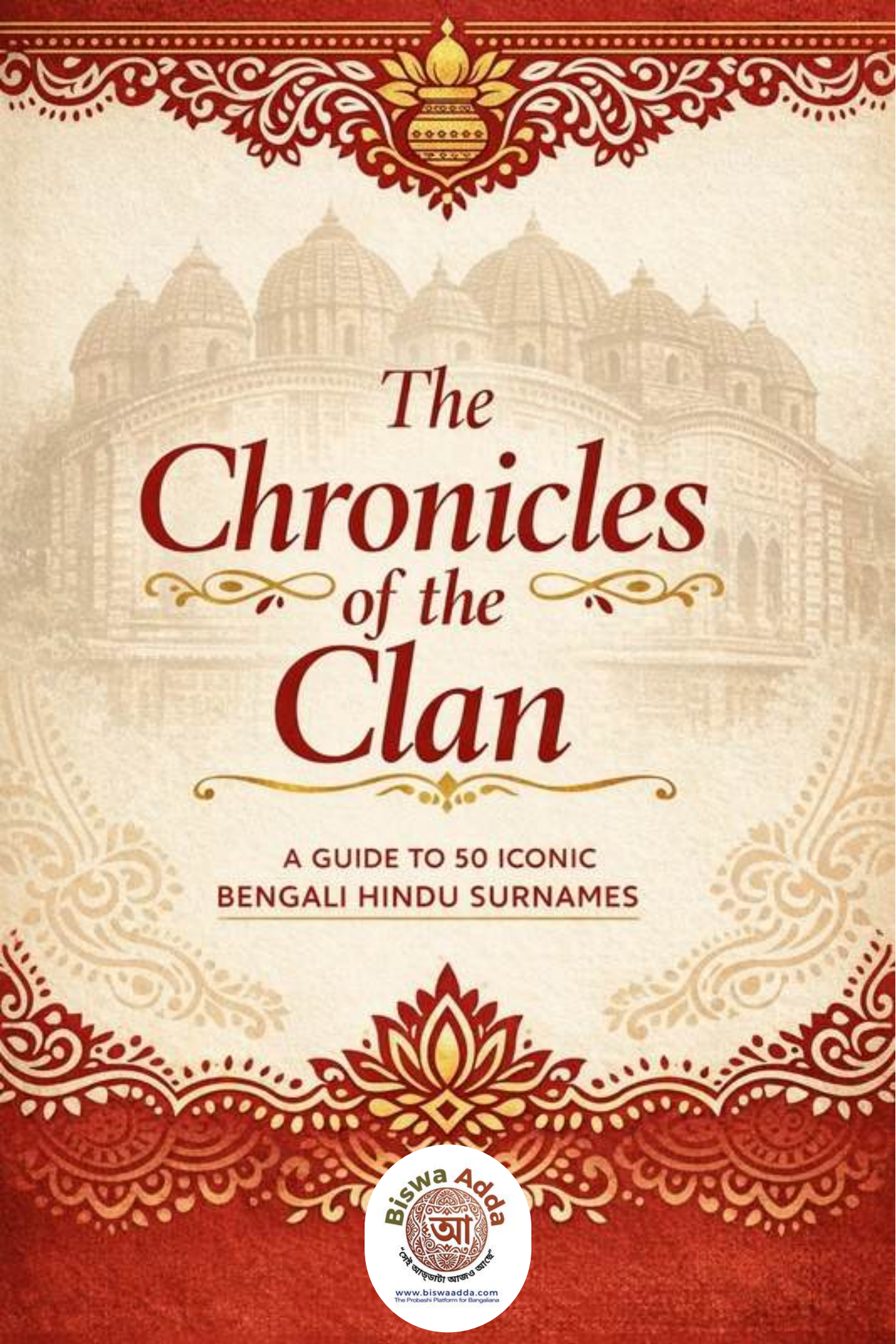




The Chronicles of the Clan

A GUIDE TO 50 ICONIC
BENGALI HINDU SURNAMES



The Chronicles of the Clan

A Guide to 50 Iconic Bengali Hindu Surnames



In this book...

Whether you are a Mukherjee tracing your roots to the village of Mukhati, a Sinha descending from a line of "Lions," or a Sarkar whose ancestors managed the wealth of empires, this book provides the definitive guide to the 50 most influential Bengali Hindu surnames.

Discover the meaning, the lineage, and the legends behind the names that shaped and still shapes a culture.



Adhikari

The Meaning: Literally translates to "One who holds authority" or "Superintendent."

History & Origins:

This is a title-based surname. It was given to people who held administrative or priestly authority over a temple or a village. Because it is a functional title, it is found among both Brahmins and other communities.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; often Kashyapa or Bharadwaj.

Famous Bengalis:

Deepak (Dev) Adhikari: A major Bengali film superstar



Bagchi

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Bagcha.

History & Origins:

The Bagchis belong to the Barendra Brahmin community, primarily located in North Bengal. They were known for their deep knowledge of the Shastras and served as priests and educators for the local nobility.

Gotra Associations:

Almost exclusively Sandilya.

Famous Bengalis:

Jatindramohan Bagchi: A celebrated poet of the post-Tagore era.



Banerjee (Bandyopadhyay)

The Meaning: A combination of Bandoghat (the ancestral village) and Upadhyay (Teacher).

History & Origins:

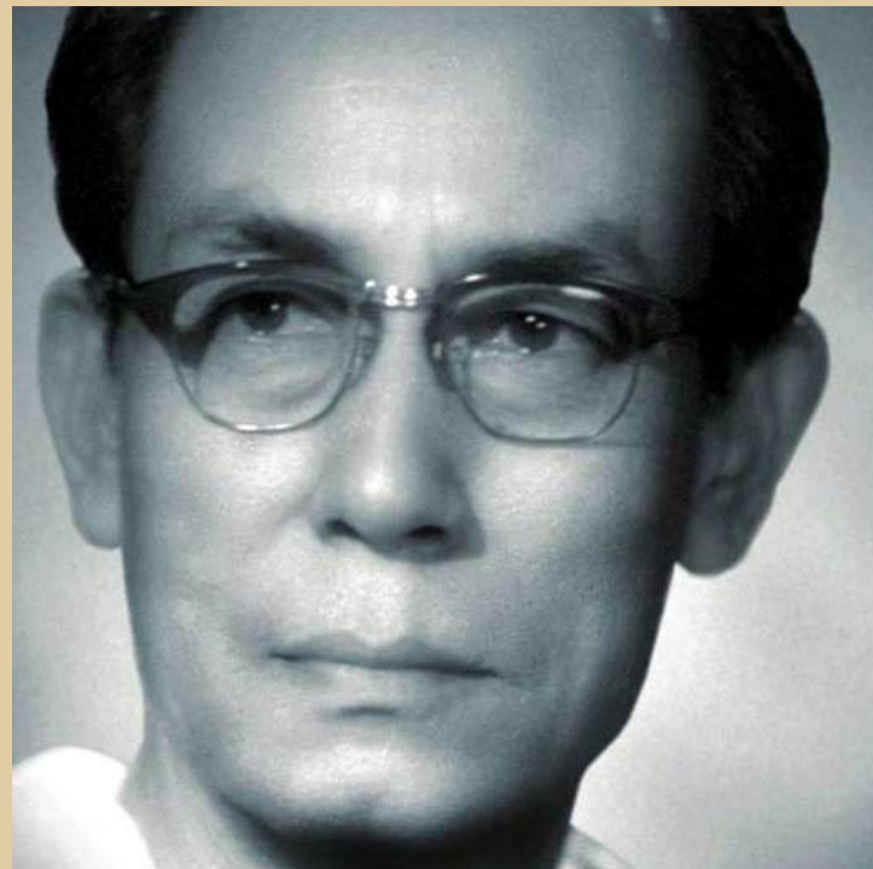
Like the Mukherjees, the Banerjees are Kulin Brahmins. Their ancestors were granted the village of Bandoghat by the kings of Bengal. During British rule, the name was anglicized to "Banerjee" for ease of pronunciation in official records.

