

BIODATA

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Raja Devasish Roy is the chief of the Chakma Administrative Circle, an official body and the traditional raja of the ethnic Chakma community, which lives mostly in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). He is also an advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in Dhaka. He holds a Diploma in Legal Studies from La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia; a Barrister-at-Law at the Inns of Court School of Law, London; a BA in Law, from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK; and a BA Degree from the University of Chittagong. He was installed as the Chakma Chief in 1977, the succession having been formalized through a gazette notification of the Government of Bangladesh. As Chief, he is directly responsible for land and revenue administration, administration of justice and for advising several CHT-related statutory governmental institutions. He has been practising law in the Dhaka District Court since 1988 and in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (High Court Division) since 1991. He has taught English law to London University LL.B students at Bhuiyan Academy, Dhaka, and Constitutional Law at Rangamati Law College. In January 2008, he was appointed as a Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, Government of Bangladesh, with the rank and status of a Minister of State. He was in charge of the Ministry of CHT's Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests and held these posts until January, 2009, when an elected government resumed office in Dhaka. In May 2010, he was appointed as a Member (Indigenous representative) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Asia Region) for the term 2011-13. The appointment by the President of the Economic and Social Council followed an election process wherein his nomination was endorsed by an overwhelming number of the participating indigenous organizations from fifteen Asian countries. He has participated in several conferences on issues of indigenous peoples' rights, human rights, culture, environment, sustainable development, forestry, and peace and conflict, including at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the UN Commission on Human Rights; and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.