

KOCH Coinage: A study in Historical Perspective and Explore its Frontiers

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Abstract

The different periods of Indian History have seen the ascent of various political personalities and these royal characters had their own series of radiant money. This isn't just a supreme practice in South Asian setting yet in addition a progressive occasion in worldwide politico economic viewpoint the gold and metal coin is extremely uncommon, silver being the primary metal of begetting cash. Remembering the above foundation of Koch money the current review has investigated the mature long Koch cash prevalently known as Narayanai Mudra in various boondocks, as political, monetary and socio-social viewpoints and hence attempting to lay out a co-connection between the Koch money and money custom of India. Not just that the current review has investigated British financial colonialism by dissecting the currencies" progressive de-adaptation in the late-eighteenth century and completely introduced an insightful clarification of the politico-financial effect of the financial viewpoint of the Koch Kingdom is the fundamental subject of the subsequent part. This section incorporates the monetary suitability of the Koch realm.

To ventilate the centre issues of the Koch financial matters, cautious review is made bunny about the kingdom's geological settings, managerial hardware, creation framework, land income settlement and assortment, exchange and market organizations, etc. The utilization of cash in exchange and exchange Koch Kingdom and furthermore in a few pieces of North East India are likewise examined here to figure out the job of cash in day do day exchanges.

Keywords: KOCH Coinage, Coin, Agriculture, Frontiers, Perspective, Historical

1. Introduction

The Koch realm was a state arranged south of the Himalayas and in the northern piece of Bengal during the sixteenth to eighteenth hundreds of years. However there is a lot of haziness prompting some scholarly contentions about how it was laid out yet it's obviously true that the state was laid out in 1496, in the vacuum made after the breakdown of the Kingdoms of Kamarupa and Kamta and became one of the incredible territorial powers of North East India. In any case, it was special for its long presence and can flaunt its distant vestige, supported congruity and endurance as the centuries progressed The early history of the realm must be looked for throughout the entire existence of Assam. In early times the domain was known as Pragjyotisha. The topographical boondocks of the Kingdom were all around put down by the normal stopping points. The Baranadi and the Brahmaputra waterways comprise the eastern limit while the stream Tista and Karatoya are the signs of the western limit. In the northern flank Bhutan comprise the boondocks and combination of the Brahmaputra and the Karatoya in Rangpur (presently in Bangladesh) is typically reflected as the southern boondocks of the province.

However with the progression of time the managerial purview of the area of Koch realm changed in a few times of its presence. The field of the realm is essentially plane with an insignificant south eastern grade along which the significant waterways of the realm run. There are thin promising and less promising times and keeping in mind that a few districts might be so down as to be overwhelmed by the streams during the blustery season, others are somewhat raised and remain forever above water. There are neither mountain tops nor any slopes inside the government. The streams in Koch domain run in a slanting way from north-west to south-east.

As a regulation they take their upsurge in the Himalayas and come in the realm from the western duars of the state and later going through the discharge their waters into the Brahmaputra. The streams are regularly acclaimed and meagre in the dry period; they become very wild and serious during the downpours. The most critical streams of the state incorporate Tista, Karotoya, Sankosh, Torsha, Dharla, Raidak, Kaljani, Jaldhaka, Mujnai, Gadadhar, and so forth. Formation of states nearby starting from the beginning of the authentic stage. As the typical outskirts the stream framework played pertinent part in the security of the area. Floods

as expected occurrence in the streams had protected the region from the assault of nearby foe. Wing to spill over the soil of the realm is of alluvial example and very useful

2. Koch Coins in Cultural Perspective

History is the investigation of the past imagined by an antiquarian. Other than the immediate sources which deliberately record contemporary realities as a composed text or an epigraph, the student of history looks for data in different roundabout sources. These roundabout sources are objects having a place with the past yet they are never planned by the creators or makers to record contemporary data. Among these backhanded wellsprings of history, coins possess a particular spot of significance as they toss a welcome light on the idiosyncrasies of social improvement of an area. The engravings on the coins feature the social character of the ruler and of the state. Presence of name or some time pictures of the Gods and Goddess on the coins assist us with deciding the advancement of the strict factions. The investigation of shifted kinds of coins having a place with various age show an exemplification of culture in a smaller than usual structure. A top to bottom investigation of the coin images according to the authentic viewpoint can give an thought to the arrangement of the issue arising out of the variety of races or ethnic gatherings maintaining unique strict confidence.