Gotra Associations:

Almost exclusively associated with the Sandilya Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Abhijit Banerjee: Nobel Prize-winning economist.



Barman

The Meaning: Derived from Varman, meaning "Armor" or "Protector."

History & Origins:

This is a traditional Kshatriya-style surname. It was used by the royalty of the Koch Bihar kingdom and other North Bengali dynasties. It signifies a martial background and a duty to protect the land.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

S.D. Burman (Dev Barman): Iconic music composer and singer from the Tripura royal family.



Bhadra

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Bhadra, meaning "Gentle," "Auspicious," or "Noble."

History & Origins:

A Kayastha surname found predominantly in East Bengal. The Bhadras were known for their refined culture and involvement in the civil services of the colonial period.

Gotra Associations:

Most commonly Gautama or Kashyapa.

Famous Bengali:

Birendra Krishna Bhadra: Iconic narrator most known for his soaring Sanskrit recitation and India's oldest radio show, Mahishashura Mardini (1931) still played on Mahalaya Day every year.



Bhaduri

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Bhadur.

History & Origins:

A high-ranking Barendra Brahmin surname. The Bhaduris were historically recognized for their literary contributions and were often granted lands by the medieval rulers of Bengal for their scholarly merit.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily Kashyapa.

Famous Bengali:

Sisir Bhaduri: The doyen of modern Bengali theatre.



Bhattacharya

The Meaning: A combination of Bhatta (Scholar/Priest) and Acharya (Teacher). It signifies a "Teacher of Scholars."

History & Origins:

This is a title-based Brahmin surname. It was awarded to those who excelled in the six branches of Vedic study or logic (Nyaya). Many Bhattacharyas were the principal advisors to the kings of Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Found across Sandilya, Kashyapa, Bharadwaj, and Vatsya.

Famous Bengali:

Pannalal Bhattacharya: An iconic singer and Matri bhakta who developed the Shyama Sangeet style.



Bhowmik

The Meaning: Derived from Bhumi, meaning "Land." It translates to "Landowner" or "Lord of the Earth."

History & Origins:

Bhowmik was a title granted to those who held significant territorial authority. During the era of the "Baro-Bhuyan" (the twelve legendary landlords of Bengal), Bhowmiks were local chieftains who often maintained their own militias to protect their territories from invaders.

Gotra Associations:

Often Kashyapa or Bharadwaj.

Famous Bengali:

Mani Lal Bhowmik: Physicist and philanthropist who played a key role in developing excimer laser technology that paved the way for Lasik eye surgery technology.



Biswas

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Vishvasa, meaning "Trust" or "Faith."

History & Origins:

Biswas is an administrative title rather than a village-based name. It was historically bestowed by the Nawabs of Bengal or the Mughal administration upon officials who were deemed "Trustworthy" in managing revenue, estates, or sensitive governmental records. Because it was a functional title, it is found across various communities.

Gotra Associations:

Extremely varied; depends on the family's original ancestral group.

Famous Bengali:

Chhabi Biswas: The legendary actor, best known for his role in Satyajit Ray's Jalsaghar.



Bose (Basu)

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Vasu, meaning "Wealthy," "Bright," or "Radiant." It is also an epithet for various deities.

History & Origins:

A prominent surname within the Kayastha community. The Basus were traditionally administrators, scholars, and landholders. During the colonial era, many members of this clan were at the forefront of the Bengal Renaissance and the Indian independence movement.

Gotra Associations:

Most commonly associated with the Gautama Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: Arguably, India's greatest freedom fighter and the first recognised Head of State of the provincial government of free India.



Chakraborty

The Meaning: Derived from Chakra (Wheel) and Vartin (One who turns). It translates to "Chakravartin" or "Universal Ruler/Emperor."

History & Origins:

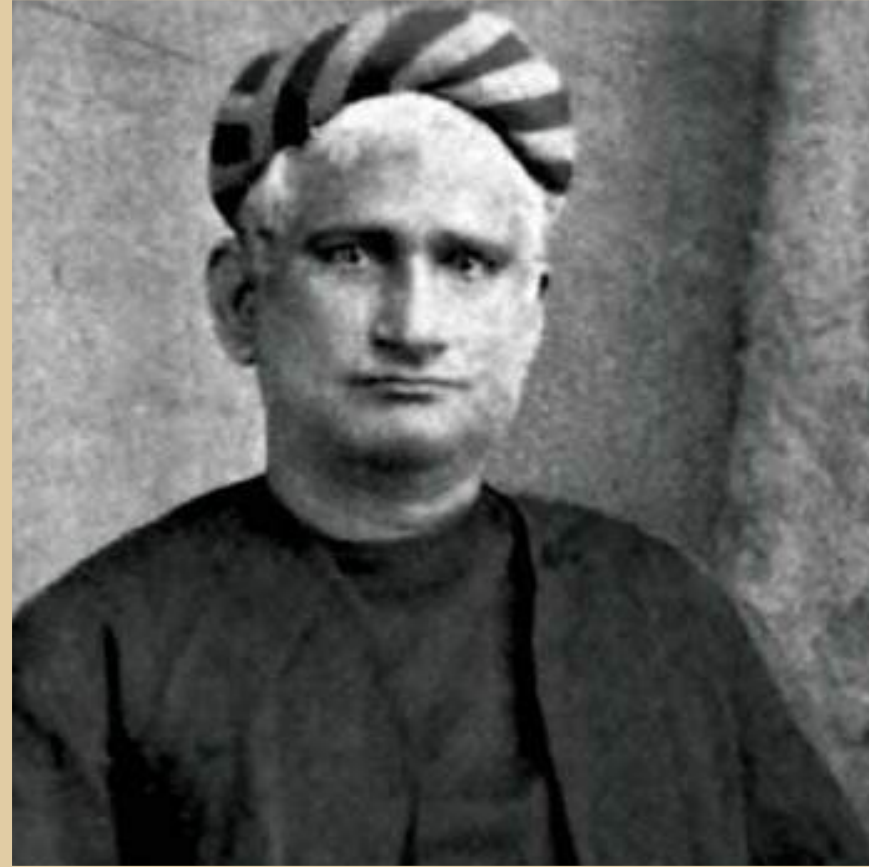
Unlike village-based names, Chakraborty is a title of high honor. It was bestowed upon Brahmins who performed specific grand rituals or those who held significant administrative power. Over time, the title became a hereditary surname used by many Brahmin families across Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; can be found among Sandilya, Kashyapa, and Vatsya Gotras.

Famous Bengali:

Sabyasachi Chakrabarty: Renowned actor, famous for portraying the detective 'Feluda'.



Chatterjee

The Meaning: A compound of Chatta (the name of the ancestral village) and Upadhyay (Teacher). It literally translates to "The Teacher from Chatta."

