

# FAMILY FEUD IN THE KOCH DYNASTY

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## Abstract:

A long-standing 'family feud' was the leading cause of the weakness of the State of Koch Behar. The descendant of Raikats of Baikuntapur was a remote relative of the Koch dynasty of Koch Behar. The Raikats of Baikuntapur s ceased to pay their loyalty to Koch Behar, and they allied with the Bhutanese to attack Koch Behar and acquire the throne. In this regard, the Bhutanese would be given Ambari-Falakata and Kiranti. Taking advantage of this situation, the state of Bhutan consistently attacked Koch Behar. As a result, the Koch Behar State was forced to become an alliance with the East India Company. However, the Nazirs, like the Raikats, indulged in palace intrigues and attempted to overthrow the ruling king.

**Keywords:** 'Family feud', remote relative, Raikat, alliance, Koch dynasty, East India Company, Nazir, Raghudev Narayan, Dewan, Pathkumar (prince or Yuvaraj), Akbarnam, Sukladhwaja, Barnagar, Manas, Ghilavijayapura, Gadadhar River, Little King (" Chhoto Raja"), Mughals, Mansabdars, Mal Gosain, Baharband, Baharistan -i-Ghaibi, Chhatra Nazir, Bhutan and Petbhata land etc.

## Introduction:

By the end of the fifteenth century, due to the extraordinary genius and asceticism of Maharaja Biswa Singha, the newly organized kingdom of Kamarupa-Kamata-Koch Behar regained its former independence. It was formed in competition with the neighbouring Gauda and Ahom states. However, it rivaled the neighboring Gauda and Ahom kingdoms in power and prosperity. Maharaja Vishwa Singh founded the domain with the help of his elder brother Shishya Singh. He was given the title of Raikat to protect the state from Muslim invasions on the western frontier. He built the Baikunthapur fort near Siliguri and started living there. During his reign, Maharaja Biswa Singha provided the title 'Raikat' or Rai-kot-chief of the fort. <sup>1</sup> They (Raikats) assumed the role of hereditary chief ministers of the state, held an umbrella over the king's head during coronations, and protected the state. Whoever the zamindars of the Baikunthpur pargana were, their connection with the ruling house of Koch Behar ended, but they assumed the title of Raikat. The area of 'petbhata' land <sup>2</sup>previously granted to the Raikat was significantly greater than that of the present Baikunthapur pargana. The Bhutias, the Malla rulers of Nepal, and the Muslim Subedars of Bengal invaded and occupied the area of the Koch Behar state, causing it to shrink.

After his brother Chilarai died, Maharaja Nara Narayan partitioned the Koch kingdom into two parts under the pressure of his nephew Raghudeva, son of general Chilarai. The Koch dynasty, after this, was marked by family feuds.

**Scholars adorned his court:**

After his father's death, Maharaja Nara Narayana ascended the throne of Koch Behar. He then tried to increase his dominance by launching attacks on nearby countries. Thus the Maharaja ordered his brother Shukladhvaja to attack the Gauda Kingdom. Under Shukladhvaja was a large army consisting of Kochs, Bhutias, Rajput, Mughal, and Pathan mercenaries. But General Chillarai could not conquer Gaur kingdom. He was imprisoned by the Gaur king. He was later released from prison.

Similarly, in his second campaign against the Gauda kingdom, Shukladhvaja alias Chillarai contracted smallpox. He died on the banks of the Ganges in 1571 A.D. <sup>3</sup> He had a son named Raghudeva, whom he left in the care of his brother. After Chillarai's demise, peace prevailed in the Koch kingdom for a long time. Maharaja Nara Narayana was regarded as the "Pious King" because of his devotion to religion and philanthropic works. The Maharaja has been called the 'Vikramaditya' of Kamarupa. <sup>4</sup>

Srimanta Sankaradeva resided in his sanctuary and delivered sermons in Krishna's honour. In addition to the Sita-Swayambara Nataka, Krishnagunamala, and translations of lines from the Srimad Bhagavata, he also wrote several books on Vaishnava theology. <sup>5</sup>

