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## ORIGINATOR OF BENGALI NOTATION SYSTEM AND HIS CONTRIBUTION IN INDIAN MUSIC

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### ABSTRACT:

*Kshetra Mohan Goswami was the first bengali notation system inventor of nineteenth century. The name of his notation system was Dandamatrik notation system. He got the title 'Sangit Nayak' and got the 'Swarnakeyur' prize from 'Bengal Academy of Music'. The mentionable books written by him are - Ashuranjani Tatwa', 'Kantha Koumudi', 'oikyomatrik Swaralipi' etc. He was the head*

*master of 'Banga Sangit Vidyalaya' and 'principle of 'Bengal Academy of Music' (founded by the king of Pathuriyaghata, Raja shourindra Mohan Thakur). In 1869 AD he wrote very valuable book of music-theory named 'SANGIT-SAR'.*

**KEYWORDS:** First Bengali Notation Maker, Dandamatrik, Notation System, Sangit-Nayak Title, Sangit-Sar.

### INTRODUCTION

Kshetra Mohan Goswami was one of the greatest musicians of West Bengal. He was the first bengali notation system inventor of undivided Bengal. In nineteenth century, at the time of renaissance we find many bengali notation system maker and famous bengali musicians who contributed their life for development of Indian music, kshetra Mohan Goswami was the prime musician among them. Kshetra Mohan Goswami was born at Chandrakona village, district of Midnapore in undivided Bengal on 1813 AD.

He spent childhood in this village. Chandrakona was one of the most important centre of music in Bangladesh. Radhakanta Goswami, father of Kshetra Mohan Goswami was a narrator . At first Kshetra Mohan Goswami learned narrative scriptures from his father , but he attracted by music very much. So, his father arranged proper music education for him. In this time Ram-Shankar Bhattacharya was the famous musician of Bishnupur. He studied music under Ram-Shankar Bhattacharya. Kshetra Mohan Goswami became court musician to Maharaja Sir Jatindra Mohan Thakur. He was appointed to the post till the end of his life. His second music guru was the famous

musician of Baranasi, Binkar Lakshmi Prasad Mishra. Kshetra Mohan Goswami was the first originator of musical concert in the history of Indian music . He was a vocal singer, sitar player , violin player and also esraj player. He wrote and promoted the first notation system of Indian Music. In 1858 , the drama titled 'Ratnabali' was played at Pratap Chandra Sinha's(who was the zamindar of paikpara) 'Belgachia villa'. Dandamatrik Swaralipi was used first in this play's concert. He innovated the Dandamatrik notation system from which other Indian notations are said to be developed. He was not only a musician but also a researcher of music and he wrote many music

books. The books written by him are following -

**1. OIKYOTANIK SWARALIPI :** The book 'Oikyotanik Swaralipi' was published in 1868 AD . A drama named 'Ratnabali' which was played in zamindar Pratap Chandra Sinha's 'Belgachia villa'. In the concert of this drama 'Dandamatrik notation system' was used and published in the book 'Oikyotanik Swaralipi' . We got 48 notation in this book on raga Kanada, Kalingra, Bihag, Bageshree and on pat-taal and Pancham-sawari taal etc. Out of 48 notations 29 notations written by Kshetra Mohan Goswami and 19 notations written by Shourindra Mohan Thakur.

**2. SANGIT-SAR :** In 1869 AD the first edition of this book was published by the secretary of 'Banga-Natyalaya' of Pathuriyaghata, Kali Prasanna Banerjee. This book was dedicated to Jatindramohan Thakur and printed by the favor of Shourindramohan Thakur. Second edition of this book was published in 1879 AD. This book was divided into two parts. In the first part of this book we get the discussion about geet, badya and nritya and in second part we get the music-oriented discussion.