History & Origins:

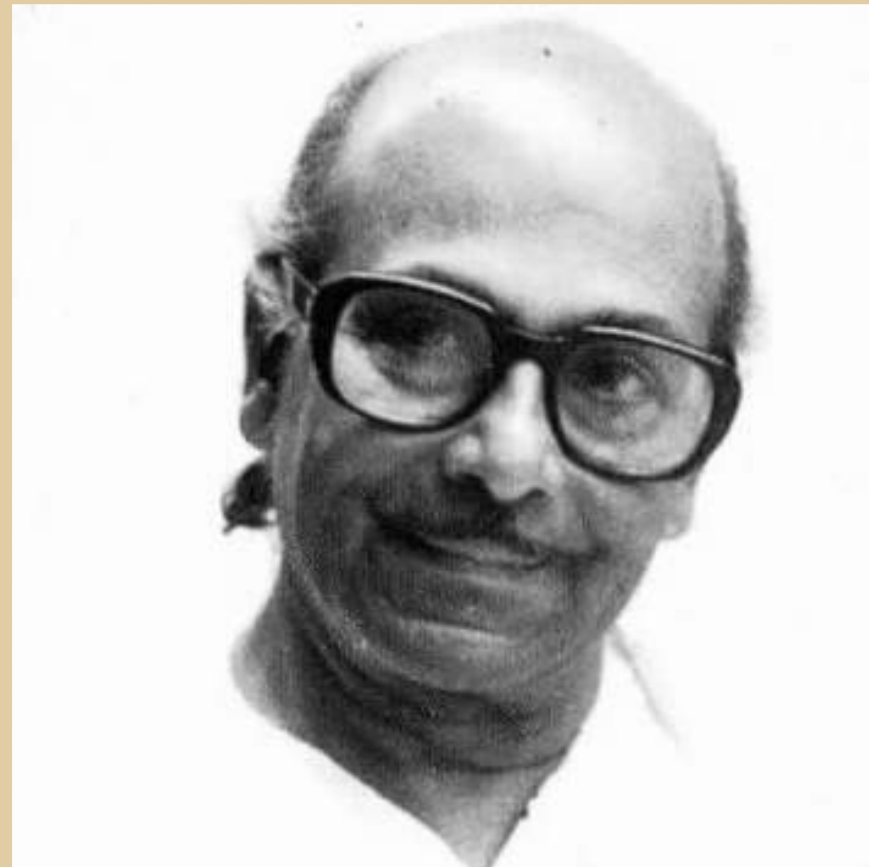
The Chattopadhyay family belongs to the Kulin Brahmin group. Their history is tied to the migration of scholars from Kanauj to Bengal under the patronage of King Adisura. They were historically the intellectual custodians of Vedic rituals and Sanskrit literature in the Rarh region of Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Almost exclusively associated with the Kashyapa Gotra.

Famous Bengali:

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay: The author of Anandamath and the composer of "Vande Mataram."



Chowdhury

The Meaning: A compound of Chatur (Four) and Dhari (Holder). Historically, it meant a "holder of four parts" or a headman of a specific district.

History & Origins:

This is one of the most prestigious landowning titles in Bengal. It was granted to individuals responsible for collecting taxes from a vast area. Unlike many other names, "Choudhury" was a status symbol that transcended religious lines, held by both Hindus and Muslims of high social standing.

Gotra Associations:

Varied across Brahmin and Kayastha lineages.

Famous Bengali:

Salil Chowdhury: Legendary music composer and poet.



Das

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Dasa, meaning "Servant" or "Devotee" (usually of a deity).

History & Origins:

Das is one of the most versatile and widespread surnames in Bengal. It was often adopted by various communities as a mark of humility and religious devotion (e.g., Hari Das - servant of Vishnu). Because of its humble meaning, it was adopted by people across many social strata.

Gotra Associations:

Extremely varied due to its widespread use across many different ancestral lines.

Famous Bengali:

Krishna Chandra Das: the man behind the famous K.C.Das brand of sweets credited with inventing the Rasmalai and canning and export of Rasgulla



Dasgupta

The Meaning: A compound of Das (Servant/Devotee) and Gupta (Secret/Protected).

History & Origins:

The Dasguptas are a prominent lineage within the Baidya community. Historically, the Baidyas were the traditional physicians of Bengal, often serving in royal courts. The use of "Gupta" as a suffix was a mark of high status and intellectual heritage, distinguishing them from the broader Das surname.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly associated with the Dhanvantari (The Physician of the Gods) or Kashyapa Gotras.

Famous Bengali:

Buddhadeb Dasgupta: Renowned poet and National Award-winning filmmaker.



Dey/Deb

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Deva, meaning "God" or "Divine."

History & Origins:

A very common Kayastha surname. The Deys were historically involved in administrative and clerical roles. The variation "Deb" is also found among the royalty of Tripura. In the 19th century, many Deys were influential in the printing and publishing industry of Kolkata.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa or Bharadwaj.

Famous Bengali:

Manna Dey: One of the most versatile playback singers in Indian cinema.



N. R. Dhar



Dhar

The Meaning: Derived from Dhara, meaning "Support" or "Bearer."

History & Origins:

A Kayastha or Baidya surname. Families with this name were historically influential in the administration of the Jessore and Khulna regions.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa.

Famous Bengali:

Nil Ratan Dhar: Legendary chemist, nominated for Nobel prize four times and hailed as the 'Father of Indian Physical Chemistry'



Dutta

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit word Datta, meaning "Given" or "Gift."

History & Origins:

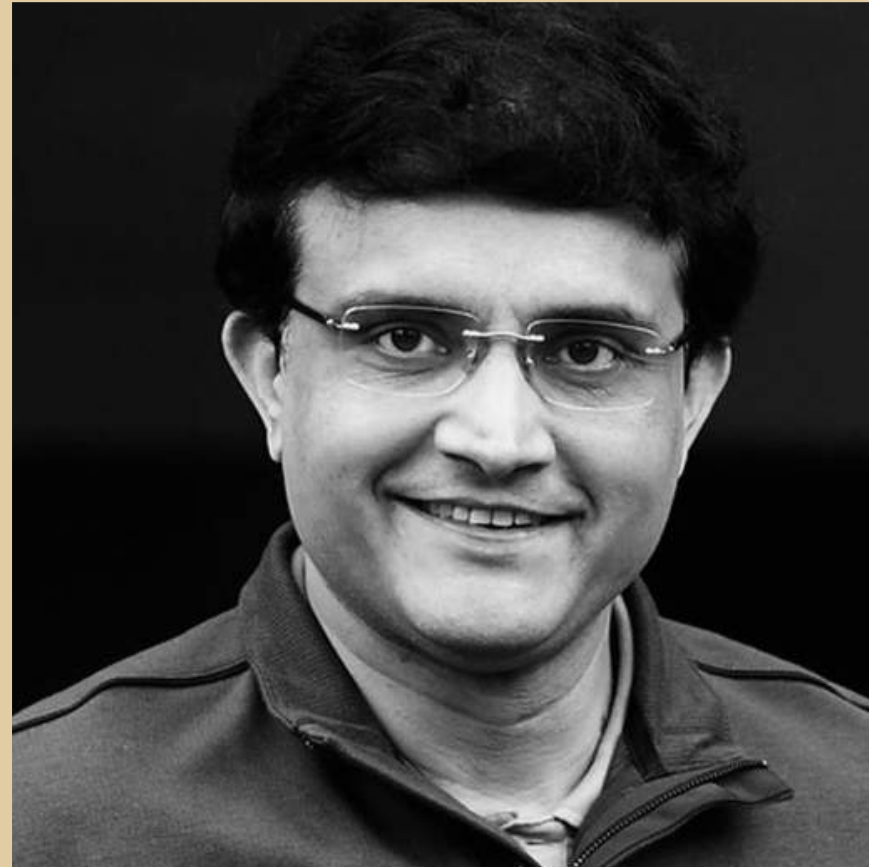
A prominent Kayastha surname. The Duttas were traditionally part of the administrative and warrior class. In North Kolkata, the "Duttas of Hatkhola" were famous for their immense wealth and patronage of the arts during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Gotra Associations:

Usually associated with the Kashyapa or Bharadwaj Gotras.