Apart from Shankaradeva and his disciple Madhavadeva, Purushottam Vidyabagisha compiled the Sanskrit grammar. Anirudha and Rama Saraswati translated the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and eighteen Puranas during his reign. Bakul Kayastha composed "Bhoomi Parinam" and translated Lilavati', while the astrologer Sridhar or Srivar Daivagya wrote "Jyotishastra." Another courtier of the Maharaja named Ananta Kandali composed many more books during the period under review. Scholars from all fields of knowledge adorned his court. <sup>6</sup>

**Division of the Koch Kingdom:**

Less than fifty years later, her spine disintegrated, and her vast body split into several parts due to family feuds. However, people say that the appointment of Raghudev Narayan to the post of Patkumar (prince or Yuvaraj) and his removal from that post was the initial step in the following fall of the "Koch Empire." <sup>7</sup> Maharaja Nara Narayana loved his nephew Raghudev like a son, and he would sometimes sit on his throne with little Raghudev in his lap. Raghudev probably had a strong chance of becoming a king because the Maharaja had no son. After his death, Raghudev will be the Maharaja of Koch Behar. Even the Maharaja appointed him as Yuvraj (crown prince), and he called him Patkumar or (Yuvraj). <sup>8</sup> But when Prince Lakshminarayan was born, Raghudev was disappointed and apprehensive. As a result, Raghudev's hopes of becoming the Maharaja of Koch Behar ended forever in this incident. <sup>9</sup>

Shukladhvaja alias Chillarai, the father of Raghudeva Narayana, passed away, and Maharaja Nara Narayan ordered that his elephants, horses, and other possessions be brought to the capital. Shukladhvaja enjoyed the utmost loyalty from Kavindra Patra, Gadadhav Chaonia, Purandar Laskar, Yudhisthira Bhandar Kayastha, Srirama Laskar, Karnapur Giri, Sonvar, Rupbar Sardar, Kaviraj Gopal Chaonia, Gadai Barkayastha, and other authorities. They were unhappy with the incident. It was they who tried to incite Raghudeva against the Maharaja. With time, the advice of these wicked counselors quickly aroused deep hatred in Raghudeva's heart. Ignoring the excellent advice and wishes of the Maharaja, Raghudeva left the capital and started living with his

family in a fort built near Barnagar on the banks of the river Manas. He also made another fort at Ghilabijoytura on the banks of Gadadhar.

It was customary for Mansabdars and Umrahs to give all their property to the Mughal court after their death (although they had heirs). The custom was prevalent in contemporary Mughal court. A similar approach prevailed in the royal court of Koch Behar. Raghudeva Narayana was not content with that alone but influenced Ramagobinda of Dakshinkula and plundered the province of Baharband (now in the Rangpur district of Bangladesh) of his uncle's kingdom.<sup>10</sup>

In this situation, Maharaja Nara Narayana sent Birupaksha Karji to appease his nephew, but Raghudev captured Karji. The Maharaja then sent his brother Gohai Madan and personally took military action. Then Raghudeva, instead of fighting properly, sent one hundred and twenty of his wives as soldiers to oppose his uncle. The Maharaja initially expressed surprise at the sight of so many young troops without mustaches, but when he learned the truth, he was moved with shame and ordered his army to leave the battlefield. As the Maharaja had no choice, he handed over the country east of the river Sankos to Raghudeva. Mohammedan historians say that the Koch kingdom was divided into two parts in 1581. The western part of the state is known as Koch Behar, while the eastern region is known as Koch Hajo or Kamrup. Raghudeva's kingdom included the Garo hills, Goalpara, the ancient Brahmaputra channel, Kamrup, and North Mymensingh districts. Its capital was Barnagar. On the other hand, the state of Koch Behar, whose capital was Kamtapur, included Koch Behar, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Rangpur. From then on, Raghudev was called the 'Little King' or "Chhoto Raja." He had to pay an annual tribute of some gold, several horses, and Baranagara cloth as a token of his allegiance, and coinage in his honor was prohibited. According to another view, Raghudeva Narayana agreed to imprint the name of Maharaja Nara Narayana on his coins.<sup>11</sup>

