The geographical structure of Barak Valley covers the three districts of Assam viz., Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. The main river which formed the valley is Barak. Sylhet was the most important town in the undivided valley and is situated on the bank of the Surma, which is a branch of the Barak. The second branch of the Barak is known as the Kushiyara. It flows in a western direction via Karimganj. The British government, therefore, named the valley as Surma Valley as an administrative
division. Otherwise, the main river, which formed the valley, is the Barak. Ever since the major part of the Sylhet district (leaving Karimganj to India) was transferred to East Pakistan (Bangladesh) at the time of partition of the country in 1947, the name Surma Valley had fallen into disguise. The Indian portion of the Valley is known today as Barak Valley after the principal river of the tract.

The work development of British administration in Barak Valley starts from 1832 and ends in 1947. Development is viewed differently and the scholars try to see it as evolution, progress, change different from traditions. The present thesis gives emphasis in analysing and comparing the achievement of British rule in Barak Valley,
i.e., Cachar and Karimganj. Besides highlighting the major events, the present topic throws light on the functional and operational aspects of revenue, judicial and executive and police administration of the day and also on the efficiency of the British officials. Besides the frontier of the Valley was surrounded by war like tribal population which always created a situation of potential danger. The government could not do away with this situation and the government drew out a detailed plan for the defence of the Valley. It appears that by bringing about change in the administration the British Government had established the grip over the recently conquered territory (Cachar). After the last Kachari king Govindachandra was murdered there were
many claimants to the throne. But the British Government was not satisfied with the claims made by the claimants. The plains of Cachar was annexed to the British dominion by a proclamation issued on August 14, 1832. Lt. Fisher was appointed the first Superintendent of Cachar after its annexation.

On their occupation of Assam early British administrators realised the potentiality of the province of Assam including Barak Valley and shaped the administration in such a way as would promote Permanent settlement in Karimganj along with Sylhet and Ryotwari system in Cachar for the alien authority. Since the discovery of tea in Assam it had been the policy of the company government to encourage the opening of
sparsely populated tracts of region covering
Barak Valley by offer of lands specially
waste land on favourable terms.

Regional and local historiography of Modern
Assam and Barak Valley respectively has
been enriched by the contribution of erudite
scholar and historians like A C Banerjee
(Eastern Frontier of India, Calcutta, 1940),
R M Lahiri (The Annexation of Assam,
Calcutta, 1954), H K Barpujari (Assam in
the Days of Company, Guwahati, 1963), J.
B. Bhattacharjee (Cachar Under British
Rule in North East India, New Delhi,
1977), S K Bhuiyan (Anglo Assamese
Relation, Guwahati, 1949), Amalendu
Guha (Planters Raj to Swaraj, New Delhi,
1988, reprint). Some of these historians
like H K Barpujari have also produced
monumental works at regional level like (Comprehensive History of Assam, vols. I-V, Guwahati, 1993), D.D Mali (Revenue Administration in Assam, New Delhi, 1985), N C Dutta (Land Problems and Land Reforms in Assam, New Delhi, 1968), F Hamilton (An Account of Assam, Guwahati, 1903), Nihar Ranjan Roy (Bangalir Itihas, Calcutta, 1336BS), D.D Kosambi (The Culture and Civilisation of Ancient India in Historical Outline, New Delhi, 1986), H.C Guha (Kacharer Itibritta, Guwahati, 1972), B.B Hazarika and S.B Roychoudhury (Cachar District Gazetteer, 1991), E.A Gait (History of Assam, Guwahati, 1992, fifth edition). Some British officials had also written about the valley, R.B. Pemberton (The Eastern
The present topic receives scant treatment in all these works either at regional, local and national studies. This lag has encouraged the present researcher to look for the wood without missing the trees.

The study aims at discussing the evolution of administrative set up in Barak Valley 1832 and 1947. This is a new unexplored area where a comprehensive study is provided. The discussion is not only restricted to development of British administration but shifted sometimes to society and economy where the pressure of imperial rule felt tremendously with the
The advent of the new government brought remarkable changes in the administration of the Barak Valley. These theme is to be found in first three chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Revenue Measures
Chapter 2: Judicial set up
Chapter 3: Police system.

In chapter 4, administrative change in Karimganj under the British is discussed separately.

Chapter 5 will discuss the result of investigation in above three chapters.

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