Famous Bengali:

Swami Vivekananda (born Narendranath Datta): Spiritual leader and disciple of Sri Ramkrishna who introduced Hindu philosophy to the West.



Ganguly (Gangopadhyay)

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Gangul, combined with Upadhyay. It signifies "The Teacher from Gangul."

History & Origins:

Another branch of the Kulin Brahmins, the Gangulys have a long history of serving as royal priests and educators. The name became "Ganguly" under British administration to simplify the phonetically complex "Gangopadhyay."

Gotra Associations:

Primarily associated with the Savarna Gotra.

Famous Bengali:

Sourav Ganguly: Former Captain of the Indian Cricket Team and BCCI President.



Ghosh

The Meaning: Derived from Ghosha, meaning "Sound," "Proclamation," or "Dairy farmer/Cowherd."

History & Origins:

The Ghoshes are a pillar of the Kayastha community in Bengal. While the name has ancient roots in the dairy trade, the Ghosh families of Bengal transitioned into influential administrative and intellectual roles over a millennium ago. They were part of the "Dakshin-Rahi" branch of Kayasthas.

Gotra Associations:

Principally associated with the Saupaka or Kashyapa Gotras.

Famous Bengalis:

Sri Aurobindo (Ghosh): Philosopher, yogi, and revolutionary/ freedom fighter.



Ghoshal

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Goshala (Cow-shed).

History & Origins:

The Ghoshals are Rarh Brahmins. Despite the humble meaning of the village name, they were highly respected as scholars of the Vedas and were part of the elite Kulin hierarchy.

Gotra Associations:

Almost exclusively Sandilya Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Shreya Ghoshal: One of the most acclaimed playback singers in modern India.



Goswami

The Meaning: Derived from Go (Senses/Cows) and Swami (Master). It means "Master of the Senses."

History & Origins:

This surname is often associated with the leaders of the Vaishnava sect, particularly the followers of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Many Goswamis were spiritual teachers who established Akhras (monasteries) across Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Varied, as many adopted the title upon entering the spiritual order; however, Sandilya and Kashyapa are common.

Famous Bengalis:

Chuni Goswami: One of the mo



Guha

The Meaning: Derived from Guha, an epithet for Lord Kartikeya, meaning "The Secret One" or "Cave-born."

History & Origins:

The Guhas are a prestigious Kayastha family. In ancient times, they were concentrated in the Vanga (East Bengal) region. They are traditionally known for their fierce independence and intellectual contributions to literature and history.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily associated with the Kashyapa Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Gobar (Jatindra Charan) Guha: Renowned professional wrestler, the first Asian to win a World Wrestling Championship.



Haldar

The Meaning: Derived from Hal (Plow) and Dhar (Holder) It means "The Holder of the Plow."

History & Origins:

While the name suggests an agrarian origin, Haldar became an administrative title for an officer who oversaw agricultural lands or served as a local governor. It is a surname found across various social groups in Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; often Kashyapa.

Famous Bengali:

Raj Haldar (Lushlife)- Noted rapper and best selling author from USA.



Kundu

The Meaning: Likely derived from the Sanskrit Kunda, meaning "Bowl" or "Spring."

History & Origins:

Kundu is a common surname among the merchant and trading communities of Bengal. They were historically involved in the trade of spices, oils, and textiles. The Kundu families were known for their philanthropy, often building temples and schools in their ancestral villages.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Nitun Kundu: A pioneering Bangladeshi artist, sculptor and entrepreneur (Otobi).



Lahiri

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Lahiri in the Varendra region.

History & Origins:

The Lahiris are Barendra Brahmins. They were traditionally landlords and educators. During the British era, many Lahiris were pioneers in the education sector, helping to establish some of the first modern schools in Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Exclusively Sandilya Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Bappi Lahiri: The legendary music composer and "Disco King" of India.



Mazumdar

The Meaning: Derived from the Persian Majmua-dar, meaning "Record Keeper" or "Collector."

History & Origins:

This is an administrative title granted during the Mughal era. It was given to officials responsible for keeping revenue records. Because it was a functional title, it is held by Brahmins, Kayasthas, and Baidyas alike, though they remained distinct lineages.

Gotra Associations:

Depends on the family's original community; often Kashyapa or Vatsya.

Famous Bengalis:

Leela Majumdar: Beloved children's author.



Mallick

The Meaning: Derived from the Arabic Malik, meaning "King" or "Owner."

History & Origins:

Similar to Sarkar or Majumdar, Mallick was a high-ranking title of nobility granted by the Sultans and Nawabs of Bengal. It was given to people of significant administrative or military merit. Despite its Persian origin, it was proudly adopted by many high-ranking Hindu families.

Gotra Associations:

Depends on original lineage; often Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Pankaj Kumar Mallick: A pioneer of film music and Rabindra Sangeet.



Mitra

The Meaning: A Sanskrit word meaning "Friend" or "Ally." It is also one of the names of the Sun God in the Vedas.

History & Origins:

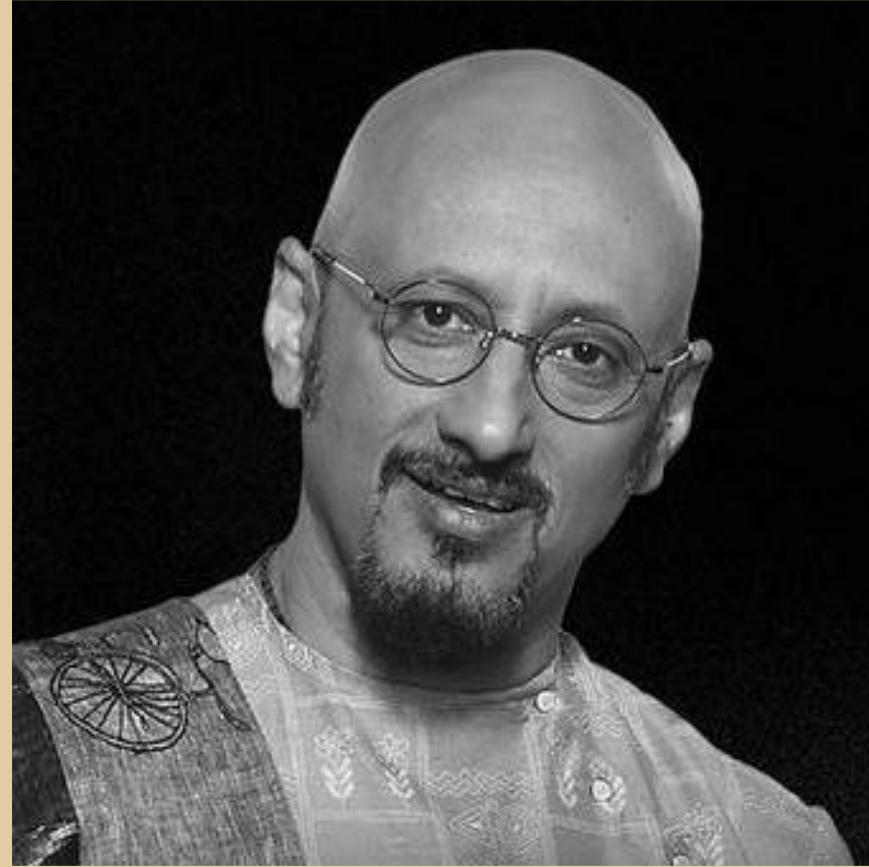
The Mitras are a distinguished Kayastha clan. Historically, they served as ministers and diplomats in the courts of various Bengal rulers. During the British era, they were among the first to embrace Western education, producing a long line of judges and scholars.