#### **A bitter family feud between the two kingdoms:**

Maharaja Nara Narayan died in (Saka, 1509) 1587 A.D. He had two sons, Lakshmi Narayan and Balinarayan, and a daughter Prabhavati. According to Akharnama, when he was fifty years old, he nominated his nephew Raghudev Narayan as Patkumar (prince), but later his son Lakshminarayan was born in 1567.<sup>12</sup>

After the death of Maharaja Nara Narayana (1587), Lakshminarayana ascended the throne of Koch Behar. His cousin Raghudeva Narayan declared himself independent as the king of Kamrup or Koch Hajo and issued coins in his name. Raghudev wanted to be the ruler of the undivided Koch state. He established a friendship with Isa Khan, the famous Afghan chief of eastern Bengal. Due to this, hostility started between him and Lakshmi Narayan. Raghudeva Narayana was defeated, and the victorious Lakshmi Narayana usurped his royal umbrella. Parakshit Narayana, son of Raghudev, was under the protection of his uncle Lakshmi Narayana for about thirteen years. After a lifetime of struggle, Raghudeva Narayana conceded defeat to Lakshminarayana. He died in 1603.<sup>13</sup>

After this, Parikshita Narayan ascended the throne of his father and attacked his uncle Lakshminarayana who had protected him for about 13 years, and plundered the Baharband region of his kingdom. Lakshminarayana was utterly defeated in this battle and fled. However, his twelve Karjis (officers) were captured by the

opponent. Lakshminarayan's queen was also with him when he escaped. When a Pathan soldier is about to catch her, Parikshit immediately intervenes and says his aunt will be insulted. On the other hand, a soldier named Rupabar Dhali, who was involved in the battle, fatally stabbed Laxinarayan's brother Balinarayan with a spear because he could not recognize him in the dark. He died shortly after that.

After winning the battle, Parikshit Narayan duly accomplished the funeral ceremony of his uncle Kumar Balinarayan and sent a "bone" to Laxminarayan. When Lakshminarayana begged Parikshita to release his twelve Karjis, Parikshita offered to return the royal umbrella of his ancestor. Both have done so. Considering the possibility of a new invasion from the Mughals, Pariksita prayed to the Ahom king for help and made a treaty with him.<sup>14</sup>

Between 1605 and 1608, the Subedar of Bengal changed frequently. Sheikh Alauddin Eslam Khan was appointed Subedar of Bengal in 1608. Taking advantage of this situation in Bengal, some Pathan leaders and zamindars of Bengal declared rebellion against the Mughals. Parikshit Narayan also took advantage of the opportunity. He again invaded and occupied the Baharband region of the Kamata kingdom. According to 'Gurulila,' Parikshita repeatedly attacked the Kamata kingdom.

The then Subadar Eslam Khan exterminated the 'twelve Bhuiyans' of Bengal. He also sent an envoy to the court of Maharaja Lakshminarayan. By sending him numerous gifts, Lakshminarayana established a friendly alliance with him and advised him to invade the kingdom of Parikshita. The subedar also agreed that if he invaded the kingdom of Parikshit, Raja Lakshminarayan would join his army. After conquering the kingdom of Parikshit, his territory will transfer to Raja Lakshminarayan.

At the end of 1612, the Mughals invaded the kingdom of Pariksita and seized his fortified fort at Dhubri. The royal forces attacked him from the front and simultaneously Lakshminarayan from the rear. After a fierce battle, Parikshita was defeated and surrendered. In July 1613, the conquest was complete, and the Mughal General left the domain of Parikita to Maharaja Lakshminarayan.<sup>15</sup>

Raja Laxminarayan was at Khutaghat in the Goalpara district during this time. The new Subadar Qasim Khan sent a message to Zamindar Raghunath of Susang about the arrival of Raja Lakshminarayan at his court. As a result, Zamindar Raghunath also went to Raja Lakshmi Narayan. He comforted the Raja Lakshmi Narayan with many encouraging words and took him to Qasim Khan after appointing his representative in the Kamrup region.<sup>16</sup>

The first day after arriving at the court of Subadar Qasim Khan, the Khan treated Raja Lakshmi Narayan with the utmost courtesy. Still, when he appeared in court on the second day, he was kept under observation. Similar to how Islam Khan (the late Subadar of Bengal) treated Musa Khan, the son of Isa Khan and other zamindars. Now that his dream of the kingdom of Kamarupa had passed, he could assess the true significance of the guarantees made by the Subedar through Zamindar Raghunath. After a few days, he was taken to Agra.<sup>17</sup>

After several years of imprisonment, Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan was allowed to return to his country. While in Agra, the Emperor attempts to establish good relations between Lakshmi Narayan and Parikshita. But it didn't work for Parikshita's pride. However, Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan died in 1627.