The current part will zero in on the ornamental craftsmanship themes and images present on the Koch coins and furthermore investigate the authentic as well as stylish purposes for the addition of every single enlivening adornment present in Koch coins and accordingly attempt to associate its embellishing perspective with the other contemporary monetary standards stylish. Be that as it may, prior to going into the centre issue we will attempt to comprehend the numismatic craftsmanship and momentarily review the different workmanship themes present in Indian coins from days of yore. Essentially the coin is an object of utility. It is a little piece made of metal has recommended weight is decorated with plans and engravings and is made on orders from an expert for its use as money, the vehicle of trade. The creative nature of a singular coin relies on different variables like the imaginative expertise of the craftsman etcher, the method of manufacture, nature of the metal and nature of compound utilized and so on.

The utilization of all around planned passes on bring about gadget in genuinely high help what's more, this give the gadget a strong impact on certain coins, the help is very low and there are even a couple examples on which simply uncovered blueprint of figures are apparent. The antiquated mint experts didn't have the foggiest idea about the utilization of shape controlling collars to contain the state of the semi-liquid metallic clear at the hour of the striking. Subsequently, totally round or square or rectangular shapes are practically obscure in old money, the warmed metal unencumbered by any collar accepting under the strokes of the hammer frames rather like some unusual living life form.

Almost certainly, while etching bites the dust for coins of valuable metals like gold and silver, the craftsman kick the bucket shaper would have placed in more consideration in this work treating it with a respect that such valuable metals merit than while etching bites the dust for coins of moderately base metals like copper, bronze, lead and potion. The conversation of the coin legend and the development of its letters to a degree influence the creative nature of a coin. At the point when the letters are first rate and the legends are organized evenly this adds to the imaginative value of the coin furthermore, the other way around.



Figure: 1 Currency of Koch nation

3. Economic Scenario in the Koch Kingdom

Considering the far reaching investigation of the Narayani money the examination of the financial extent of the Koch realm is exceptionally fundamental. Since cash is a necessary piece of the monetary action. Without legitimate comprehension of the financial state of the Koch realm we can't understand the centrality from the piece of the Koch rulers to present an efficient state supported cash framework for the legitimate upkeep of the financial request in the state.

So in the present section we will examine about the different monetary boundaries of the Koch state and attempt to connect them with the Narayani cash. Because of the scarcity of dependable source very few endeavours have been started to compose the monetary situation of the Koch Kingdom. In veneration of financial examination of the Koch Kingdom we need to remember the applicable truth of the private association between the nature and regular climate.

❖ **Agriculture:**

Development of the prolific land was the primary control of individuals. The vast majority of individuals were related with horticulture by somehow. In the old style sources the efficiency of the land was strikingly portrayed. Among them the Persian accounts enhances the fruitfulness and efficiency of the dirt in the Koch realm. In Fathiya-I-Ibriya, a Persian message noticed: "Koch Behar is notable for its phenomenal water, gentleness of the environment, its new vegetation and blossoms. Oranges are abundant as likewise different products of the soil." It additionally expressed that the environment, land, vegetation and staying places of individuals of the realm were infinitely better to those of different spots of India. The Alamgirnamah likewise writes in a similar strain and discusses the effectiveness of the locale.

Rice was developed in the nation greatly. Different sorts of rice were developed in the realm and among them Aush, Aman and Boro were the significant assortment of rice. Aush development required the moving procedure and this assortment of rice developed the most. Its creation was lesser than that of Sali, however it was short developing. Sail or wet rice required movement and thus such grounds which could hold water or could be falsely watered from adjoining streams were fundamental for its cultivating. The Kacharies for instance knew specific strategies for water system. They utilized to make blocks across the slope streams and afterward lead the saved water to the grounds through a arrangement of recovered trenches.

❖ **Techniques used in Agriculture:**

As far as appropriate comprehension of horticulture the methods utilized on it should request extraordinary consideration. Such countless new kinds of agro-apparatuses were utilized in the agribusiness. However we don't have contemporary records on the rural apparatuses however the later works strikingly mentions about this. It is conceivable that these carries out were

stylish from long past as we don't take note any adjustment of the development framework. Furrow (Langal) and different carries out are referenced of ten. From the Guru Charita we discover that every town of Magurmari was furnished with hal (furrow) alongside bullocks to develop the fields. In the Koch region we don't run over Dheki, the husking execute of paddy and in its place wooden mates or pestle noticed. Cultivating then, at that point, as now rely upon the storms. The disappointment of downpours implies a definite fiasco. The abundant and normally recurrent precipitation permits the cultivators to manage without water system. Be that as it may, to meet the opposite circumstance modest and basic course of water system was followed. Hiuen Tsang who visited Kamarupa in the seventh century A.D. seen that water drove from the stream or from holds streamed round the towns.

