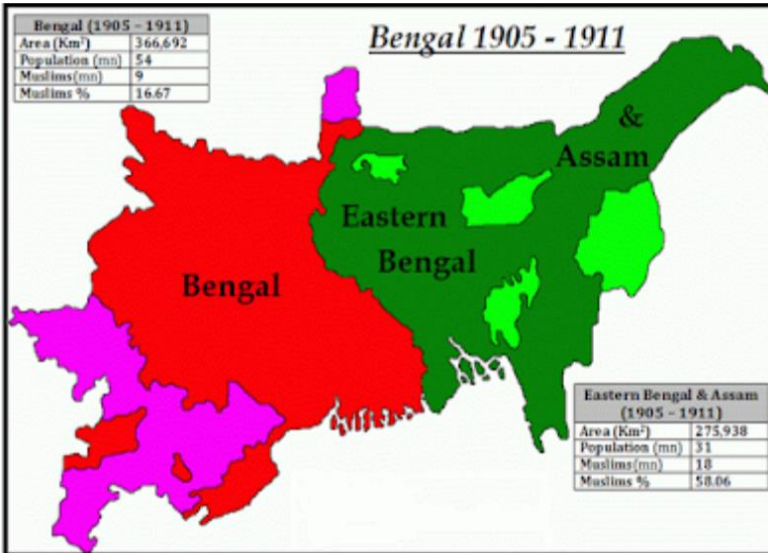
Presented By

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## ❑ Introduction

❖ The Partition of Bengal in 1905 was made on 16 October by then Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon.

❖ Due to the high level of political unrest generated by the partition, the eastern and western parts of Bengal were reunited in 1911.



### ❑ Causes of Partition of Bengal in 1905

- ❖ Partition of Bengal is one of the momentous events in the history of Bengal as well as in India. It was put to effect on 16 October, 1905 during the viceroyalty of Lord Curzon.
- ❖ The historiography of the Bengal partition of 1905 highlighted some two points of arguments vis-a-vis its background.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

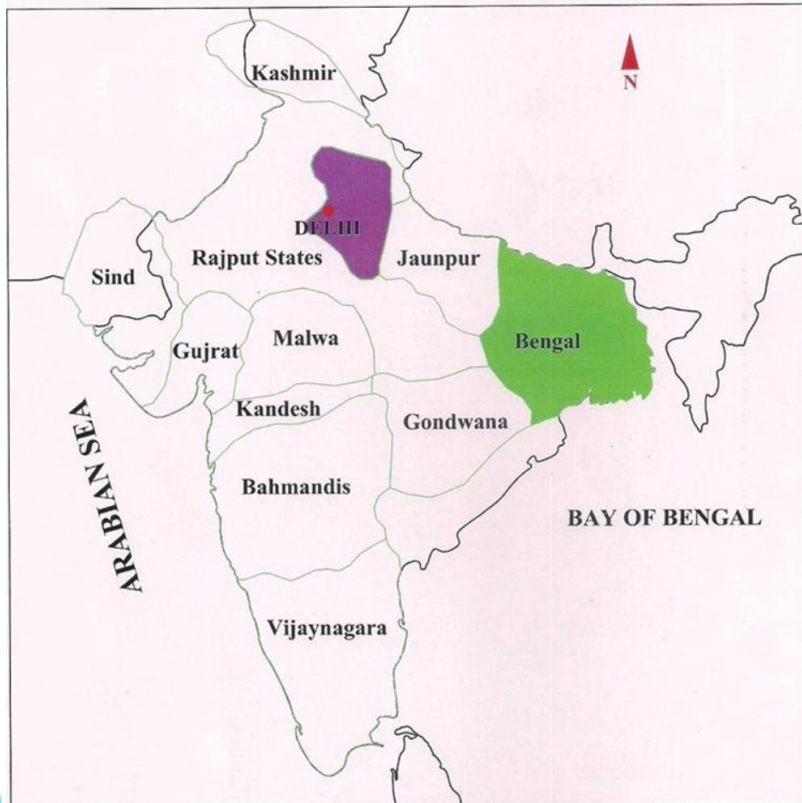
### ❑ Causes of Partition of Bengal in 1905

- ❖ School of thoughts of the Bengal historians maintains that it was for administrative reasons alone that the colonial government divided Bengal. Interestingly most British Civilians of the time held this opinion.
- ❖ Scholars believe that the motive of the colonial government was purely political.

# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

## ❑ Causes of Partition of Bengal in 1905

❖ The idea of partitioning Bengal did not originate with Curzon. Bengal, which included Bihar and Orissa since 1765, was admittedly too much large for a single province of British India.



❖ This premier province grew too vast for efficient administration and required reorganization and intelligent division.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

❑ Reasons Behind the Partition of Bengal 1905 or What was the reasons Behind the Partition of Bengal 1905 ACE?

❖ **The reasons behind the partition can be studied under the following broad headings:-**

- **1. Administrative reason**
- **2. Economic and Commercial reasons and**
- **3. Political reason**

### ❑ 1. Administrative Reasons Behind the Partition of Bengal 1905

- ❖ Towards the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century administrative reasons were the primary concern of the British government for the partition of Bengal.
- ❖ Administrative reasons for the partition were:
  - A) Poor administration:
  - B) Size of the Bengal Province:



# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

## □ Size of the Bengal Province



❖ Bengal presidency consisting of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was the largest province in British India. In 1903 it had 1,89,000 square miles, with a population of 78.50 million.

❖ The size of the province made it impossible for the Lieutenant-Governor to maintain law and order.