After the death of Maharaja Lakshminarayan, his son Bir Narayan ascended the throne of Koch Behar. There were no family disputes during his tenure. However, his reign was very short-lived. When Maharaja Bir Narayan died in 1632, his son Pran Narayan succeeded him as King. During the installation ceremony, the Raikat held an umbrella on the King's head and presented him with Nazar. There were no family feuds during his reign. So, after the death of Maharaja Pran Narayan in 1665, the war of succession to the throne started again.<sup>18</sup>

By the end of Maharaja Pran Narayan's reign, it appears his dominion covered more than 600 square miles, based on the size and limits of Koch Behar State as described in the Tarikh-e-Assam and Alamgirnama. His domain stretched Tajhat and Bahrband pargana in the south, Baskarpur near Khuntaghat in Goalpara district to the east, and Bhatgao in Morang to the west.<sup>19</sup>

Prince Modnarayan received his father's crown in 1665, but Kumar Mahinarayan reduced his authority, forcing him to nominate him as Chhatra Nazir. Kumar Mahinarayan and his sons got more potent as a consequence. The monarchy was so weak that the royal officials' lives and possessions were in danger. To fight against the excessiveness of the Chhatra Nazir Mahinarayan, Maharaja Modnarayan slowly brought the army under his grip and sentenced to death some of the officers who were in favor of Mahinarayan and exiled others. This policy ended in open warfare. Jagat Narayan, the eldest son of Mahinarayan, who had caused much unrest in the kingdom, was assassinated on the King's orders.

Similarly, Mahinarayana was executed. The other sons of Mahinarayan continued to fight the King with the help of the Devaraja of Bhutan but were unsuccessful. Ultimately, the unrest was alleviated by placing Mahinarayan's son Yajnanarayan as Chhatra Nazir.

After the demise of Modnarayan in 1680 A. D., Nazir Yajna Narayan tried to ascend the throne of Koch Behar with the help of Bhutanese. The courtiers and ministers requested the assistance of the Raikat brothers of Baikunthapur against the unscrupulous Nazir Yajya Narayan. After receiving this news, the two Raikat brothers came to Koch Behar for support. In the meantime, Yajna Narayan and his Bhutanese ally had plundered the capital, killed some residents, and detained others. Even Basudeva Narayan, brother of the late King and other close family members, fled the capital city and took refuge in the south.<sup>20</sup>

On the other hand, the Bhutanese forces got the news that the Raikats of Baikunthapur were coming with a vast garrison army, and they moved from the capital. Nevertheless, before leaving the capital city, they took the sacred and historic Royal insignia of Maharaja Biswa Singha, the Royal umbrella, the Sceptre, the sword, the khanjar (large dagger), and the Kankan (armlet), etc. The materials, as mentioned earlier, were thrown into the mountain cave by the Bhutanese army as they traveled to their kingdom. In this circumstance, the Raikat brothers renewed an umbrella, Sceptre, and throne and established Basudeva Narayan (1680-1682) to the throne.

Then the Raikat brothers moved to their destination. Taking advantage of this situation, Yajna Narayan attacked the capital again, defeated and captured the King. The King was murdered by his order. Maharani and Kumar Mahindra Narayan were forced to flee the capital city with the royal insignia. In this situation, Yajna Narayan ascended the throne of Koch Behar and declared himself King.<sup>21</sup>

Two Rakat brothers named Jagadev and Bhujadev rushed to the river Mansai after receiving the sad news of the killing of King Basudeva Narayan. The scattered royal forces and ministers met them there. On the other hand, the opponents were ready to attack across the river. A fierce fight ensued between the two sides. Nazir Yagya Narayan was defeated, fled from the battlefield, and took refuge in Bhutan.