❖ **Land Revenue Structure and Administration:**

Concerning the records connecting with the land income settlement of the Koch realm no precise data is accessible preceding the coming of the Britishers. No abstract records on this respect can be found in the Koch annals. The Rajopakhyan or the records of the lords of the Koch realm composed by Munshi Jaya Nath Ghosh during the rule of Harendra Narayan is the as it were written history of the state now accessible. A normal history of the land income organization of Cooch Behar starts with its relationship with the British Government in 1773. Albeit the data since accessible are a long way from being full and associated they pretty decently reveal the state of things as they existed before the association with the British From exceptionally old times land income was taken in part of the yields gathered and Koch realm was no special case. For the most part „1/2 buri of Cowries is perceived as the customary income of one plough“. Cowries were natural in Koch realm even up to the centre of the last hundred years. There was a custom that lord Kanteswar (Nilambara) made an engraving be recorded on a stone guiding his beneficiaries of see just a not very many Cowries as income for each furrow. However no engraving of Nilambara or his ancestors has yet been found. It was written in the Riaz-usSalatin that the leaders of Assam gathered no income rather one out of each and every three subjects performed such work as requested by the lord and infringement of the request, was distributed with death.

❖ **Crafts and Industries:**

Specialty and ventures expanded in the Koch realm in an extensive sum. Individuals of the Koch realm were independent and they, at the end of the day, delivered everything of their necessities by following standard methods. The predominant conventional financial arrangement of the realm was practically the very, that of the entire of the North East India. With state development under Visvasimha what's more, Nara Narayan there gazed the course of dispersion of the customary ancestral procedures and innovations of the fundamental land, which stimulated the improvement of the financial design and creation. During the early leaders of the Koch Kingdom advancement of specialties and businesses arrived at in a significant development stage because of the reception of non-ancestral high level methods and serene state co-activity. The Darang Raj Vamsavali and other contemporary sources referenced a few expert networks and items which plainly demonstrated the presence of specialties and ventures in the locale. Visvasimha had designated his child Megha Narayan as a boss of the winding around enterprises and to gather charges from the weavers and washer men and ruler Nara Narayan likewise had proceeded with this office. With the state arrangement, tranquil political condition and admixture of the ancestral and non-ancestral procedures during the rule of Nara Narayan and his replacements makes and industry had gained extensive headway.

❖ **Commercial Relations with neighbouring Countries :**

Koch realm had broad exchange relations with the adjoining realms. Making use from its topographical area the merchants of the realm laid out smooth business joins with the other regional realms. Contemporary and close to contemporary nearby sources and records left by the outsiders, uncover that the rural and create creation brought up in an extensive position with the goal that excess could be traded to the next place for business pursuits. Other than farming and art items the realm was consistently wealthy in regard of its timberland and animal items. Based on these foundation modern creation expanded subjective and quantitatively. This overflow age not just urged the nearby merchants to continue exchange yet additionally drawn in unfamiliar brokers to seek after exchange with the locale. To this might be added all supportive gestures agreed by the rulers, whose point was to lay out both political and monetary authority over the adjoining regions. The capable Koch rulers found a way different ways to modernize the economy.

4. Origin and Development of Koch Coinage (1496-1773)

The current review is zeroing in on the money of Koch realm which was arranged at the eastern part of India and especially at the northern piece of unified Bengal, so prior to going into the centre issue for example the beginning and improvement of Koch Coinage we will initially take a brief look at the arrangement of money and trade framework in this piece of India from the earliest chance to the underpinning of the Koch Realm. It will assist us with grasping the money customs of this area and at the same time help us to figure out the viewpoint of the presentation of Koch money.