### ❑ 2. Administrative Reasons Behind the Partition of Bengal 1905

➤ **Permanent Settlement in 1793:**

➤ **Importance given to the city of Calcutta:**

➤ **Poor educational Facilities:**

❖ **Educationally East Bengal was way behind West Bengal. East Bengal was a Muslim majority province, the British till 1905 took no steps to improve the educational facilities of the region. Most of the schools and colleges were in and around Calcutta.**

### ❑ Administrative Reasons Behind the Partition of Bengal 1905

- ❖ The backwardness of the **Muslims in English education** prevented them from getting jobs in the government services except that of third or fourth class employees.
- ❖ In 1905 the Government of **Eastern Bengal and Assam** pointed out to the Inspector General of Police that **92.6 percent of the posts of the inspectors were held by Hindus** while the **Muslims held only 7.4 percent**.

### ❑ 3. Political Reason for the Partition of Bengal in 1905

- ❖ **Though the scheme for partition of Bengal in 1854 started as an administrative necessity by 1903.**
- ❖ **The political advantage of the partition was evident to the British administrators who were increasingly getting anxious of the rising wave of aggressive Hindu nationalism in Bengal.**

### ❑ The Indian National Congress

- ❖ The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 with the blessing of British Government. Therefore, in the beginning the Congress was profuse in its expression of loyalty to the British Raj.
- ❖ Its members recognized the benefits conferred by British rule and had reliable faith in British liberalism and justice.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ The Indian National Congress

- ❖ On their part the British Government offered unstated support to the Congress and many of their officials attended the meetings and even took part in the deliberations.
- ❖ For about 20 years from 1885-1905 ACE the activities of Congress were confined to the criticism of the policy of Government and to demands for specific constitutional advancements.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

❑ The Indian National Congress change her attitude

- ❖ However, with the passage of time the demands of the Congress grew stronger and became more aggressive. Its objectivity changed from a share in administration to demand for self-government.
- ❖ Such demand which was gradually becoming more and more assertive and political towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century worried the British government.

❑ The Indian National Congress change her attitude

❖ Gradually they turned towards a new phase in their historic strategy built on the policy of divide and rule.

❖ In the first phase of divide and rule strategy the British after the Battle of Palashi used the Hindus totally to subdue the Muslims.



## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction



Arrival of Lord Curzon in Dacca

- ❑ Lord Curzon created opinion regarding Partition
- ❖ Lord Curzon during his tour to East Bengal in February 1904 addressed in a number of meetings explained to the Muslims that his 'object in partitioning Bengal was not only to relieve the Bengal administration, but also to create a Mohammedan province.





In 1902, Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah  
(centre in robes) with local elites  
in Ahsan Manzil, Dacca



Lord Curzon with Nawab Sir  
Salimullah in Ahsan Manzil 1904,  
Dacca

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

❑ The British introduce communal politics

- ❖ Almost after one hundred and fifty (150) years the British found it to their colonial advantage to use the Muslims against the rising power of the Hindus.
- ❖ The British not only encouraged the Muslims to form political parties along religious lines, they took various constructive steps to create a situation whereby Muslims would be forced to think in a way as if their religious identity is at safety.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

❑ The British introduce communal politics

❖ From 1870 onwards the British started inciting the Hindus and Muslims to form their own political parties to establish their own political identities.

❑ All India Muslim League and All India Hindu Mahashabha

❖ That was perhaps the beginning of the communalization of politics. As a result of that, All India Muslim League and All India Hindu Mahashabha were formed.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

❑ To break the growing solidarity of Bengali Nationalism

❖ To strike the roots of **Bengali Nationalism**, the real motive was to break 'the growing solidarity of Bengali Nationalism'. Bengal at that time was considered as the nerve centre of Indian Nationalism.

❖ To demonstrate the strength of British Raj Lord Curzon decided to take drastic measures. He believed that people of India were illiterate and could not have no political aspiration.

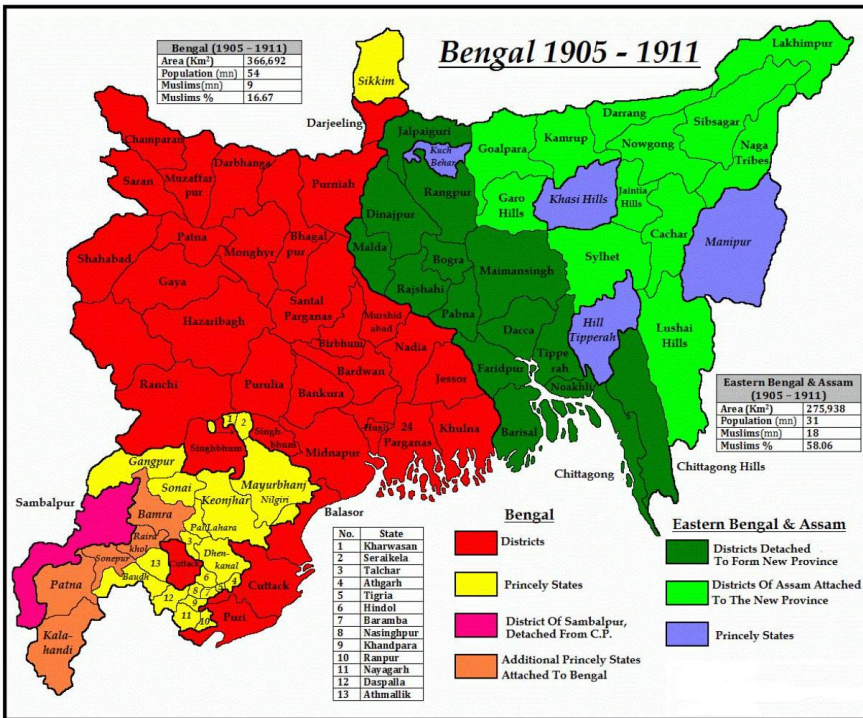


# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

## ❑ Partition Scheme:



The partition was made West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa on one side and East Bengal and Assam the other side.