Under these circumstances, the Raikat brothers chose Mahindra Narayana as their King in 1682. Furthermore, they returned to their destination, leaving some of their forces in the capital to protect the King. At a very young age, Kumar Mahindra Narayan became Maharaja of Koch Behar. But at that time, there was no peace or regular administration anywhere in the country. Kumar Yagnanarayana, on the other hand, was a staunch opponent of the Maharaja, and he gathered an army and started attacking the Maharaja. Devaraja of Bhutan used to send regular gifts to the court of Koch Behar. But he did not accept subordination. He was also ready to help Koch Behar with his army.<sup>22</sup>

A few days later, ministers and high-ranking officials, in consultation, re-appointed Kumar Yajnanarayan as a Chhatra Nazir and tried to establish internal peace in the country. Yajnanarayana consented and received a suitable position. On the other hand, the two Raikat brothers became dissatisfied with the arrangement, and their hostility turned into open warfare. In the meantime, Maharaja Mahindra Narayan died, though according to another opinion, the Raikats killed him to seize the kingdom.

After the death of Mahindra Narayan, Maharaja Bir Narayan had no living descendants. Chhatra Nazir Yajnarayan was the nephew of Maharaja Birnarayan and the son of Kumar Mahinarayan. He declared himself king again because he was the oldest of the dead king's relatives. He formed friendly alliances with the Pathan chiefs, who were anti-Mughal in Bengal. Yajnanarayana was seen as a traitor by Raikats Jagadev and Bhujadev, who once more turned their weapons against him. From 1700 to 1702, there was a fierce battle between the two. The Raikat brothers died in battle. Shortly afterward, Yajna Narayan also died near Patgram, and Kumar Rupnarayan (1704-1714) ascended the throne of Koch Behar. During the reign of Kumar Rupnarayan, there was no unrest in the country and no family dispute over the inheritance of the throne. Maharaja Rupnarayan installed his eldest son Upendra Narayan as the Crown Prince.<sup>23</sup>

Kumar Upendranarayan ascended the throne of Koch Behar in 1714 A.D. after his father's demise. It seems that he was the weakest ruler of Koch Behar. He has not been able to manage peacefully governing the state. With the influence of the Muslim power of Bengal and the Bhutia on the other side, Koch Behar was facing many crises. In this regard, Maharaja took Dinanarayan, son of Dewan Deo Satyanarayan as an "adopted son," giving him some administrative powers in the state. Dinanarayan, however, was not content with this. To become his future monarch, he put pressure on the Maharaja. So he also requested a written promise from the Maharaja. But the Maharaja refused his request. Meanwhile, he heard from a monk that the Maharaja would

have a son. Dinnarayan was displeased and sought the help of the Mughal faujdar of Rangpur to oust the Maharaja. The Faujdar of Rangpur was also ready to help him. As a result, Maharaja Upendranarayan was defeated in a fierce battle between the two. Kumar Dinnarayana became the king after winning the battle of Jhar Singheshwar in 1736 A.D. Maharaja and Gauriprasad Baksi were defeated in this battle, and they did not despair. They gathered forces and prepared to rescue the state. For this, they agreed to conclude a treaty with the king of Bhutan. The Maharaja quickly destroyed the combined forces of Mughal Faujdar and Dinnarayan with the support of Devaraj of Bhutan (1737-1738). For their safety, Faujdar and Dinnarayan escaped to Rangpur. An enraged Dinanarayan died there in exile. Maharaja Upendranarayan again ascended the throne of Koch Behar (1737-1738). Since then, no further Mughal conflicts with the Kingdom of Koch Behar have existed. On the other hand, the administration of Koch Behar Kingdom began to come under the control of the Bhutanese king. The Maharaja did not object, though. In 1763 A.D., the Maharaja passed away after half a century of rule.<sup>24</sup>

The conspiracy of the higher officials against the Dewan forces the Maharaja to decide that he has no choice but to kill the Dewan. Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayan summoned Dewan Deo Ramnarayan to the royal palace, reporting his illness, and killed him there with his own hands. In 1769, Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayan dyed the earth with the blood of his elder brother in a brutal manner.<sup>25</sup>

