

# **Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya**

**Affiliated to Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University**

**NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade**



## **Two Days National Seminar On**

**The Unsung Reformers and Great  
Personalities of North Bengal**

**Organised by**

**The Centre for North Bengal Research and Studies**

**in Collaboration with IQAC**

**Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**

## About the Seminar:

North Bengal has a rich history of social reform and transformation, with several individuals playing a crucial role in shaping its socio-cultural and political landscape. Unfortunately, many of these figures remain underrepresented in mainstream historical discourse. This seminar aims to explore and bring to light the lives, works, and contributions of these unsung heroes, whose efforts in education, politics, literature, and social reform have had a profound impact on the region.

North Bengal has been the birthplace of many remarkable personalities whose contributions have significantly shaped society. The region has been home to visionary monarchs who fostered economic and cultural development. The Koch dynasty ruled Cooch Behar from the 16th century and had several Rajbanshi rulers who contributed to the region's development. Maharaja Viswa Singha (1495–1540), the founder of the Koch dynasty and the first ruler of Kamata Kingdom (later known as Cooch Behar), Maharaja Naranarayan (1534–1587), a powerful and visionary ruler, Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan (1587–1621) and ally to the Mughal Empire and the reformer of the administration of the Sate of Cooch Behar and Maharaja Nripendra Narayan (1863–1911), the modern reformist king who introduced education, infrastructure, and administrative reforms in Cooch Behar are a few example to be mentioned here. Panchanan Barma stands as a pioneering social reformer who significantly contributed to the upliftment of the Rajbanshi community, with a focus on advocating for education and social justice. His efforts in establishing schools and promoting awareness among marginalised groups laid the foundation for a more inclusive society. Political figures such as Nagendra Narayan Roy and Upendranath Barman played crucial roles in advocating social equality and leaving an indelible mark on the political landscape of the region. Jangal Santhal, emerged as a leader during the Tebhaga Movement (1952) and gained prominence for his leadership among Adivasi sharecroppers, peasants, and tea laborers in the hill and tarai areas of Darjeeling, advocating for their rights and interests. Pijush Kanti Mukherjee, a freedom fighter and influential politician from Alipurduar, won a seat in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in six consecutive elections following India's independence and also served as the Deputy Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1971, cementing his influence in the political sphere. Moga Dewani, a freedom fighter from Alipurduar, had taken a leading role in the struggle of India's independence. Kalicharan Brahma, an influential leader was known for his efforts in social reforms and religious revival among the Rajbanshi and Bodo communities. Hemanta Kumar Roy Barma, Umesh Chandra Mandal, Jatindra Nath Singha Sarkar and Sishir Ishore became well known for their social work to uplift downtrodden and backward people of the North Bengal. Arabinda Dakua and Amulya Debnath are also famous for their social work as well as his research works. Debabrata Mukherjee, a distinguished cricketer, born in Cooch Behar brought recognition to the area through his accomplishments in Indian cricket. His dedication and success continue to inspire aspiring athletes.

In addition, numerous prominent figures from North Bengal have made significant contributions to the fields of art, music, and literature. These individuals have enriched the cultural landscape of the region and beyond, leaving a lasting impact on various artistic and intellectual traditions. Bijay Ghosh (pen name

Chomong Lama), Arnab Sen and Girija Shankar Roy are notable literary figures from North Bengal whose works have enriched regional literature. In the realm of music, Abbas Uddin Ahmed, a legendary singer and composer, played an instrumental role in popularizing folk and devotional music, particularly Bhawaiya songs, which are integral to the cultural heritage of Cooch Behar. Nagendranath Roy, a son of Jalpaiguri, received the prestigious Padma Shri award for his remarkable contribution in translating the Ramayana into the Rajbangshi language, marking the first-ever translation of the epic into this language. Eklabya Sharma, an ecologist from Kurseong, has made significant contributions to Himalayan environmental studies, while Mangala Kanti Roy, a 102-year-old folk musician from Jalpaiguri, has devoted his life to promoting the Sarinda, a lesser-known musical instrument. Dhaniram Toto, who has also been recognized with the Padma Shri, contributed to the field of language by creating the Toto language script. Dharma Narayan Barma, born on 10 November 1935 in Cooch Behar, is a renowned Sanskrit teacher who is celebrated for his efforts in promoting the Kamtapur language.

Women from North Bengal have also played a significant role in shaping history. Suniti Devi, the Maharani of Cooch Behar, were prominent advocates of women's education and social reforms. In a similar vein, Indira Devi contributed to the preservation of Cooch Behar's rich artistic heritage. Gayatri Devi, the iconic queen of Jaipur, who hailed from Cooch Behar, is remembered for her contributions to education, women's rights, and Indian politics. Among others, Fulati Gidali and Gita Roy Barman, renowned singers of Bhawaiya folk songs from Cooch Behar, continue to inspire future generations through their contributions to music.

The seminar seeks to provide a platform for academicians, researchers, scholars, and students to engage in critical discussions, share research findings, and contribute to the collective knowledge about the forgotten figures of North Bengal. By revisiting their contributions, we aim to inspire new perspectives and ensure their recognition in historical and academic discourse.

