Appendix I

NADIA

History

In 1203 Nadia was the capital of Bengal. Lakshman Sen was its last sovereign. Nabadwip was the kingdom of Lakshman Sen. The name of the district Nadia was possibly derived from the town of Nabadwip.

In the year 1486 A.D. Chaitanya, the great Hindu monk, was born in Nadia. He formed a religious sect called Vaishnava. The era of Chaitanya was important for another reason. It formed the commencement of Bengali literature.

Krishna Chandra was the most famous king of Nadia. He was crowned in 1728. He patronised Bharat Chandra Ray Gunakar, a famous poet.

Dr. Carey visited Nadia in 1794. He wrote that the most learned pandits and Brahmans much wished to settle at Nadia. Then Nadia was a great centre of learning.

The district lies in the heart of the Presidency Division of West Bengal. It is situated between $22^\circ 53'$ and $24^\circ 11'$ N. latitude and $88^\circ 09'$ and $88^\circ 43'$ E. longitude.

Area

Before the Partition the district of Nadia extended over an area of nearly 2,800 square miles. According to the
1971 Census Report, however, the area of the district is 1514.9 square miles.

Boundary

The district is bounded on the north and the north-west by the district of Murshidabad. The district of Kustia in Bangladesh forms the boundary on the north-east. The river Bhagirathi marks the western part of Nadia off from the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The southern and the south-eastern parts of the district is bounded by 24 Parganas.

The shape of the district is irregular. It lies north to south.

Climate

The climate of Nadia is substantively the same as in other districts of lower Bengal. The climate is controlled here by the Bay of Bengal branch of the Indian monsoon.

The seasons are well marked. The cold weather begins flowing from about the middle of November and lasts up to the end of February. The summer season lasts from March to May. From June to September is the rainy season. October and the first half of November constitute the post-monsoon season.
The average annual rainfall in the district is 1310.4 mm. The rainfall during June to September constitutes 71% of the annual rainfall.

April is the hottest month. The mean of the daily maximum temperature is 37.1°C. January is the coldest month. The means of the daily maximum temperature and minimum temperature are 25.9°C and 11.0°C respectively.

The air is highly humid. It remains so throughout the year.

Soil

The soil generally comes under the category of New Alluvium. The eastern part and the southern part of the district are composed of clay loam. The western part is formed of sandy loam.

River system

All the Nadia rivers, viz., the Jalangi, the Bhagirathi and the Churni may be said to be the off shoots of the Padma, the main channel of the Ganga. From the agricultural and economic point of view, the Jalangi may be termed to be the most important river of the district.

Agriculture

About 72% of the total area of the district is cultivated. The corresponding figure for West Bengal is 60%.
The most important crop here cultivated is rice. The cultivation of rice covers more than 80% of the net sown area.

Population characteristic of Nadia district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
<th>Density of population per square mile</th>
<th>Percentage increase or decrease of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>721,907</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>+ 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>840,303</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>+ 16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1,144,924</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>+ 36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1,713,324</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>+ 49.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>2,230,274</td>
<td>1,473</td>
<td>+ 29.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural areas

The district is predominantly rural. 97% of its area is rural. And, 81% of its people live in villages.

Religion

The majority of the people of Nadia belong to two religions. These are: (1) the Hindu religion and (2) the Muslim religion. The Hindus constitute 76% of its population.
The Muslims constitute 23% of its population.

Education

The literacy of the people of Nadia is 31.31%. Here literacy among the females is 22.92%. And, literacy among the males is 39.28%.