

**AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF HISTORY  
OF BUDDHISM AND POLITICAL  
ACTIVISM IN JUMMALAND,  
BANGLADESH**

**BY  
VEN. RATAN BIKAS CHAKMA**

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OF BUDDHISM AND POLITICAL  
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BANGLADESH**

**BY**

**VEN. RATAN BIKAS CHAKMA**

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SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA-SRI LANKA FOR THE  
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY 2019**

## **DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE**

The work that is described in thesis was carried out by me under the supervisions of Ven.Prof. Dr. Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero and Ven. Dr. Panahaduwe Yasassi Thero, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura-Sri Lanka and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University or any other Institution for another Degree / Diploma.

Name: Ven.Ratan Bikas Chakma

Signature:

Date:28.02.2020

## **CERTIFICATION BY THE SUPERVISORS**

We certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the awarding of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

Ven.Prof.Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma  
Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

Ven. Dr. Panahaduwe Yasassi  
Lecturer  
Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

## **DEDICATION**

Dedication with the deepest respect to the loving memory of my mother Ghopa Devi  
Chakma and father late Kali Baran Chakma

### **And**

Grandfather late Khagandra Chakma (Ven. Dharmajyoti Mahathero), grandmother late  
Chikon Pati Chakma, father of Jumma nation late Manabendra Narayon Larma M.P  
with sacrifices for peace in Jummaland /The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

### **Also**

Supervisors Ven.Prof.Dr.Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero, Ven.Dr.Panahaduwe  
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Jesmin Chakmaetc.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ANHHCHT</b>	A New Horizone in the History of Chittagong Hill Tracts
<b>ADB</b>	Aragotir Dui Bosor
<b>ANHHCHT</b>	A New Horizone in the History of Chittagong Hill Tracts
<b>AIP</b>	Appeasement in International Politics
<b>AAHI</b>	An Advanced History of India
<b>AFTB</b>	A Few Thoughts on Buddhism
<b>ARAR</b>	America Religions and Religion
<b>AFB</b>	Attadeepa Foundation, Bangladesh
<b>AICCC</b>	All India Chakma Cultural Conference, 1992
<b>ASHCRF</b>	A Short History of Chakma Raj Family, 1919
<b>AGTIB</b>	A Guide to Takht-I-Bahi
<b>BTBSSL</b>	Bangladesh Tribal Bhikkhu Sangha-Sri Lanka
<b>BB</b>	Betar Bangla
<b>BSAD</b>	Banglar Satyasurja; Atisa Dipankar
<b>BIGG</b>	Buddhist Ideals of Good Governance
<b>BYBN</b>	Buddha Yuge Bauddha Nari
<b>BLLS</b>	Bengali Language Literature Sources
<b>BAMBB</b>	Barbarous Attacks on Minority Buddhist in Bangladesh
<b>BBS</b>	Bengali Books Sources
<b>BBF</b>	Bangladesh Basic Facts
<b>BJBS</b>	Bangladesh Journal of Buddhist Studies
<b>BSE</b>	Buddhism Society and Environment

<b>BQ</b>	Bangladesh Quarterly
<b>B</b>	Bijak
<b>BCHTBPF</b>	Buddhism in CHT, Bangladesh-Past, Present and Future
<b>BTE</b>	Bengali To English
<b>CP</b>	Chakma Parichiti
<b>CHTC</b>	Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission
<b>CHTA</b>	Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord of 1997
<b>CHTRC</b>	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
<b>DESA</b>	Dhaka Electric Supply Authority
<b>ET</b>	English Translations, <b>EM</b> E-mail:chakmarbdr@hotmail.com
<b>EBS</b>	English Books Sources, <b>EM</b> E-mail:dr.rblarma@gmail.com
<b>HRMW</b>	Human Rights in the Muslim World
<b>HJL</b>	History of Jummaland
<b>HLS</b>	Historical Literary Sources
<b>JLSS</b>	Jummaland Sangbad Sangstha
<b>JLHF</b>	Jummaland Hockey Federation
<b>JLIS</b>	Jummaland International Society
<b>JLUC</b>	Jummaland University College
<b>JLB</b>	Jummaland Bank
<b>JLYMA</b>	Jummaland Young Men Association
<b>JLYWA</b>	Jummaland Young Women Association
<b>JLNA</b>	Jummaland News Agency
<b>JLGOA</b>	Jummaland Government Officer Association
<b>JLNCT</b>	Jummaland National Cricket Team

