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# North Bengal

*Geographical and Historical Perspectives*

**Savita Mishra  
Md. Hanif**



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# NORTH BENGAL

Geographical and Historical Perspectives

*Edited by*

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MD. HANIF**

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Geographical and Historical Perspectives

SAVITA MISHRA  
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## PREFACE

North Bengal is blessed with lush natural forests, soothing tea gardens crossed by meandering rivers dotted with several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. With an impressive Himalayan aura as a backdrop, the hills and valleys of West Bengal have provided some excellent hill stations. The tribal communities of Raj Bangshi, Mech, Raba, Toto, Limboo, Lepcha and the Bengali and Nepali community populate the region and provide a rich flavor to the rich cultural diversity of Jalpaiguri. Plantations; these tribes since have lived in harmony with the other communities of North Bengal. Bengalis form the majority linguistic group in the city, followed by Biharis, Marwaris, Punjabis, Nepalis, Odias, and Tribals. According to a 2001 thesis, Bengali speakers had a percentage of 64.25% out of the total population. Of the 30 wards in 2001, their population varied between 11.71% and 98.96%.

Due to its strategic location, the region stands tall as the gateway to economically thriving South East Asian countries. More specifically tourism in North Bengal has always been very special due to its breath-taking natural beauties, exotic flora & fauna, picturesque snow clad mountains, rivers, springs etc.

The book "A Geographical Perspective of North Bengal" is very relevant in current scenario of education for both teachers and students. To meet the needs of the learners, education and its consequences in the present era have been prepared in a comprehensive manner. In this book, we have discussed various thoughts of authors where we have tried to cover each and every part of Geographical perspective of North Bengal. The total comprehensive coverage of this book is quite sufficient to help the

readers to acquire expected learning outcomes on education and its consequences in the present era properly.

We are really thankful to the authors during the composition of this book. We have also followed different experts' suggestions in this arena. While editing this book, we have taken utmost care and attention to furnishing materials in conformity with the present scenario to make it a full-fledged book according to the needs of the present-day students. We extend our note of thanks to the publisher for publishing this book within his hasty hours. We are thankful to all the fellow authors for their valuable articles with the latest research as a result of this book is the outcome of their precious contributions.

**Dr. Savita Mishra**

**Md. Hanif**

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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TOTO TRIBE OF ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

JYOTIRMAY ROY

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### Introduction

People in a primitive society who recognise the leadership of a tribal chief and share a strong sense of community due to shared cultural values are said to be living in a tribe. The tribal people of India are distinguished by the fact that they live in their own unique ecosystem. The Toto are a primitive people who have lived in relative seclusion in inhospitable, challenging terrain for millennia and whose way of life has remained almost unchanged. In comparison to other populations, theirs is very tiny and growing at a slow rate. Despite the fact that the Toto people have been independent for 65 years, they still face several social and economic challenges (Dhargupta, 2009).

According to folklore, the term "Toto" originated with a group of persons hired by the British during their war with Bhutan in 1865 to help transport tota (cartridges) and other supplies (Sarkar, 1993). Dhaniram Toto (2011) notes that the group was formerly called as Jepang Jiten Totvi Tota Toto.

The Toto are a Mongoloid-looking Indo-Bhutanese people group known for their broad, square faces, thick lips, small eyes, and dark irises. There are 13 main exogamous family