

SIR JADUNATH SARKAR(Part-1) सर जदुनाथ सरकार (भाग-1)

M.A. (HISTORY) SEM-3 PAPER CC:10

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Life and works (जीवन और कार्य)

Jadunath was born on December 10, 1870, at the village of Karachmaria in the Rajshahi district of Bengal, now in Bangladesh. He was the third son of Rajkumar Sarkar and his wife Harisundari, both of whom were sincerely religious and much above the average in ability and character. Rajkumar had inherited a big zamindari and was a well-to-do and enlightened landlord. Jadunath, brought up in rural surroundings, was a healthy child and an exceptionally brilliant student. He received his early education at his village, next at Rajshahi and finally at Presidency College, Calcutta.

Life and works (जीवन और कार्य)

He passed all his classes with credit and took double Honours in English and History in 1891, and in 1892 he passed the M.A. Examination of Calcutta University in English Literature, standing First in the First class, securing high marks and beating all previous records in the subject. He was awarded a government scholarship for higher studies in England, but he declined the offer, and decided to work for Calcutta University's Premchand Roychand Scholarship which was considered the most coveted prize by scholars of merit. In June 1893, he was appointed a lecturer in English at Ripon College, Calcutta.

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After three year Jadunath was appointed Professor of English at Vidyasagar College and worked there for two years. He was selected for the Provincial Educational Service in June 1898. His first appointment in that cadre was as Professor of English at Presidency College, Calcutta, where he served for one year. He was then transferred to Patna College where he served from July 1899 to June, 1901. He returned to Presidency College for six months, and was posted back at Patna College at the urgent request of its its Principal, C.R. Wilson. Meanwhile, he had published his first work of research, entitled **India of Aurangzeb (1901), India of Aurangzeb (1901)**, which established his fame as a first-rate researcher and historian.

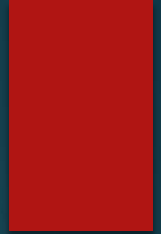
Life and works (जीवन और कार्य)

He had taught English Literature for several years, and now he was shifted to the Department of History in Patna College. He served there up to 1917. That year his service were borrowed by **Banaras Hindu University** where he served as Professor of History for two years 1917-19. In 1918 he was promoted to the Indian Educational Service and was posted as Professor of History and English Literature at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, in July 1919.

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In October, 1923 he was again transferred to Patna from where he retired in 1926. He was a model of particular and regularity in meeting his classes before retiring from professorship, he was nominated as **Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University**, which office he held for two years from 1926 to 1928. He declined a second term, because Vice-Chancellorship was a hindrance to his first love--- historical research. In 1929 he was conferred a Knighthood.

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Jadunath Sarkar's distinctive literary achievements received ample recognition in India and in foreign countries. It is, however, amusing to note that the Indian learned societies, honoured the historian some three years after the celebrated Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain had recognized his eminent services to Indian history. Then the Royal Asiatic Society of Bombay awarded him the Campbell Gold Medal in 1926, and conferred upon him as honorary fellowship. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal also made him an honorary fellow in the same year. the whole world.

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But three years before, in 1923, he had already been elected as an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, as honour bestowed on not more than thirty scholars in The Royal Historical Society of England also appointed him as honorary corresponding member of that Society in 1935. This Society did not have more than thirty honorary corresponding members in the world. The American Historical Society of Washington also appointed him its honorary life member. It may be noted that he was thus honoured by these learned foreign societies.

Life and works (जीवन और कार्य)

At the time of leaving the portals of the Calcutta University in 1892 Jadunath was a master of English and Sanskrit. Soon after he began preparing himself assiduously for historian's career by acquiring a sound knowledge of Persian and Marathi. He gradually learnt Rajasthani, Hindi, French, German and Portuguese, too. As regards Persian, he cultivated the Practice of reading its **Shikashtha** mode of writing, for without it, it was

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not possible to decipher documents written in the style. He discovered and collected numerous important Persian manuscripts in India, England, France, Portugal and Germany and had their transcripts made at a great expense from the famous European libraries and from Delhi, Rampur, Lahore, Hyderabad, Patna and other former centres of Islamic learning in India. The result of the close study of these original sources was his thesis, entitled **India of Aurangzeb, Its Topography, Statistics and Roads**, Published in 1901. This scholarly work had taken him nine years (1892-1901) to produce.

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Thereafter he wrote and published five volumes on the *History of Aurangzeb*, which involved full twenty-four years' labour. Side by side with his study of Aurangzeb, he **worked on Maratha history** and produced a remarkably good volume on ***Shivaji and His Times***. He then took up the work of writing a comprehensive account of the **downfall of the Mughal Empire in four volumes**. The last volume of this services was published in 1950. The great historian's last gift was his **Military History of India, published in 1960**, nearly one and a half years after his death. The following is a list of Sir Jadunath Sarkar's works'.

Life and works (जीवन और कार्य)

1. *India of Aurangzeb, Its Topography, Statistics and Roads*, 1901.
2. *Economics of British India*, 1909.
3. *History of Aurangzeb*, Vol. I, July, 1912; vol. II, July, 1912; vol. III, July, 1916; vol. IV, 1919; vol. V. December, 1924.
4. *Anecdotes of Aurangzeb and Historical Essays*, 1912.
5. *Chaitanya: His Pilgrimages and Teachings*, 1913 (Its second edition entitled *Chaitanya's Life and Teachings*, 1922).
6. *Shivaji and His Times*, 1919.
7. *Studies in Mughal India*, 1919.

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8. *Mughal Administration* (in three parts- 1st series, 1920; 2nd series, 1925). The combined volume was published in 1925.

9. *Later Mughals* by W. Irvine, Edited and continued by Jadunath Sarkar with three chapters added by him, vols. I and II, 1922.

10. *India Through the Ages*, 1928.

11. *Short History of Aurangzeb*, 1920.

12. *Bihar and Orissa during the Fall of the Mughal Empire*, 1932.

13. *Fall of the Mughal Empire*, vol. I, 1932; vol. II, 1934; vol. II, 1938; vol. IV, 1950.

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14. *Studies in Aurangzeb's Reign*, 1933.

15. *Massir-i-Alamgiri*, edited and translated into English 1949.

16. *Poona Residency Correspondence* (edited), vol. I, 1930; vol.VIII, 1945; vol. XIV, 1949.

17. *House of Shivaji*, 1940.

18. *Ain-i-Akbari* (edited), vol. III, English translation by Jarrett, 1948; vol. II, 1950.

19. *Persian Records of Maratha History*, translated into English, vol. I; *Poona Matters from Dethi*; vol.II; *Mahadaji Scindhia as Regent of Delhi*.

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20. *Dacca University History of Bengal*, vol. II (edited and wrote 101/2 chapters besides the bibliography).

21. *Nawabs of Bengal* (Sir William Jones Bicentenary Series, no. 1, The Asiatic Society, Calcutta).

22. *Arangzeb* (Hindi edition)

23. *Shivaji* (Hindi edition)

24. *History of Dasnami sect*, vols. I-II- both English and Hindi.

25. *Military History of India*, 1960.

(To be continued)