4.1 Monetary Scenario in Early Bengal:

The domain referred to for quite a long time as Bengal is phonetically and by and large socially a genuinely homogenous unit. ¹ Though crossed by waterways its significant districts were connected in old, bygone eras by political as well as social and business ties. Subsequently the domain concerned can be considered as a unit for study. Exceptional revelations during the most recent couple of many years have laid out the numismatic history of Bengal as acquainted with the coins and different types of cash in the early and proto archaic periods. These disclosures have fostered our insight for the money related history of eastern India. The utilization of stamped metallic coins as the mode of trade mark a major forward step in human advancement, particularly in its monetary angles yet how and when metallic coins were first presented in Bengal is covered in secret. In any case, it's undeniably true that they were known and utilized a few centuries before the beginning of the Christian period. This is demonstrated by a few simultaneous bits of proof. First and foremost, the Mahasthangarh fragmentary stone plaque engraving, ² found from antiquated Pundravardhana on the bank of Karatoya at Bagura District in present Bangladesh, is the earliest engraving (c. third century B.C.) of the unified Bengal, contains reference to, two kinds of winning monetary standards (a) Gandakas and (b) Kakanikas, however their size and weight are obscure to us.

In the early writing and later engravings the coins were by and large known as Karsapana, which is gotten from the term Karsav and weight 80 ratis or 146 smile. Karsapana which made of gold was known as Suvarna³ or Niska⁴ and silver spread the word about Karsapana was as Purana⁵ or Dharana⁶. While copper made as „Pana⁷“ in 33rd part of Arthasastra it is expressed

that coins made of copper are ordered as per their worth and these are: (I) Masaka (ii) Ardha-masaka (iii) Pada-masaka (Kakani) (iv) Arta-bhaga-masaka (Ardha-kakani).

➤ **Monetary Scenario of Kamarupa:**

The Mahasthangarh engraving 28 appears to propose the incorporation of present North Bengal domain in Maurya Empire. In any case, there is little data about the financial existence of Assam during the pre-Christian time frame and about its connection with the Mauryas, however one can't overlook the Critical reality that we have not found in Assam any punched checked coin, which was the Standard silver and copper cash of the Mauryas albeit such coins have been seen as in Extensive numbers as Far East of Bengal. Shockingly it is the way that we have not viewed as in Assam any of the bountiful issues of the Gupta despite the fact that we know that the territory of Pundrovardhana or North Bengal shaped a piece of the Gupta realm from the fourth to 6th hundred years A.D. also, the antiquated Assam or the Pragjyotish-Kamrupa nation was isolated from the Pundravardhana domain in the west exclusively by the stream Karatoya.

➤ **Monetary Scenario in Kamatapur under the Khan:**

In like manner the political history of the Koch Kingdom before Visvasimha the advancement of cash economy likewise lays in profound secret. For the absence of legitimate authentic data, it is obscure to us that when and how money came to supplant the arrangement of trade method of trade. However some other dynastic money like those of, Maurya, Gupta, Sultanate Bengal and so forth has been found within the domain of Koch realm however with those little measures of coins it was not really imaginable to run a undeniable kingdom's trade framework. Before the foundation of the Koch line the Khan was the major political force of this region focusing the Kamtapura (Gosanimari) as their capital. Nilambar was the most impressive ruler of the Khan tradition. Nilambara accomplished extraordinary power and stretched out his standard toward the east to the Bara Nadi and toward the west to the extent that Karatoya. He likewise included inside his masteries the north eastern piece of the parcel which recently had a place with the Islamic leaders of Bengal. But Nilambar or the other Khan rulers didn't found a way some way to present coins or gave any coins to recognize their political triumph over the district as the palaeontologist yet not saw as any coins had a place with the Khan Lords

5. Conclusion

In the presentation we have presented the issues under study and introduced a brief outline of the arrangement of money in India from its starting to the furthest limit of the 12th century to give an thought of the arrangement of money in India. Then, at that point, the following part momentarily sums up the specialized part of a coin. The following segment focuses our consideration towards the money of the regal states in the Indian subcontinent, earlier and after the Muslim rule to legitimize the need of money framework by the autonomous states. The leftover segment at last gives a bird's eye perspective on the association of the whole proposition.

In the accompanying we have endeavoured to sum up the fundamental items in our review and bring up the significant discoveries of the current review and furthermore present a bunch of closing perceptions. Though the Koch arose in the area in the principal half of the sixteenth century however the politico-social state of the region before the foundation of the Koch state is likewise examined here. In this regard the development of the Khan administration is counselled and how slowly the Khan rule reached a conclusion is additionally featured here. The rise of the Koch is the most generally huge occasion of the sixteenth hundred years. How the Koch developed here subsequent to scattering the other minor networks is dissected here. After the underlying long stretches of its presence Koch realm seen of its most capable ruler Nara Narayan.

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