## **About the Centre:**

The Centre for North Bengal Research and Studies was previously working as the Research Advisory subcommittee. Focuses on the history of North Bengal from the days of ancient times to the present day. The foundation of research and studies was laid down on 14/06/2016. Later it was renamed as Center for North Bengal Research and Studies, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya. The broad objective has been to evolve a fresh understanding of the history, culture, economy, and politics of this region. We are familiar that the North Bengal region has multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural characteristics. The British administrators, missionary travelers, and other anthropologically oriented individuals have collected data from this region and written history. This center, as we hope, will enhance the tempo of the researchers and history-loving people of this region.

## **Theme of the Seminar:**

# The Unsung Reformers and Great Personalities of North Bengal

## **Sub-Themes:**

- Social reformers and their contributions to North Bengal.
- Educational and political figures from North Bengal and their legacies.
- Women reformers and their impact on society.
- Tribal and rural leadership in North Bengal and their social initiatives.
- The role of literature, arts, and culture in social reform.
- Contributions of North Bengal's personalities to national movements.
- Preservation and documentation of historical narratives of unsung personalities of North Bengal.
- The influence of North Bengal in the socio-cultural transformation of Bengal as well as India.
- Any other relevant topic related to the main theme.

**Abstract & Full Paper Submit to**

**[bsmseminar@gmail.com](mailto:bsmseminar@gmail.com)**

# Eminent Resource Persons

## **Keynote Speaker**

**Prof. Dr. Rup Kumar Barman**

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
Bankura University  
Bankura, West Bengal

## **Distinguished Speaker**

**Prof. Madhab Chandra Adhikary**

Professor  
Department of History  
C.B.P.B. University  
Cooch Behar, West Bengal

## **Distinguished Speaker**

**Dr. Shyamal Chandra Sarkar**

Principal  
Saheed Kshudiram College  
Uttor Kamakhyaguri, Alipurduar  
West Bengal

## **Distinguished Speaker**

**Dr. Alak Kumar Saha**

Associate Professor  
Department of Bengali  
Tura Government College  
Tura, Meghalaya

## **Distinguished Speaker**

**Dr. Sablu Barman**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Bengali  
C.B.P.B. University  
Cooch Behar, West Bengal

## **Distinguished Speaker**

**Dr. Jayanta Kumar Barman**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Music  
Sikkim University

## **Organising Committee**

### **Chief Patron**

**Dr. Narendra Nath Ray**

Principal  
Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

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Department of English  
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Baneswar Sarathibala  
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Assistant Professor & Head  
Dept. of English  
Baneswar Sarathibala  
Mahavidyalaya

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**Dr. Supam Biswas**

Assistant Professor of History  
& the Convener of  
The Centre for NBRS  
Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

### **Ujjwal Mahato**

Assistant Professor & Head, Dept.  
of Education  
Baneswar Sarathibala  
Mahavidyalaya

**Co-Ordinator:** Dr. Karna Das, Dept. of Bengali, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

## **Members :**

Arpita Dutta, Librarian, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Earnest Narjinary, Department of Philosophy, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Banhisikha Roy Pradhan, Department of Bengali, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Sajal Karjee, Department of Geography, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Mrinmay Karjee, Department of Physical Education, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Purnima Roy, Department of Bengali, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Pronita Roy, Department of English, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

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Probha Bhowmik, Department of Environmental Studies, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

Debasish Adhikary, Department of Bengali, Baneswar Sarathibala Mahavidyalaya

# CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite original unpublished research papers, case studies and reviews from academia, students, research scholars, faculty members and experts to present their papers in the Seminar on the above mentioned areas.

## The contributors are requested to adhere to the following format: -

Paper submitted must be original, previously unpublished and not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Text(s) should be in Times New Roman font and size is 12 point, line spacing 1.5. References should be given at the end of the paper. For Bengali/Rajbanshi Text(s) should be in Avro/Kalpurush font and size is 12 point. **The seminar proceedings language should be Rajbanshi, Bengali and English.** Selection will be made purely on the quality of the article/papers by the Peer-Review Committee.

## PUBLICATION

The Organizing Committee will publish the selected papers in a book with an ISBN number, through a reputed national or international publisher in the day of the seminar. Abstracts should be between 250 and 300 words, limited to one page, and include a maximum of five keywords. The deadline for submission of the abstract is midnight on 10th March 2025. Both full-length papers and abstracts must adhere to the latest MLA/APA formatting style. The combined length of the full paper and abstract should not exceed 3000 words or 8 pages.

Abstracts must be submitted in MS Word (.docx) format via email to [bsmseminar@gmail.com](mailto:bsmseminar@gmail.com) by the deadline of 15th March 2025. Full papers should be sent to the same email address by 31st March 2025. Authors whose papers are selected by the review committee will be entitled to receive at least one copy of the publication (additional copies may be purchased). The price for these copies will be announced prior to publication.

## REGISTRATION FEES DETAILS:

Academia	Fees for Seminar only(₹)
Faculty Member	600/person
Research Scholar	400/person
Student	200/person

## IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Last Date	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Acceptance of Abstract	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Full Length Paper Submission Last Date	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Online registration with Payment close	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Payment Details

Account Number	3879605267
Name of the Bank	Central Bank of India
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**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/cbbPoTa9RXCLiMv56>

## Contact for any Query

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