Gotra Associations:

Almost universally associated with the Vishvamitra Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Rajendralal Mitra: A polymath and the first Indian president of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, he was a pioneering figure in the Bengali Renaissance



Moitra

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Mitra, meaning "Friend" or "Ally."

History & Origins:

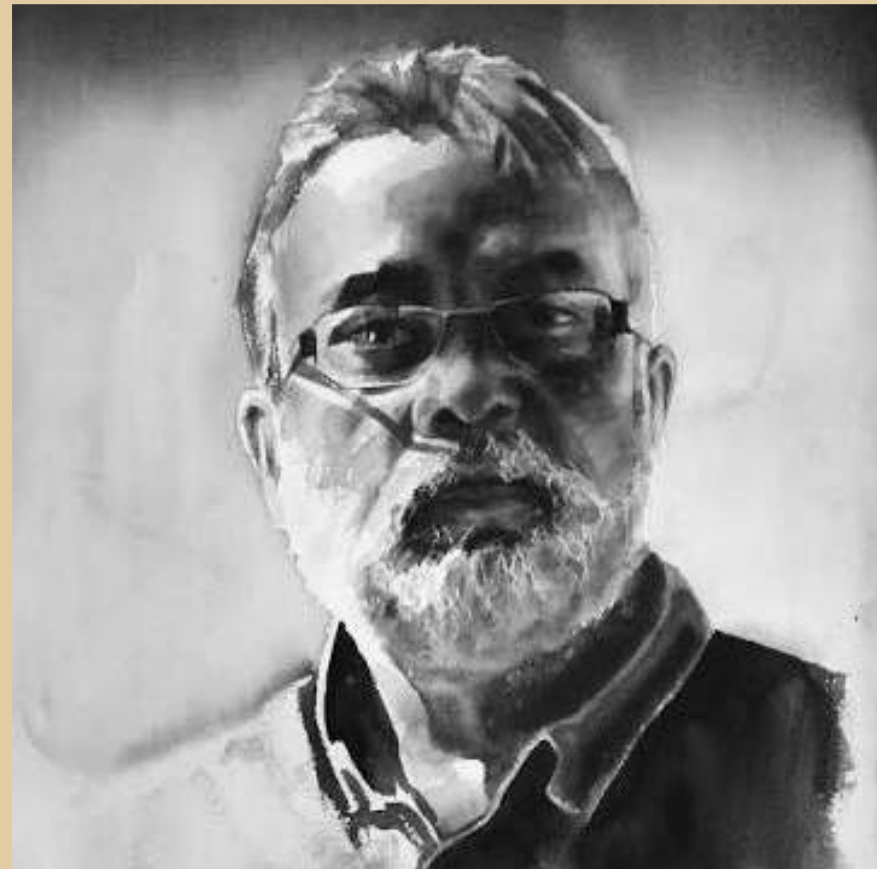
Another elite branch of the Barendra Brahmins. The Maitras were traditionally scholars and landowners in the Rajshahi and Varendra regions. They were part of the "Kulin" (aristocratic) hierarchy within their community.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily Kashyapa Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Shantanu Moitra: Renowned music composer.



Mondal

The Meaning: Derived from Mandala, meaning "Circle" or "District." It refers to a "Village Headman."

History & Origins:

The Mondals were traditionally the administrative heads of a cluster of villages. They acted as the primary link between the peasantry and the central government. Over time, the title became a hereditary surname across several agrarian and administrative communities.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; frequently Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Samir Mandal: An acclaimed Indian painter credited with the revival of watercolor painting.



Mukherjee (Mukhopadhyay)

The Meaning: Derived from Mukhya (Chief) and Upadhyay (Teacher). It signifies a "Chief Teacher" or a high-ranking instructor.

History & Origins:

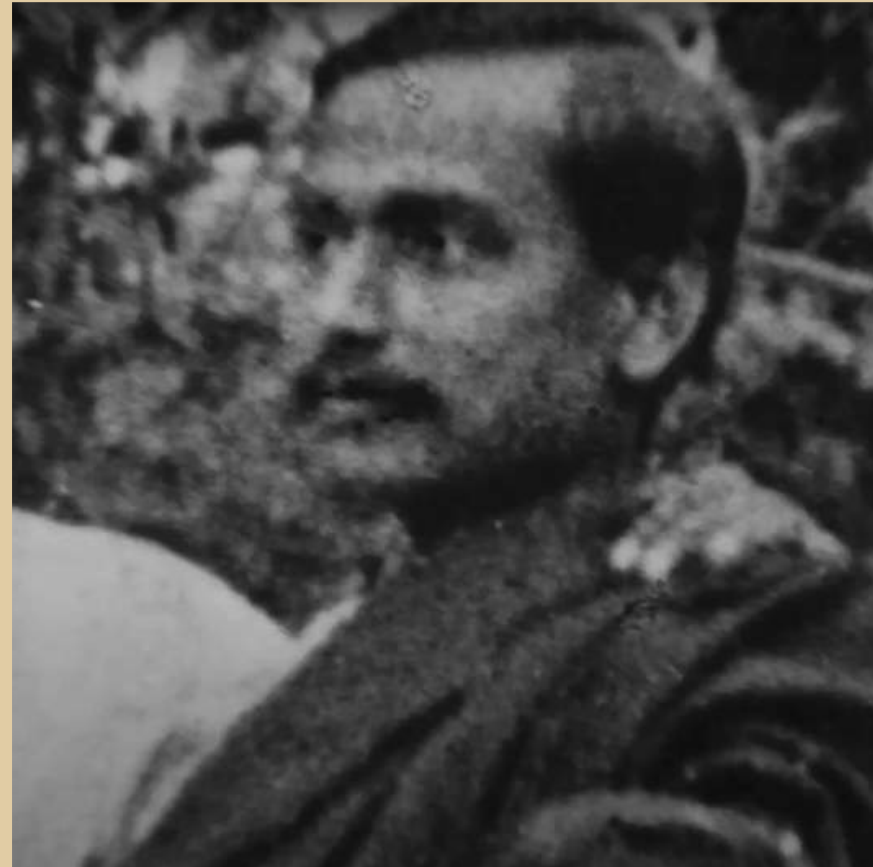
The Mukhopadhyays are part of the Kulin Brahmins. Legend traces their origin to the village of Mukhati. In the 11th century, King Adisura invited five scholars from Kannauj to revitalize Vedic knowledge in Bengal; the Mukherjee lineage is said to descend from these original scholars.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily associated with the Bharadwaj Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Srijit Mukerji: Acclaimed National award winning film director and screenwriter.



Nag

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Naga, meaning "Serpent" or "Snake."

History & Origins:

The Nags are a distinguished Kayastha clan. In ancient Indian mythology, the Naga was a symbol of power and protection. Historically, the Nag families were concentrated in Eastern Bengal and were known for their involvement in administration and the arts.

Gotra Associations:

Usually Kashyapa or Vatsya.

Famous Bengalis:

Kalidas Nag: A famous historian, writer, and associate of Rabindranath Tagore.



Nandi

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Nanda, meaning "Joy" or "Delight." It is also the name of the sacred bull and gatekeeper of Lord Shiva.