<b>JLNFT</b>	Jummaland National Foot Ball Team
<b>JLTV</b>	Jummaland TV
<b>JLR</b>	Jummaland Radio
<b>JLA</b>	Jummaland Army
<b>JLP</b>	Jummaland Police
<b>JLN</b>	Jummaland Navy
<b>JLAF</b>	Jummaland Air Force
<b>JLSPD</b>	Jummaland Special Police Department
<b>JLNHRC</b>	Jummaland National Human Rights Council
<b>JLIHRC</b>	Jummaland International Human Rights Council
<b>JLT</b>	Jummaland Today
<b>JLT</b>	Jummaland Time
<b>JLTCB</b>	Jummaland Telecommunication Board
<b>JLIF</b>	Jummaland International Foundation
<b>JAC</b>	Jum Aesthetics Council
<b>JLDN</b>	Jummaland Daily News
<b>KAB</b>	King Asoka and Buddhism
<b>KCD</b>	Kalpana Chakmar Diary, June 12, 2001
<b>LNOHTCUR</b>	Life of Not Our the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission Unofficial Reports
<b>MB</b>	Maitry Banee
<b>MN</b>	Majjhima Nikaya
<b>MCB</b>	MatiChariBan
<b>NSB</b>	Namo Sakyamuni Buddha

<b>NSC</b>	National Sangha Council
<b>NGO</b>	Non Government Organization
<b>OEEE</b>	On Emotions, Economics and Ethics
<b>PDB</b>	Power Development Board
<b>PBSB</b>	Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha, Bangladesh
<b>PPJ</b>	Political Party in Jummaland
<b>PCJSS</b>	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti
<b>PCG</b>	Peace Campaign Group
<b>PRR</b>	Primary Resources Report
<b>RR</b>	Rajvana Rangamati
<b>REB</b>	Rural Electrification Board
<b>SDO</b>	Sub-District Officer
<b>SC</b>	Supreme Court
<b>S</b>	Shighor
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>TUPHCHTBB</b>	The Untold Pathetic History of Chittagong Hill Tracts Buddhist in Bangladesh
<b>TG RIC</b>	The GenocideReader Ideas in Conflict
<b>UGC</b>	University Grant Commision
<b>UOJL</b>	University of Jummaland
<b>UPDF</b>	United Peoples Democratic Front
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>VOC</b>	Voice of Chittagong Hill Tracts
<b>VOJLUSSE</b>	Voice of Jummaland-U.S.Special English

<b>VAEBP</b>	Vangisa An Early Buddhism Poet
<b>VC</b>	Village Council
<b>VDP</b>	Village Defense Police
<b>WR</b>	War and Reconciliation
<b>WWW</b>	chttemples.pictures.com
<b>WWW</b>	buddhiststemplecht.com
<b>WWW</b>	<b>BBC</b> Buddhism in Bangladesh.com
<b>WWW</b>	<b>RCF</b> royal chakma family.com
<b>WWW</b>	<a href="#">www.Voice</a> of Jummaland
<b>WWW</b>	www.pcjss-cht.org
<b>WWW</b>	jummaland templescht.com

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To begin with, I would like to express my pleasure to have undertaken this PhD research studies thesis on “An Analytical Study of History of Buddhism and Political Activism in Jummaland, Bangladesh”. I have made an attempt to trace the state of Buddhism in vanga (ancient time), now Jummaland near Bangladesh. The several writers and scholars who have written on histories on vanga or the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Jummaland have pointed out that during the early period, this region was a mass of hill tracts and a large area of inaccessible dense and creeper forests without any human settlement.

According to tradition and history, Buddhism flourished in vanga or Jummaland during the ancient period. A large number of archeological discoveries such as stupas, monasteries and other remains discovered from different sites of ancient vanga, testifies to this fact. Such finds are discovered from Chittagong Hill Tracts up to now. The travel accounts of history by Fa-Hien and Hiuen-Tsang (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> century) provide rich information about the state of Buddhism in the whole of vanga region. The period of 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries is regarded as the golden era of Buddhism in Jummaland near Bangladesh.