### ❑ Partition Scheme:

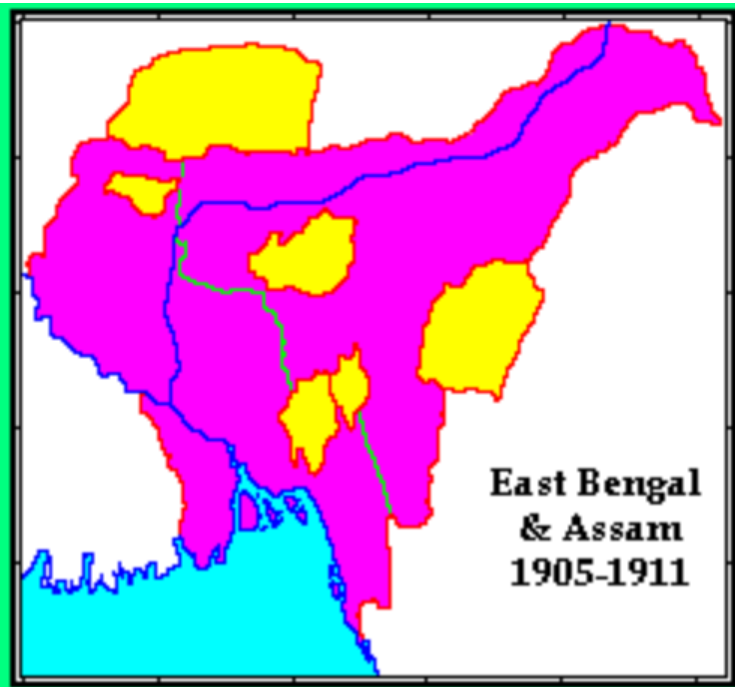
- ❖ Witnessing the emerging momentum of the Bengali nationalism under the Hindu *Bhadraloks* in Calcutta, proposal for dissecting Bengal was reviewed during December 1903-January 1904.
- ❖ Division was officially executed by the government on 16 October 1905 on 'administrative' grounds, hiding the real intent. The colonial government argued that to administer united Bengal was 'too large' as a single province and to relieve 'administrative burden' they took the initiative.



## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Partition Scheme:

❖ They also demanded for the development of lower-Bengal (today's Bangladesh) and backward Assam, the attempt was imperative.



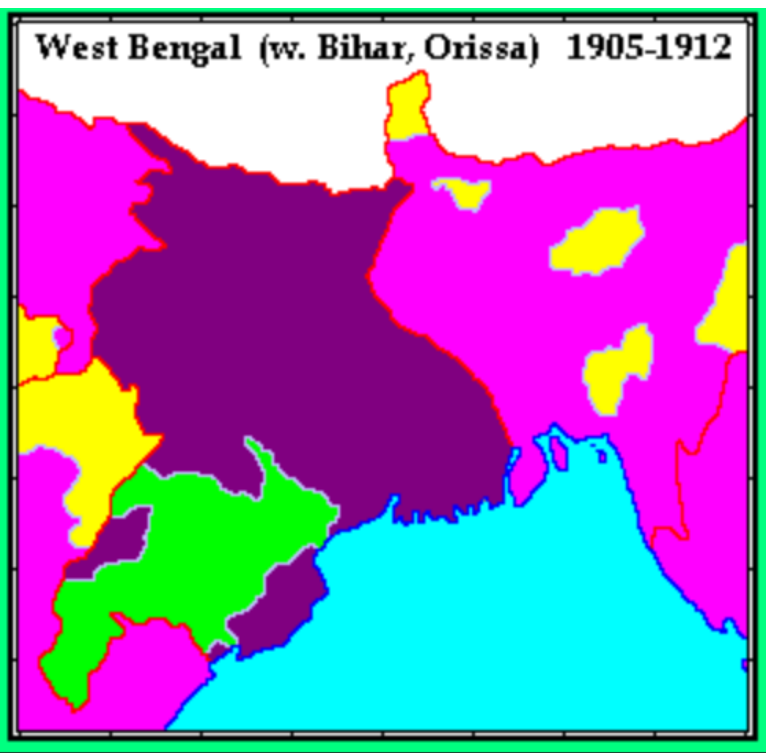
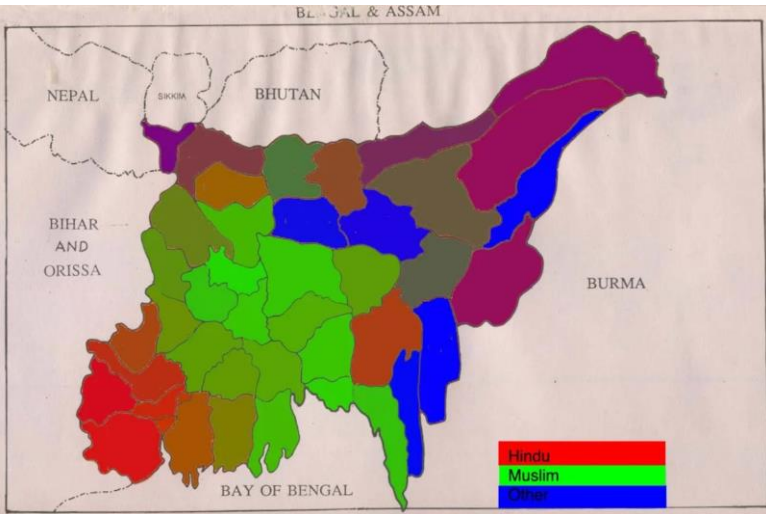
❖ With the execution of the partition plan, 'Eastern Bengal and Assam' emerged as a separate province covering 1,06,540 sq. miles with a population of 31 million (18 million Muslims and 12 million Hindus).

# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

## □ Partition Scheme:

❖ The newly created province included Hill Tripura, Chittagong, Dhaka, and Rajshahi divisions, including Malda district and Assam, but excluded Khulna division.