History & Origins:

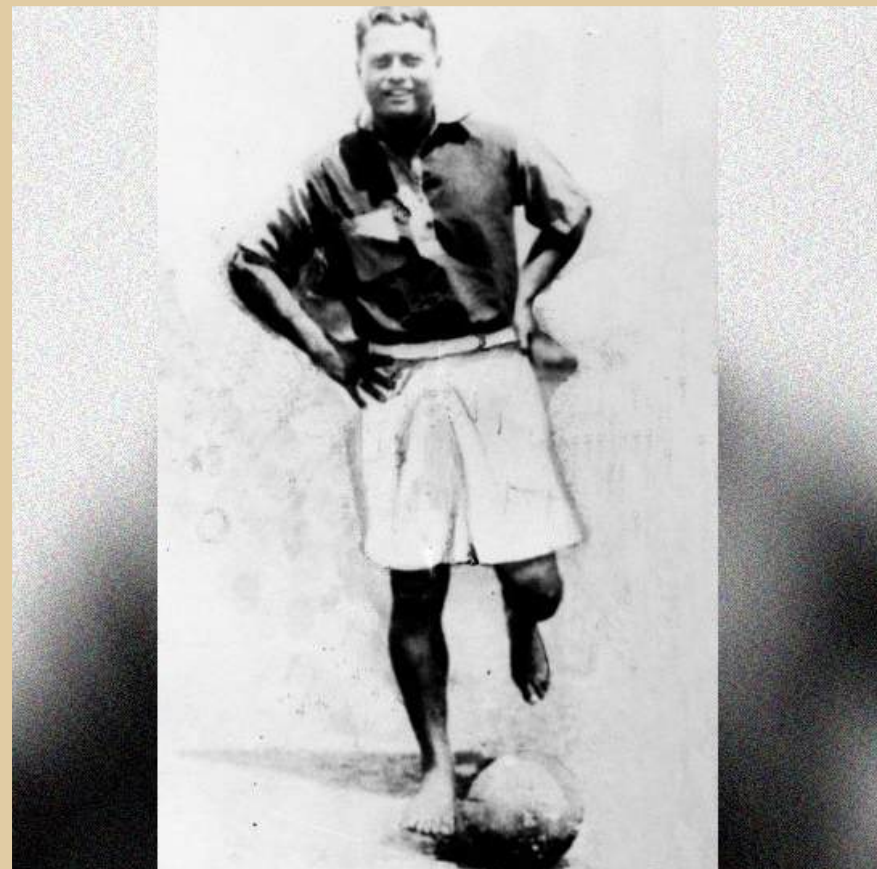
Nandi is a prestigious Kayastha or Baidya surname. Families with this name were often associated with temple administration, land management, or scholarly pursuits. They are deeply rooted in the cultural history of both West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily Kashyapa or Maudgalya.

Famous Bengalis:

Dibyendu Nandi: Acclaimed Space scientist particularly known for his research in solar spots and space weather. Currently heads Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences



Pal

The Meaning: Derived from Pala, meaning "Protector," "Keeper," or "Guardian."

History & Origins:

The Pals have a royal history, most famously the Pala Empire that ruled Bengal and Bihar from the 8th to the 12th century, a golden age for Bengali art and Buddhism. In later periods, the surname became common among various professional groups, including artisans and landowners.

Gotra Associations:

Very diverse; often Kashyapa or Vatsya.

Famous Bengalis:

Gostha Pal: Legendary Indian footballer (1896–1976), known as "The Great Wall of China".



Poddar

The Meaning: Derived from the Persian Fotedar, meaning "Money-changer" or "Treasurer."

History & Origins:

Poddars were traditionally the bankers and jewelers of Bengal. They played a critical role in the economy by evaluating the purity of coins and managing the treasury of local landlords and kings.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Abhishek Poddar: An Indian industrialist associated with arts and business, often linked to the business landscape of Kolkata.



Rakshit

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Rakshita, meaning "Protected" or "The Protector."

History & Origins:

This is a Baidya or Kayastha surname. Historically, it was likely a title given to those in charge of the security of a fort or a province. The Rakshits were particularly prominent in the Chittagong and Dhaka regions.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Reba Rakshit- Yoga champion, Miss Bengal (Bodybuilding), and 'Strong Woman' who also did elephant lifting and motorcycle run on chest stunts. Awarded 'Debi Chowdhurani' title by Nawab of Hyderabad.



Roy

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Raja, meaning "King" or "Sovereign."

History & Origins:

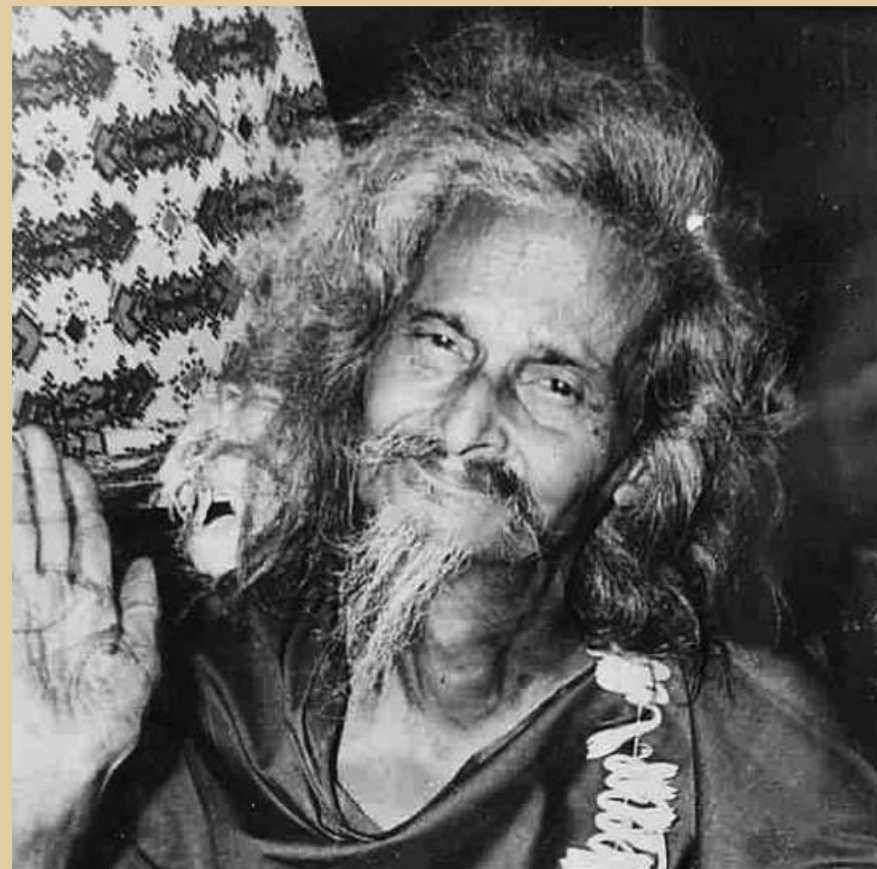
Roy is a title-based surname. Unlike the village-based names, Roy was often a title of honor bestowed by the Mughal Emperors or the British to wealthy landowners (Zamindars) and high-ranking officials. Because it was a title, it is found across various communities, including Brahmins, Kayasthas, and Baidyas.

Gotra Associations:

Varied, including Kashyapa, Bharadwaj, and Vatsya, depending on the family's original lineage.

Famous Bengalis:

Monotosh Roy: Famous Bengali bodybuilder and the first Mr. Universe from Asia (1951).