**3. KANTHA-KOUMUDI :** This is the compilation book of notation of dhrupad, khayal, tappa, dhap-khayal etc. In 1875 AD, the first edition of this book was published and the second edition of this book was published in 1923 AD. In first chapter of this book he discussed about Shruti, Saptak, Gram, Gamak, Murchhana, anulom, bilom etc and in second chapter the author of this book discussed about chaturanga, vishnupada, tribat, gulanaks, raagmala and notation of alap etc.

**4. ASHURANJANI TATWA :** This is the book about Esraj. This book was published on 1885 AD.

**5. GEET-GOVINDER SWARALIPI :** In 1871 AD, this book was published by the help of Jatindra Mohan Thakur and printed by the favor of Shourindra Mohan Thakur . 25 notation of Jayadeva's song was there in this book. Kshetra Mohan Goswami learned those songs from his guru Ram-Shankar.

Kshetra Mohan Goswami had many sided brilliancy. He was the famous musician, musicologist, notation maker and a good teacher . He was the teacher of 'Banga Sangit Vidyalaya'(established in 1871 AD) and 'Bengal Academy of Music' (established in 1881 AD), founded by Raja Shourindra Mohan Thakur.

Now, we discuss about the notation system made by him -

### DANDAMATRIK NOTATION SYSTEM

1. SEVEN PLACED NOTE (seven suddha swar): S R G M P D N

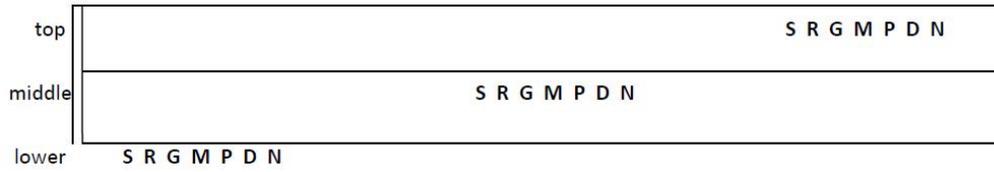
[In bengali - ( স র গ ম প ধ নি )]

2. DISPLACED NOTE (vikrit swar) :

(i) Komal swar -  $\overset{\Delta}{R}$   $\overset{\Delta}{G}$   $\overset{\Delta}{D}$   $\overset{\Delta}{N}$

(ii) Tibra swar -  $\overset{\bullet}{M}$

3. Tri- Sthan [Top(tara), Middle(Mudara) and Lower octave(Udara)] :



4. 1 note in 1 matra :  $\overset{|}{S}$      $\overset{|}{R}$      $\overset{|}{G}$      $\overset{|}{M}$  etc.

2 note in 1 matra :  $\overset{||}{SR}$ ,  $\overset{||}{RG}$ ,  $\overset{||}{GM}$  etc.

3 note in 1 matra :  $\overset{|||}{SRG}$ ,  $\overset{|||}{RGM}$  etc.

4 note in 1 matra :  $\overset{||||}{SRGM}$  ,  $\overset{||||}{RGMP}$  etc.

5. 1 note in 2 matras :  $\overset{||}{S}$  ,  $\overset{||}{R}$  ,  $\overset{||}{G}$  etc.

1 note in 3 matras :  $\overset{|||}{S}$  ,  $\overset{|||}{R}$  ,  $\overset{|||}{G}$  etc.

1 note in 4 matras :  $\overset{||||}{S}$  ,  $\overset{||||}{R}$  etc.

6. Note of 1/2 matra :  $\overset{\bullet}{S}$      $\overset{\bullet}{R}$      $\overset{\bullet}{G}$      $\overset{\bullet}{M}$  etc.

7. Sign of Rythm (taal-Chinha) :

(i) Som (first beat of rythm) : '+'

(ii) Taali : 1, 2, 3 etc.

Sangit-Nayak Kshetra Mohan Goswami passed away at the ripe old age of 80 years in the later half of the 19th century. He had multiple talent. He invented the Dandamatrik notation system from which other Indian notations are said to be developed. His book 'sangit-sar' is the valuable asset of Indian Music. The book earned him the title 'Sangit-Nayak'.

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