❖ Comprising West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the Bengal Presidency appeared covering 1,41,580 sq. miles with a population of 54 million, (42 million Hindus & 9 million Muslims). As an outcome of the geographical demarcation, the clash of interests emerged between the Hindu Zaminders-Bhadrolok money lenders alliance and Muslim Jutdar-Ulema-Ryots league.



## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Reaction/Results to the Partition and the Consequences:

❖ The results of the partition of 1905 were very sweeping. At that time two types of reactions as **Hindu-Muslim reactions** were observed due to declaration of partition of Bengal.

### ❑ Muslim Reactions

❖ The Muslim in East Bengal after initial opposition tended to be much more positive about the arrangement, believing that a separate region would give them more opportunity for education, employment, and so on.

❖ The partition became effective, was probably the first attempt to consolidate Muslims of Bengal on a political platform.

### ❑ Muslim Reactions

- ❖ The Muslim population found the partition effective for them. Before the partition it was West Bengal, mainly Calcutta and its adjacent area came under the British influence and enjoyed the facility of education, development and industrialization.
- ❖ The eastern part of Bengal due to lack of communication could not have the benefits of development. The socio-economic condition of the Muslim population was poor and they suffered further under the rule of Hindu Zamindars and Landlords.

### ❑ Muslim Reactions

- ❖ The rivers were full of pirates and a minimum amount was funded for education. The Muslim populations outnumbered the Hindu population in Eastern Bengal.
- ❖ Muslims had feelings of alleviation in the partitioning of Bengal as they thought that they would enjoy more freedom and opportunity for education, employment, politics and economy etc.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

- ❑ Muslim Reactions: Dacca became capital city
- ❖ Following the partition of Bengal, Dacca became the provincial capital of the newly constituted Muslim-majority province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, after two hundred years since the Mughal had left the region in 1707. The people in East Bengal were generally happy getting a separate Muslim majority province in Colonial India.
- ❖ The Bengali Muslims welcomed the newly appointed Lieutenant-Governor Bampfylde Fuller in an anticipation of new development activities under his backings.

# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

## All India Muslim League



Presiding  
Leader(s)

Muhammad Ali Jinnah  
A. K. Fazlul Huq  
Aga Khan III  
Nawab Waqar-ul-Mulk  
Kamboh  
Huseyn Shaheed  
Suhrawardy  
Sir Feroz Khan Noon  
Khwaja Nazimuddin  
Liaquat Ali Khan  
Khaliq-uz-Zaman  
Mohammad Ali Bogra  
Shabbir Ahmad Usmani  
Abul Mansur Ahmed

Founded

30 December 1906 at  
Dacca, British India (now  
Dhaka, Bangladesh)

## ❑ Muslim Reactions

❖ Dhaka's profile was raised in several spheres. The pulse of the public activities quickened too, and in 1906 the All India Muslim League was founded there at the initiative of the Nawab of Dacca.

❖ Many important buildings constructed in this period were big colonial-style bungalows, several important administrative buildings, Curzon Hall, the High Court Building, secretariat, Government Press and Museum.



The AIME Conference in 1906, held at the Ahsan Manzil palace of the Dhaka Nawab Family, laid the foundation of the Muslim League.



### ❑ Hindu Reactions

- ❖ The partition met great opposition mainly from the influential educated middle-class Hindus. The educated Bengali Hindus of Bengal felt the partition a blow on them. The territorial adjustment touched their interest. The Hindus of west Bengal, who controlled most of Bengal's commerce and professional and rural life, complained that the Bengali nation would be split in two, making them a minority in a province including Bihar and Orissa.
- ❖ Why Hindu's were against the Partition of Bengal are as follows:-

### □ Hindu Reactions

- 1. Calcutta lawyers apprehended that establishment of a Court of Appeal at Dhaka (Dacca) would diminish importance of their own High Court at Calcutta.
- 2. Journalists feared that appearance of local newspapers would restrict circulation of Calcutta Press.
- 3. Business community of Calcutta visualized shift of trade from Calcutta to Chittagong port.

### □ Hindu Reactions

- 4. The Zamindars, mostly Hindus, who owned vast landed estates both in West and East Bengal foresaw extra expenditure.
- 5. They believed the plan would encourage growth of a Muslim power in the Muslim majority Eastern Bengal- mostly peasant and illiterate- to thwart the rapidly growing strength of the educated Hindu community.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- ❖ The Indian Nationalist very well understand what were the real intention of the government. Why did they want to Partition of Bengal on such a way that two provinces would be created. One **Hindu dominated** and one **Muslim dominated** and they understand this very well. Thus very soon anti-partition movements and Swadeshi movements were started in Bengal.
- ❖ Swadeshi and Boycott movements they have their roots the anti-partition movement, which took place from the year 1905 to 1911.

### ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- ❖ An important aspects of the Swadeshi movement was the emphasis placed on self-reliance or 'Atmasakti'.
- ❖ Self-reliance meant **assertion of national dignity, honour and self-confidence**. People reacted as-
  - 1. First of all, the most important thing was to boycott of British goods & products. In many places public burning of foreign cloths were organized.
  - 2. After boycott of foreign goods, Govt. Schools, Colleges, Courts, Municipalities all were boycotted as well.

# Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

Swadeshi movement



## ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- 3. The main emphasis was on Swadeshi or indigenous enterprises opened.
- 4. 16 Oct. 1905 the partition of Bengal took place officially. At that day in whole Bengal was “Day of Mourning.” it was observed as a day of fasting, there was a hartal in Calcutta.
- 5. They tied the *Rakhis* on one another's hand and this was considered to be *symbol of unity.*



## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction



### ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- The Swadeshi Movement had several consequences in the realm of culture.
- “*Vande Matram*” songs became an important song of these movements. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee composed this song and it was composed in Sanskrit. This song was taken from “*Anand Math*” one of the novels of Bankim Chandra. In 1896 in the INC session was conducted where *Vande Matram* song was sung for the first time.