The Bhutia representative Pensu Toma said nothing publicly about this tragic incident. He collected the names of the king's advisers and went to the Devaraja of Bhutan himself. After this heinous murder, Maharaja re-appointed Kumar Surendranarayan as Dewan. Khasanvis Gaurinandan Mustafi resigned due to old age or the murder of Dewan. His younger brother Sachindra Mustafi runs the administration. In this heinous incident, Devaraj decided to imprison Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayan and make his brother Rajendra Narayan the king of Koch Behar. However, the Deva Raja of Bhutan managed to capture Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayana. While Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayan was held captive in Bhutan, the Bhutia chiefs brought Kumar Rajendra Narayan to Koch Behar and installed him on the throne. Pensu Toma stayed in Koch Behar with the army to support and protect the new government.

After Maharaja Rajendranarayan, Koch Behar again experienced anarchy; Pensu Toma sent news of Maharaja Rajendranarayan's death to Devyadhur in Bhutan. In this situation, the Bhutia king tried to choose Bijendranarayana as the king. The Raikat of Baikunthapur also agreed with it.<sup>26</sup>

Meanwhile, the untimely death of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan again created unrest in the state of Koch Behar. Pensu Toma informs Debayadhur of the king's death and starts efforts to have the dead king's brother ascend the throne.

On the other hand, Kumar Baikuntharayan was trying to enthrone Kumar Bijendra Narayan, son of the late Dewan Ramnarayan. Raikat Darpadeva was a full supporter of this plan. Attempts by the earlier Raikats to gain the throne of Koch Behar failed, but the later Raikats could not give up their ambition. They were always waiting for an opportunity. In the meantime, they occupied a part of the Koch Behar state with the help of the

Bhutanese. Royal artifacts were preserved in the Madanamohan temple during this period. Penu Toma has appointed security guards Hareshwar Karji and Jadunandan Bhandur Thakur for maintenance there.

On the other hand, at the behest of Maharaja Dhairyendra Narayana's queen, Kashinatha Lahiri, and Sarbananda Goswami went to plead with Khagendra Narayana to enthrone the imprisoned king's son Dharendra Narayana. Nazir Khagendra Narayan opposed Kumar Bijendra Narayan's succession as king. After consulting Lahiri and Goswami, he decided to crown Kumar Dharendra Narayan as king. As a result, he besieged the capital. His forces defeated the Bhutia army and captured the capital. Jadunandan Bhandar Thakur and Hareshwar Karji were transferred from there.<sup>27</sup>

Devaraj was furious with Nazir after learning this information. He attempted to conquer the Koch Behar kingdom via Buxa Duar with an army of three Kahan's (3,640) worth of Bhutanese warriors but was utterly defeated. After receiving the news of defeat in this battle, Devaraj was not disappointed. He deployed forces once more, and they captured Koch Behar.<sup>28</sup> Lahiri, Goswami, and Nazir left the city first for Balarampur and later for Panga. All royal family members, including the monarch, were given accommodations there.<sup>29</sup>

Meanwhile, the Bhutia army conquered Koch Behar and made Bijendra Narayan, son of the slain Dewan Ramnarayan, king. However, he was not kept in Koch Behar but kept in Chechakhata. Unable to bear the climate there, he died in a short time.

The mere conquest of the kingdom was not enough for Raikat Darpadeva and Devayadhur. They planned to send the king into exile forever. At this moment, Nazir consulted Sarbananda Goswami and Kasinath Lahiri and made an important decision. He urged the East India Company to interfere in the Koch Behar politics. The company also agreed to this. It has to be remembered that the Bhutiyas played an essential role in regaining the independence of Koch Behar from the Mughals a century ago. The influence of the Bhutiyas in Koch Behar was established during the reign of Maharaja Upendra Narayana. Nevertheless, no one considers Koch Behar to be a Bhutanese vassal.<sup>30</sup>