Roychowdhury

The Meaning: A grand double title combining Roy (King) and Choudhury (Landowner).

History & Origins:

This surname represents the pinnacle of landowning status. It was usually held by families who had been granted significant estates and administrative powers by both the Mughals and the British.

Famous Bengalis:

Bhabendramohan Ray Chowdhury (Bhaba Pagla): Mystic spiritual leader and prolific song writer who is considered to have written and composed over 80,000 bhakti and baul songs.



Saha

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Sadhu (Honest/Good) or Shaha (Merchant).

History & Origins:

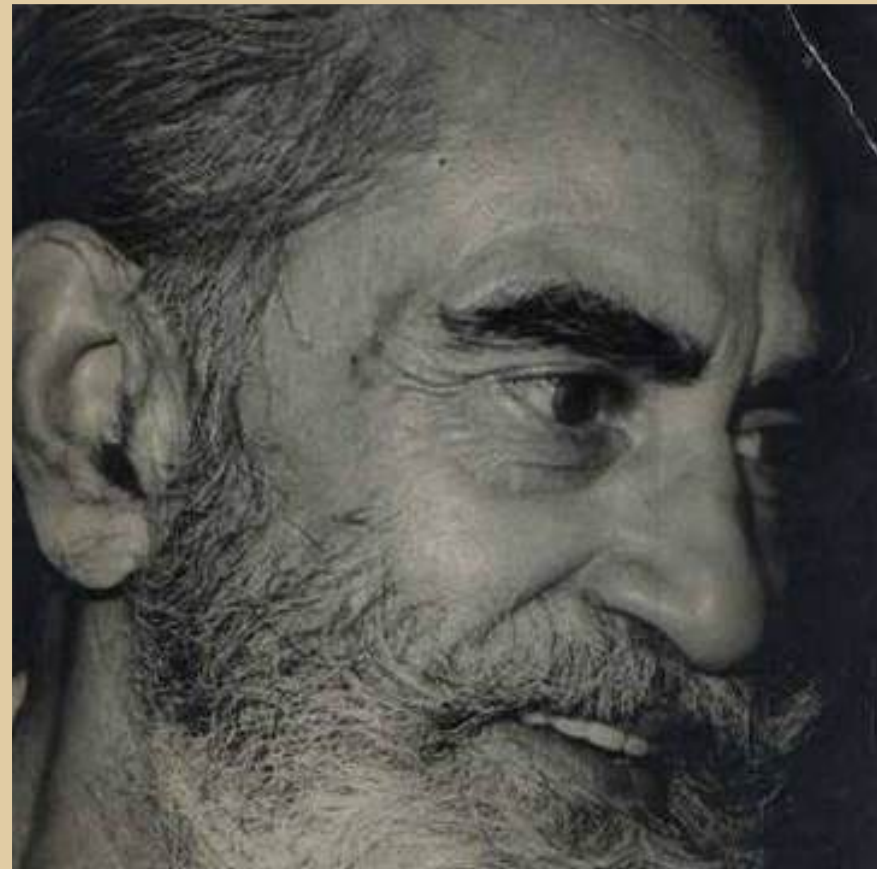
The Sahas are a prominent mercantile community in Bengal. Historically, they were the backbone of the region's inland and riverine trade, dealing in grain, textiles, and salt. Over centuries, many Saha families transitioned from commerce to high-level academia and science, producing some of India's greatest minds.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly associated with Kashyapa, Aladishi, or Vatsya.

Famous Bengalis:

Meghnad Saha: The world-renowned astrophysicist who developed the Saha ionization equation.



Sanyal

The Meaning: Derived from the village of Sanyal in North Bengal.

History & Origins:

The Sanyals are a prominent branch of the Barendra Brahmins. While Rarh Brahmins (like Banerjee/Chatterjee) settled in the west, Barendra Brahmins settled in the north. Historically, they were known for their strict adherence to rituals and were frequently the spiritual advisors to the Kings of Gauda.

Gotra Associations:

Almost exclusively Vatsya Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Bhabesh Chandra Sanyal (B.C. Sanyal)- A central figure in modern Indian art, often called the "doyen of modernism".



Samanta

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Samanta, meaning "Feudal Lord" or "Neighboring Ruler."

History & Origins:

This was a military and administrative title. A Samanta was a vassal or a regional chieftain who provided military support to the central King. Over time, these military leaders became hereditary landowners, particularly in the Midnapore district.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; often Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Shakti Samanta: The legendary film director and producer behind classics like Aradhana.



Sarkar

The Meaning: A Persian term meaning "Lord," "Master," or "Government/Administration."

History & Origins:

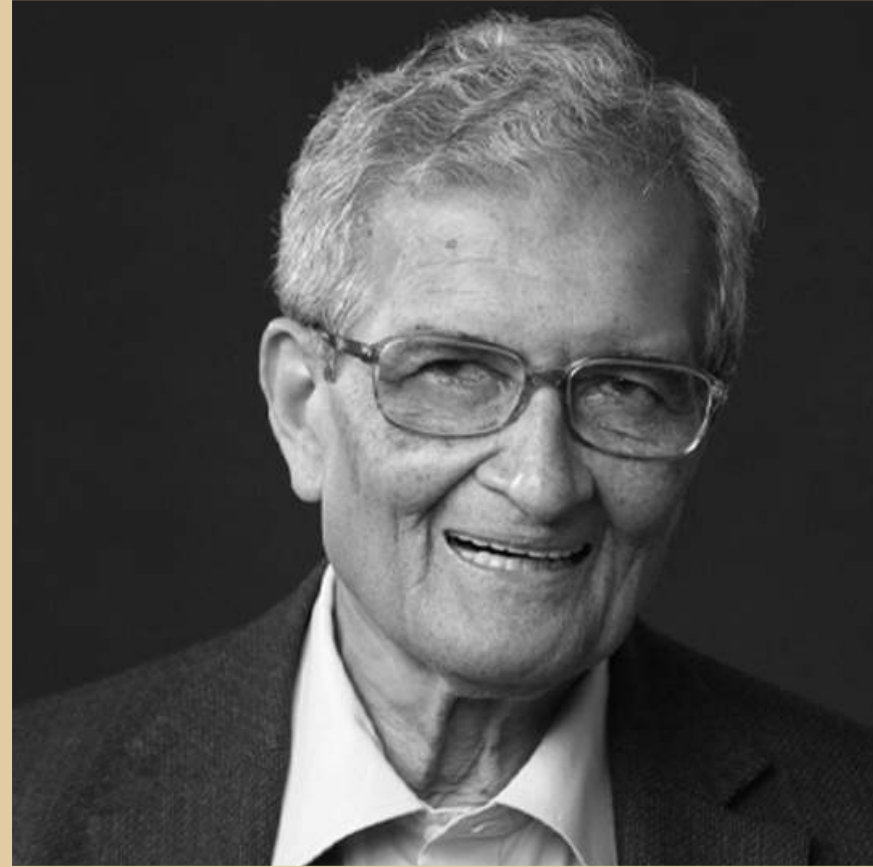
Sarkar was an official title for a treasurer or a high-ranking revenue collector. Much like "Majumdar," it was a title of status and authority that eventually became a hereditary surname used by both Hindu and Muslim families in Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Widely varied; it is a title-based name found in many different ancestral lineages.

Famous Bengali:

P.C. Sorcar (Sarkar): World-famous magician.



Sen

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit Sena, meaning "Army" or "Leader."