Some pictures of swadeshi movement

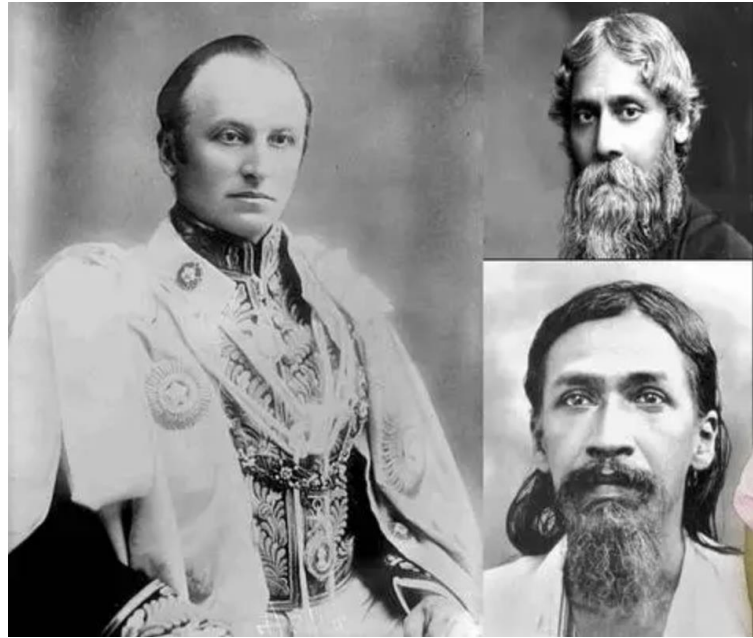




## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- After *Vande Matram*- another song was composed by Rabindranath Tagore was “*Amar Sonar Bangla*”. After that this song became a National Anthem of Bangladesh in 1971.
- Established Swadeshi education (own school, own education) and as well as national school and college. For example;
- Bengal National College also established in that time and Aurobindo Ghosh was the Principle of this college.



### □ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- Corps of Volunteers or Samity were another major form of mass mobilization widely used by the Swadeshi movement. They create Swadeshi Bandhab Samity.



- It was the most earliest Samity and Ashwini Kumar Dutt who was a school teacher in Barisal organized the Swadeshi Bandhab Samity.

## ❑ Swadeshi and Boycott Movements:

- He wanted to reach almost every corner of Bengal and explained what were the real intentions of the Britishers behind the Partition of Bengal.
- He opened almost 160 branches of this *Swadeshi Bandhab Samity* and these branches were opened even in the remotest corners of every district. And this *Samity* was highly successful.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Function of Samity:

- ❖ This *Samity* took the Swadeshi message to every corner and explain what would be the harmful effect of this **Partition of Bengal**. At night they conducted magic lantern lectures where people would gathered in groups. Besides Swadeshi songs would be sang. They also give physical and moral training to the members of the society.
- ❖ But by the year 1908 **Swadeshi and Boycott movements were closed**. Then question is how these movements closed? What was the reason?

### ❑ Function of Samity:

#### ❖ Most important thing was-

- a) Severe Govt. Repression. Students involved with this partition- the affiliation of colleges stopped, students will lose job opportunity, no scholarship. There was public beating, large skills detention and arrest. So, due to that reason some people back off from this movements.
- b) As we know that Congress has two factions at that time, moderate and extremist. The ideology of these two factions were different. So there were disagreement always exist. And from this disagreement finally its turn into clashes.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Function of Samity:

- c) Due to internal clashes both factions of Congress were not successful to continue the movements as it was dreamt. For example; Moderate congress said we should stopped the movements here.
- d) But the extremist Congress, like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, said that no, we should expand this movements out side the Bengal and even in whole India to make this movement a national level movement. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sri Aurobinda Gosh & others picked up bomb & guns to kill the British.



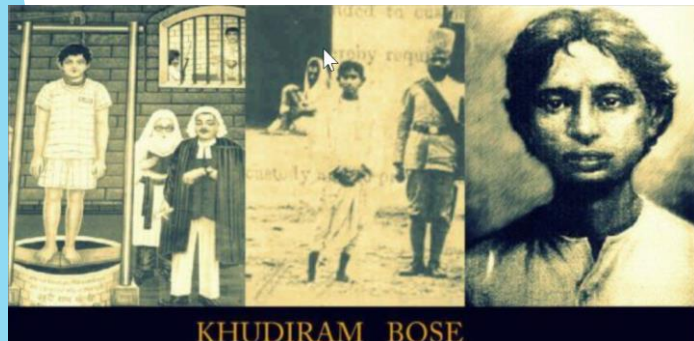
## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Function of Samity:

- e) Principle leaders were put in Jail or deport. Again, some big leaders took retirement from active politics, like Bipin Chandra Pal. And this is a reason that movements go down.

❖ However, techniques of boycott turned terrorist activities to make their mission successful by forcing the British government to accept their demands.

❖ However, terrorism reached its peak during 1908-10, Khudiram Bose becoming a noted militant to slain his life for attacking British.



## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### □ The importance of Swadeshi and Boycott movements in India:

- The very positive thing was mass participation. Not exactly all the masses participated but students, women - they all participated in any national movements for the first time.
- A prominent part in the Swadeshi agitation was played by the students of Bengal.
- The government took every attempt to suppress the students.
- Orders were issued to penalized those schools and colleges whose students took an active part in the Swadeshi agitation; their grant-in-aid and other privileges were to be withdrawn, they were to be disaffiliated. Their students were not to be permitted to complete for scholarships and were to be barred from all services under the government.



- ❑ The importance of Swadeshi and Boycott movements in India:
  - A remarkable aspect of the Swadeshi agitation was the active participation of women in the movement.
  - The traditionally home-centred women of the urban middle classes joined procession of and picketing. From then on they were to take an active part in the nationalist movement.
  - Many prominent Muslims joined the Swadeshi movement.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction



Lord Minto



Lord Hardinge, Vic...

