

INTRODUCTION

History of Barasat – A view

Barasat is one of the oldest town of West Bengal. It has a past history during the period of Moghuls. At the period of Moghuls, Ram Sundar Mitra had got the Laminar at Barasat town. After that in 1600 AD Protapaditya. The king of Jessore (at present in Bangladesh) had lost the battle. After that his commander of soldiers Sankar Chakraborty came to Barasat and established himself in Barasat town. He had done many development works of Barasat town during that period. After that in 1700 AD Hazarat Ekdilsa, the muslim sent, had come to Barasat and started residing at Kazipara. He had done many social reforming works in this town. After his death a tomb had been constructed at Kazipara where he had been buried. This place is now a pilgrimage place of Muslim community. Protapaditya had made his way to Kolkata from Jessore and Sirajudoulla had made his way to Kolkata from Murshidabad via Barasat, which are later on converted into two National Highways.

At the time of British Empire, Barasat Town had gradually got its importance. British had made Barasat as their week end relaxation place. They had made many garden house at various places within Barasat town. Warren Hastings had made his Villa in the heart of Barasat town. During that period, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the renowned Author, was the first Indian Deputy Magistrate of this town.

The Blue merchant had kept over the control of Barasat and had torture on the poor people for cultivation of Blue. Titumir, the renowned freedom fighter, had declared revolution against Blue merchant at that time at Barasat

The renowned personalities like Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Pyari Charan Sarkar, Kalikrishna Mitra had done many social reformation works like development of education along with women education and widow marriage at Barasat town.

In this way Barasat was getting importance day by day and British Govt. thought to make Barasat, a municipal town along with other ten places. Barasat at primary stage was a district and later on it had become division. At present it is the district headquarter of North 24 Parganas district.

Barasat Municipality -at a stance

Barasat Municipality was born on 1st April 1869 but up to 1882 it had not any independent existence like other offices it was controlled by Magistrate Office, during that time there was no Chairman of the municipality, Magistrate was the Controller of municipality. Later on after 1882 Barasat Municipality had got its own formation as an autonomous body and became local government. Barasat Association, a citizens organization, had help Barasat Municipality by donating land for the construction of municipal building.

Total Barasat municipal area divided into 29 nos. of Mouzas. Previously, there were 4 nos. of Wards and after that 18 nos. of Wards under Barasat Municipality. Later on after amalgamating surrounding Panchayets within Barasat Municipality in 1995 and then after, at present Barasat Municipality has 30 nos. of Wards

Demographic features of Barasat

Barasat town is *district headquarter of North 24 Parganas district and junction corridor of North Bengal and Bangladesh* the growth of population of this town is very high that is @ 3.5% per year. As per 2001 census the population of this town was 2, 31,521 and now it is 2,75,000 (approx) and the projected population by the year 2025 it will be 5,25,000. The total municipal area of Barasat covers 34.50 sq. km.

Barasat town is well connected with roads to Kolkata, North Bengal, Bangladesh and other towns of West Bengal. The two nos. of National Highways (NH 34 & NH 35) and one no of State Highway (SH 2) run through Barasat town, Barasat is also well connected by railway with Sealdah, Bongaon and Basirhat.

On soins developments and proposals for near future

At present one railway over bridge (ROB) is under construction for easy traffic way within Barasat town. The railway company has decided to develop Barasat station as a super model station, who work has already been started. There is a proposal of new by pass way by the side of Barasat to Roychowk which connects North 24 Parganas district with South 24 Parganas district Also the proposals of development and widening of National Highways are in existence.

Along with these development works Barasat Municipality has also taken the responsibility of development of various types of works within this town like slum development works, municipal infrastructure development works etc. and many other proposals have been submitted or on going to submit for various govt. grants for infrastructural and social developments of Barasat municipal area. One of such type of proposal scheme is development of drainage net work within Barasat municipal area under JNNURM Programme