Therefore, in my PhD research study, the present state of Buddhism will be dealt with from the beginning of human habitation to the modern century. It is worth mentioning here that vanga region was a part and parcel of ancient Bengal. It was separated as Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1860 AD. by the then British government. Many Buddhist monuments of early Buddhism were discovered from the district of Chittagong, which is close to Chittagong Hill Tracts, also known as Jummaland. An attempt is made here

to describe the ancient state of Buddhism in Vangaor Bengal in Chittagong Hill Tracts based on the historical records and evidence of ancient Bengal near Jummaland. The various journals, Buddhist monuments, archeological publications, Bengali and English books written on Jummaland, Bangladesh on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the ancient vanga books helped me to do this research for Ph.D study. In addition to this, I extracted information from various sources in the preparation of this Ph.D thesis, via Bengali language commentaries, books, journals and reports of political and non-political organizations on the Chittagong Hill Tracts as well as other publications on Buddhism and other issues. Further, to make facts clearer, I have included a map of the world, as well as a map of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)/Jummaland. Fortunately from the beginning to the completion of this Ph.D Thesis, I was able to get valuable guidance, constant advice and suggestions from my supervisors, Ven. Prof. Dr. Madagampitiye Wijithadharmma Thero Head, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, and from my well wishers deputy supervisor Ven. Dr. Panahaduwe Yasassi Thero and Ven. Divlapelesse Wimalananda Thero and deputy supervisor, as well as Dr. Nandika Rupasinghe Faculty of Technology helps me and others official.

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Ven.Ratan Bikas Chakma (Ven. Rashtrapal Mahathero)  
House of Jummland, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
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## **ABSTRACT**

### **An Analytical Study of History of Buddhism and Political Activism in**

#### **Jummaland, Bangladesh**

**Ven. Ratan Bikas Chakma**

Bangladesh, situated in the eastern part of the South-Asian sub-continent, with rich natural resources, different races, religions, cultures, social manners, traditions and languages since ancient period. It lies between latitudes  $20^{\circ}$ - $34^{\circ}$  and  $26^{\circ}$ - $38^{\circ}$  degree north and longitudes  $88^{\circ}$ - $31^{\circ}$  and  $92^{\circ}$ - $41^{\circ}$  degree east. The country is on the border with India on the east, west and north and by the Bay of Bengal and a small border strip with Myanmar on the south. The land area is 147,570 square kilometer. The capital is Dhaka. The population is about 140 million with Jummas.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts or Jummaland is categorized as a special region located in the north eastern part of the country where local inhabitants are known as Jumma people because they represent a minority group of Bangladesh. The Jummaland is a mountainous state that lies between latitudes  $21^{\circ}$ - $25^{\circ}$  and  $23^{\circ}$ - $45^{\circ}$  north and longitude  $91^{\circ}$ - $45^{\circ}$  and  $92^{\circ}$ - $50^{\circ}$  east. It comprises an area of 13,881 square kilometer in the Southeast and Northeast. It is situated bordering Assam and upper Myanmar in the east, Arakan in the south, the Chittagong district in the west and the Indian state of Tripura in the north. Their social and religious status is entirely different from Bangladeshi Bengali people. The Jummaland peoples are divided into 13 groups all with different religions, cultures, traditions, languages and social norms. They are namely such as Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Tripura, Chak, Lushai, Mro, Khumi, Khyang, Bawm, Reang, Murang and Pankho. Among them, Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya and Chak are Buddhist and others are Hindus, Christian

and animist. The Chakma people are the majority in the Jummaland. They are called Jumma Peoples. They are followers of Theravāda Buddhism from ancient time. The total Jumma population is about 15,98,291 in 2011. Jummaland Buddhist history and political views and activities has been long times have history and culture. In 1638 C.E. (Christian Era) see. Appendices political history picture. There was Portuguese agreement with Chacomas, presently Jummaland. In 1715 C.E, agreement with British and 1763 C.E, declared independence Chacomas (Kingdom of Chacomas), In 1780 C.E, agreement again British with Chacomas and deeply relationship agreement on 1791 C.E, with Chacomas, also the regulation of Jummaland /CHT 1900 A.D, passed by British government for Jummaland protection from outside. In the earlier 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.1997 peace accord with Bangladesh government and Jummaland was signed. But unfortunately Bangladesh government still has not handover political power to government of Jummaland. Presently this has resulted in Jummaland political situation being in a series of crisis and Jummaland people didn't have any safety. The people and Buddhism didn't take any development and protection without political power, examples, Afghanistan and Pakistan Buddhism lost their Buddhist people and Buddhism. The political power can be determined for protection of the people and development of Buddhism, its people and religion.

On September 1760 AD, the British East-India Company established their rule in the ancient Vanga. The liberal policy of the British enabled the Jumma Buddhists to re-establish them in ancient Vanga on a solid foundation. In the Palas periods (750-1150 AD), Buddhism reached of the golden ages of Buddhism in modern Bangladesh.

The research was an analytical study of history of Buddhism and political activism in Jummaland.

**Keywords:** Jummaland, Vanga, Buddhism, Political activism, Jumma Buddhists, Crisis.