### ❑ Annulment of Partition:

- ❖ The Swadeshi movement continued till the end of 1911. The agitation was going on against the partition.
- ❖ After Lord Minto, the new Viceroy Lord Hardinge realized that the reforms did not satisfy the Indians and he recommended for the change of the policy in regard to the partition.

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction



### ❑ Annulment of Partition:

- ❖ The home authorities agreed to revoke the partition and the king George V at his Coronation Grand Durbar at Delhi on 11 December 1911 himself annulled the partition of Bengal.
- ❖ **Transferring capital from Kolkata to Delhi.**

## Partition of Bengal and Its Reaction

### ❑ Withdrawal of Partition:

- ❖ This became a great victory for the Congress and a defeat for the British Government. The first organised movement ended in a success. The Swadeshi movement still continued with vigor and vitality in most parts of the country though the national movement against boycotting British goods dimmed.
- ❖ The Partition of Bengal was annulled in the face of seditious and anarchical situation created by the Bengali Hindus.





British Officers assemble in Ramna  
Race course in 1890



In 1904, Lord Curzon Governor General  
and Viceroy of India at **Shahbagh  
Dhaka** on a visit with Lady Curzon





In 1902, Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah (centre in robes) with local elites in Ahsan Manzil Dhaka



Lord Curzon with Nawab Sir Salimullah in Ahsan Manzil 1904, Dhaka

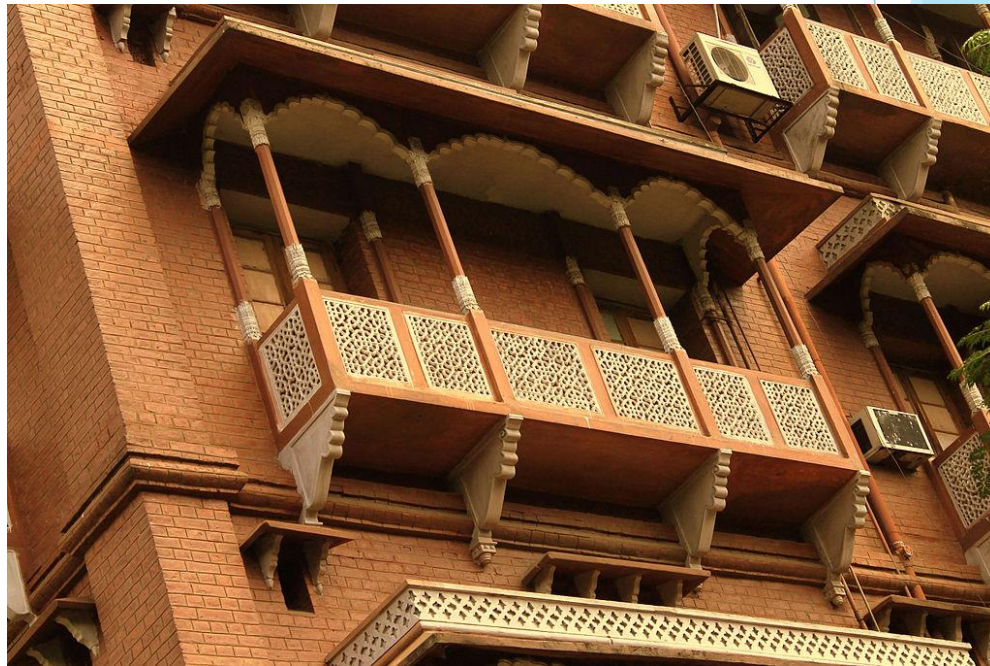
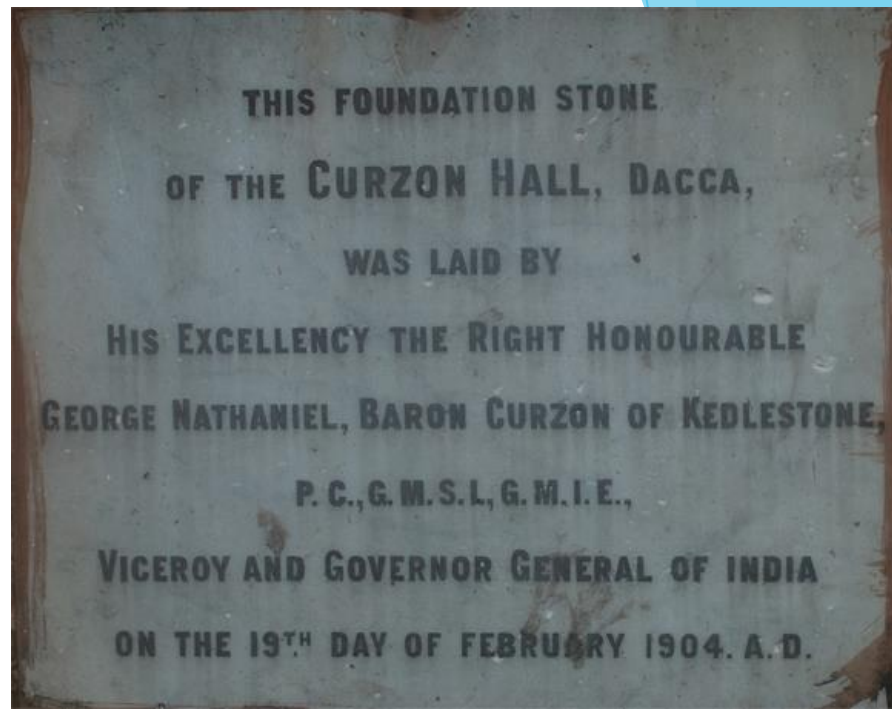




Foundation stone of Curzon Hall Dhaka  
laid by Lord Curzon in 1904

**Curzon Hall, Dhaka** (later became the base of the science dept of Dhaka Univ) has been named after Lord Curzon who laid the foundation stone of the building in 1904 as a **Town Hall/College**. It was completed in 1908.