History & Origins:

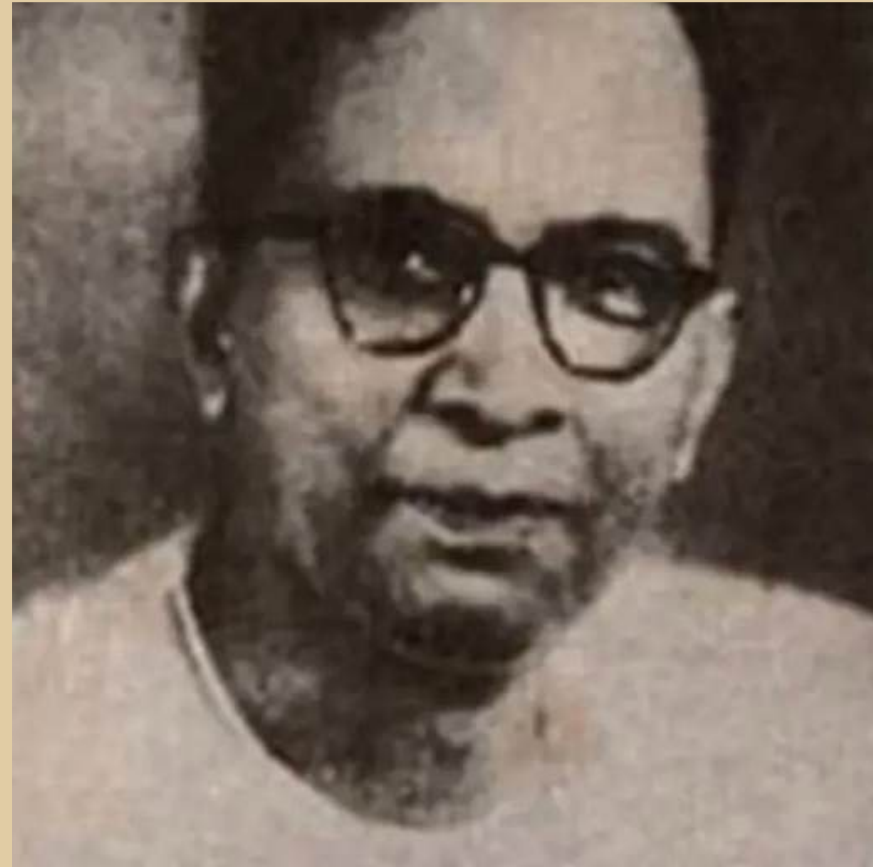
The Sens have a royal legacy in Bengal, most notably the Sena Dynasty which ruled the region in the 11th and 12th centuries. Traditionally associated with the Baidya (physician) community, the Sens were often both healers and rulers, blending martial administrative skills with scholarly pursuits.

Gotra Associations:

Commonly associated with the Dhanvantari Gotra (named after the God of Medicine) or Shaktri.

Famous Bengalis:

Amartya Sen: Nobel Prize-winning economist and philosopher.



Sengupta

The Meaning: A compound of Sen (Leader/Army) and Gupta (Protected).

History & Origins:

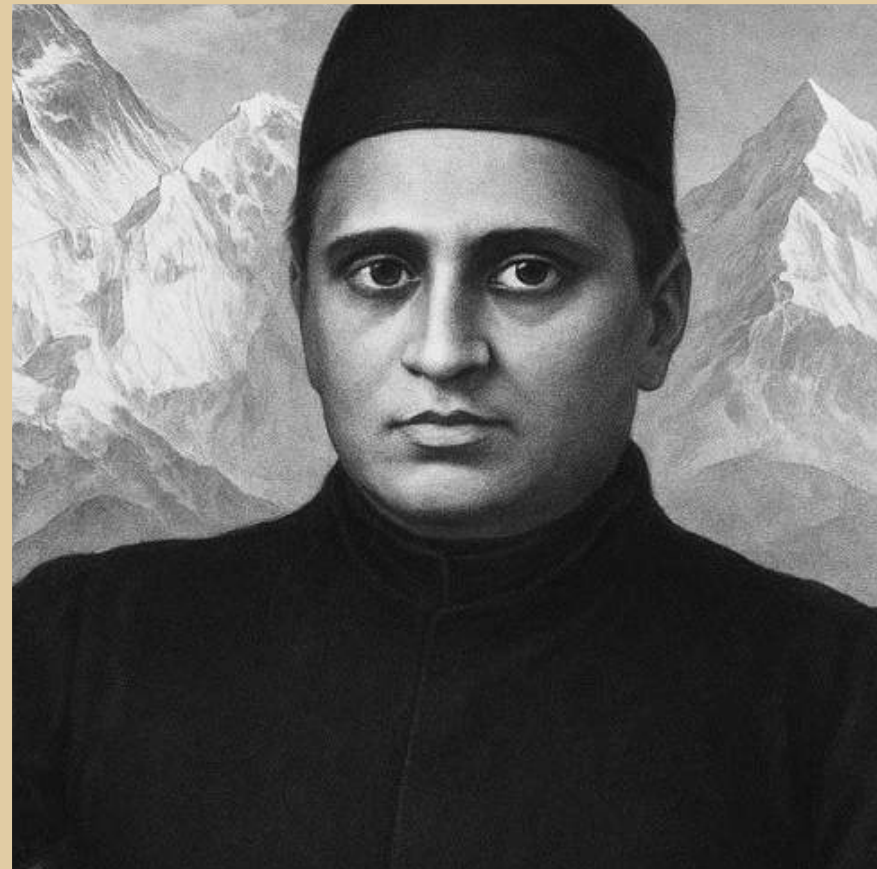
Like the Dasguptas, the Senguptas are a pillar of the Baidya community. They trace their roots back to the era when the Senas and Guptas influenced the political and medical landscape of Bengal. They were historically known for their expertise in Ayurveda and, later, for their high achievement in modern medicine and civil services.

Gotra Associations:

Primarily associated with the Dhanvantari or Shaktri Gotras.

Famous Bengalis:

Subodh Chandra Sengupta: A world-renowned Shakespearean scholar.



Sikdar

The Meaning: Derived from the Persian Shiqdar, meaning "Revenue Collector" or "Administrator of a Shiq (district)."

History & Origins:

The Sikdars were powerful administrative officers during the Sultanate and Mughal periods. They were responsible for maintaining law and order and collecting taxes within their designated districts.

Gotra Associations:

Varied; often Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Radhanath Sikdar: The mathematician who first calculated the height of Mount Everest.



Sinha (Singha)

The Meaning: Derived from the Sanskrit word Simha, meaning "Lion." It symbolizes courage, strength, and royalty.

History & Origins:

The Sinhas are primarily a prominent Kayastha clan in Bengal, though the title was also adopted by various aristocratic and martial families. Historically, the "Sinha" families of Raipur (Birbhum) and Paikpara were immense landowners (Zamindars) who played pivotal roles in the social and educational reform of Bengal.

Gotra Associations:

Most commonly associated with the Vatsya or Kashyapa Gotra.

Famous Bengalis:

Satyendra Prasanna Sinha (Lord Sinha): The first Indian to be raised to the British Peerage and the first Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council.



Som

The Meaning: Derived from Soma, referring to the Moon or the sacred Vedic nectar.

History & Origins:

A respected Kayastha surname. The Soms were traditionally scholars and administrators in the central and eastern parts of Bengal. They are often associated with the preservation of genealogical records.

Gotra Associations:

Most commonly Gautama or Kashyapa.

Famous Bengalis:

Chitra Singh (born Shome): A famous Indian ghazal singer (wife of Jagjit Singh), born in Calcutta as Chitra Shome.

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