The East India Company extended its dominion over Koch Behar in return for military assistance. Warren Hastings agreed with Parling's opinions, and the Calcutta Council decided to defend Koch Behar on October 27, 1772. The East India Company and the state of Koch Behar signed a treaty on April 5, 1773. This agreement is known as the 'Anglo-Koch Behar Agreement.' In this treaty, the Maharaja agreed to give half of the annual revenue of Koch Behar to the East India Company in perpetuity for the country's defense. As a result, the East India Company made the State of Koch Behar a tributary state.<sup>31</sup>

On the other hand, on April 25, 1774, a treaty was signed between the Devaraja of Bhutan and the East India Company. With this treaty, the East India Company made more profitable.<sup>32</sup>

However, Dharendra Narayan, on the other hand, passed away suddenly in 1775. After his death, his father, Dhairyendra Narayan, ascended the throne of Koch Behar for the second time.<sup>33</sup> **Conclusion:**

From the above description, it is clear that one of the main reasons for the downfall of the state was the family feud over the throne among the ruling classes. The State of Koch Behar is no exception. The fall of any empire in the world is due to a family feud, the members of the royal family support the people's rebellion, and the

ordinary people, including the elite, gradually join them. Furthermore, it is common knowledge that the 'successors of Emperors are inferior in excellence and incapable, which creates turmoil in the empire. Due to the absence of a capable ruler after the mighty emperor, the empire's fortunes steadily started to collapse. Most of them were addicted to alcohol and women. Therefore, some of them proved incompetent rulers. No Empire can survive under such rulers. The fact that the state of Koch Behar existed till 1949 is a little surprising. The royal family's main line was the resounding support of the state's people. The Koch kings were very kind to their subjects. They also treated all people equally, regardless of caste and creed. As a result, there were no signs of rebellion in the country. But despite the family feuds of the Koch dynasty, the subjects remained staunchly loyal to the ruling king.

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15. Borah, M.I., - (Trans) ‘Baharistan -i-Ghaibi’ of Mirza Nathan, Guwahati, 1992, pp-156-57; A history of Cooch Behar, op. cit, p. 156.
16. Ibid., p. 288; On the orders of Subadar Qasim Khan, Abdus Salam sent Zamindar Raghunath to bring Raja Lakshmi Narayan to Dacca with many assurances:- “As he was a loyal person and as it was stipulated with our elder brother that at the end of the Kuch expedition he would present himself at the court ( of the governor) in order to be invested with the territory of Kamrup, we shall also respect those terms and covenants. As our brother was unable to meet him, it is advisable that he should come to see us. We shall give him something more than the territory promised by our brother.”
17. Ibid.
18. Koch Beharer Itihas, op. cit., pp. 169-170
19. A history of Cooch Behar, Koch Behar, op.cit, p.183. ; Alamgirnama, p.692
20. The Cooch Behat State and its Land Revenue Settlement, op.cit. pp. 244-246.
21. Barma, Dharmanarayan & Manta, Dhaneswar.- Kamrup Kamata Kuch Behar Rajyer Itihas, Kalkata, 1905, p.156.
22. Ibid.
23. Koch Beharer Itihas, op. cit., pp.182-183.
24. Kamrup Kamata Kuch Behar Rajyer Itihas,op.cit.,pp. 159-161.
25. A history of Cooch Behar, Koch Behar, op.cit, pp.212-213.
26. Cooch Behar Select Records, Vol. i, pp.11-12.
27. A history of Cooch Behar, Koch Behar, op.cit, pp.216-218.
28. The Cooch Behat State and its Land Revenue Settlement,op.cit.,pp. 250-251.
29. Ibid., pp.251-252.
30. Koch Beharer Itihas, op. cit., p. 207.
31. Bengal Secret Consultations. 1773; Markham, C.R. - Nartatives of the Mission of George Bogle to Tibet and of the Journey of Thomas Maning to Lhasa, London, 1876, p. 136.
32. A history of Cooch Behar, Koch Behar, op.cit, p. 358. ; Aitchison, C.U.-A collection of Treaties, Engagements, and Sanads, Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries, Calcutta, 1892, p. 103; Nartatives of the Bogle Mission, op. cit., pp. 51-52.
33. Koch Beharer Itihas, op. cit., p. 216; Mercer and Chauvet’s Report, Vol.ii.p.151.