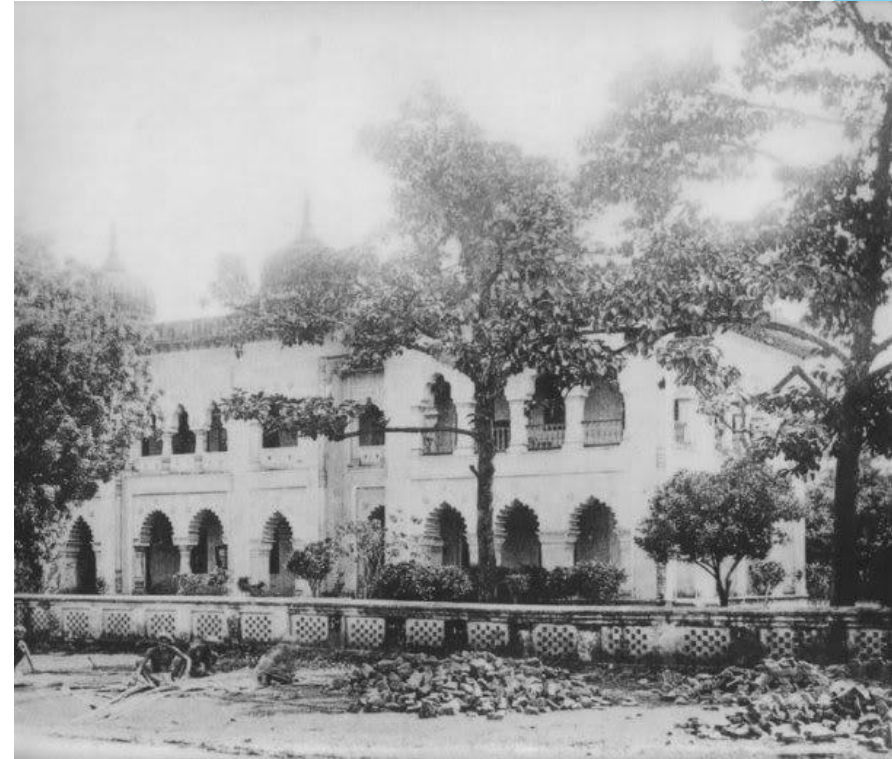








Dacca College 1890



Dacca Madrasa 1880  
Kabi Nazrul College





Mitford Hospital estd-1854, River view-1880s



Mitford Hospital-1880s



Manuk House-1880s, now in Banga Bhaban Campus



Fulbaria Rail Station (Now Bus Terminal)-1880s



Motijheel 1990's



Nawabpur Rathkhola 1870

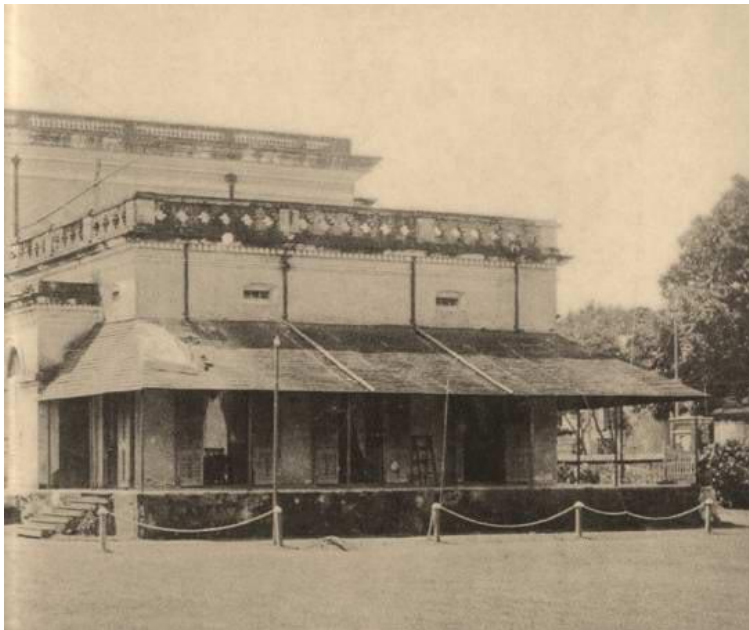
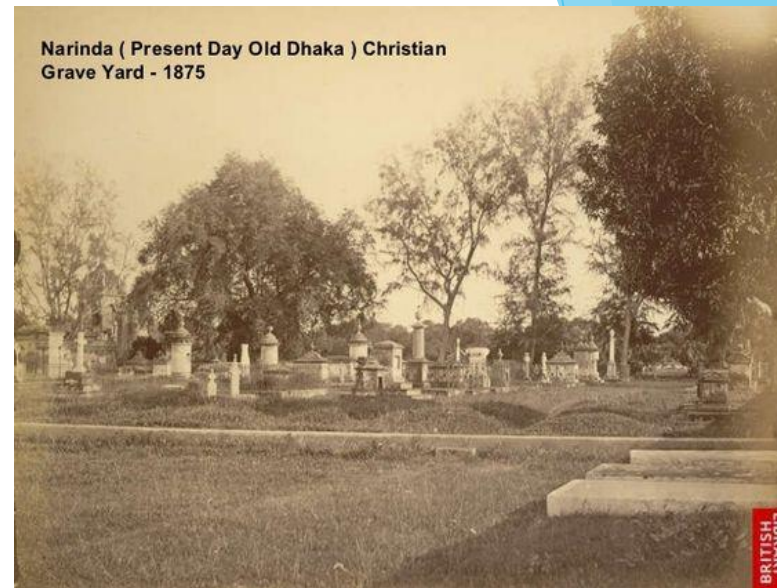


Purana Paltan Maidan 1870





Ramna 1870 - Race Course Gate

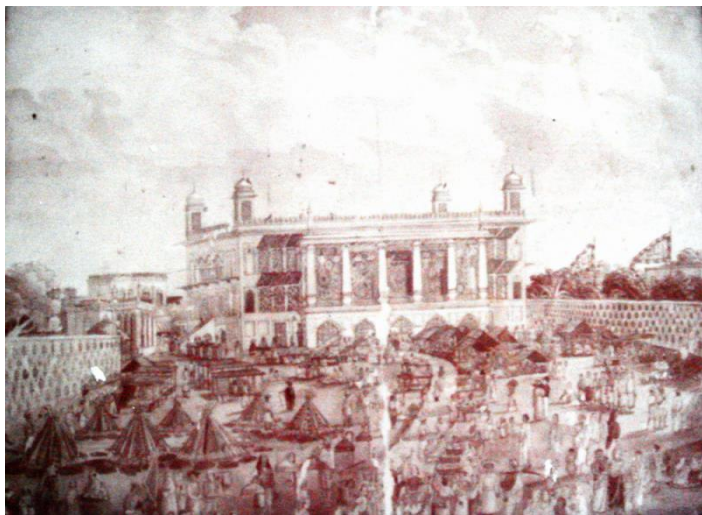


Ramna 1890 - Dhaka Club, main building



Ramna 1870 - Ramna Park Area

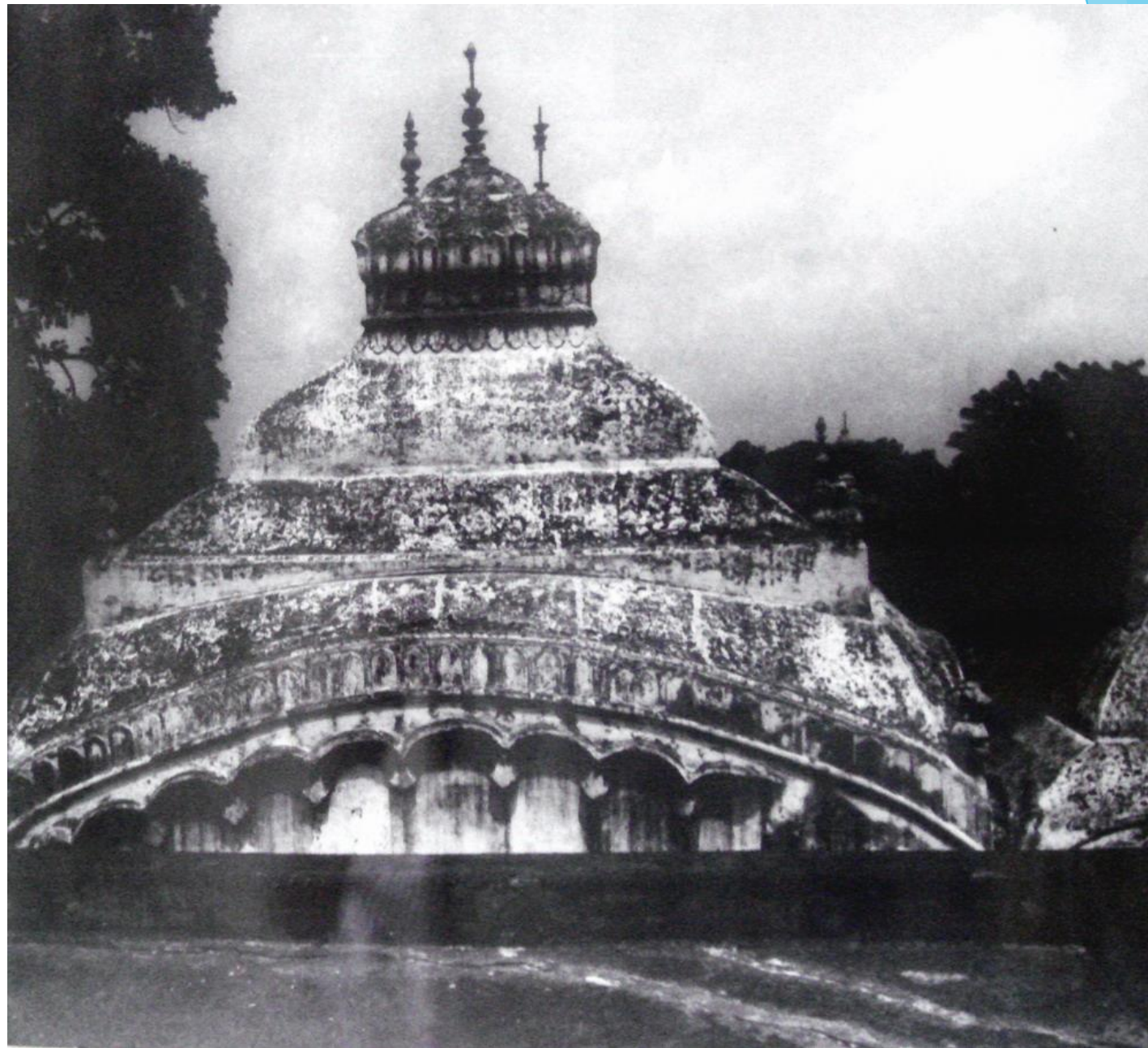








Mansion of JP Wise, an influential Zamindar and Indigo-planter, facing the Buriganga river. Presently it is the center of Bulbul Lalit Kala Kendra. Wiseghat of Dhaka has been named after him. There were two other British dignitaries known by the name 'Wise' - Dr. T. Wise, the Principal of Dhaka College and Dr. James Wise, Civil Surgeon of Dhaka.







Citizens of Dacca waiting along Islampur road to welcome Sir Fuller. 1905 Photographer: Fritz Kapp

Citizens waiting at Islampur road to welcome Sir Fuller, Lt. Governor of the province of East Bengal and Assam.  
(Pic: Fritz Kapp, 1905)





Jagannath College now  
Jagannath University



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is a plain white background where the text is located.

**Thank You**