

# INTRODUCTION

## STUDY AREA

Jalpaiguri Municipality an administrative head quarters of the district is situated on the west bank of river Tista at 26°32' N and 88° 43'E in West Bengal. The name Jalpaiguri might be associated with Jalpesh, the Lord Siva. Hooker and Revel (1788) both mentioned the town as 'Jelpigory'. Jalpaiguri town is limited on the south, west and north by Kharia mauza (J.L. No 7) of Jalpaiguri Police Station in Jalpaiguri district, and by river Tista to the east. Jalpaiguri has immense importance as border town, locating at most sensitive area near Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal. So the study of this town is necessary from national point of view(Fig 1).

## BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY:-

Raja Dharma Deva Raikat (1709-1724) shifted his capital to the present Jalpaiguri town (Rajbari). The district of Jalpaiguri as administrative units come into being on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1869, and the Municipal Administration was first introduced in 1885 in Jalpaiguri town. From 1874 to 1910, more than 150 tea gardens were come up in the district and attracted people from the other parts of the country. The town has gradually become a great center of business, services, culture and religion. Modern transport systems were introduced different places of Jalpaiguri by 'North Bengal State Railways' and 'Bengal Duars Railways' in 1878 and 1896 respectively. The municipal works were conducted by an institution called Jalpaiguri 'Union Board' (Sanyal. C. 1969). In 1969, Jalpaiguri Municipality consist of only 7 wards, But later due to the fragmentation of the words, these number has been increased from 7 to 19 in 1980. In 1995 there were 25 wards in Jalpaiguri Municipality.

Jalpaiguri town is covered with alluvial deposits, as it is situated on the Tista flood plain and characterized by flatness. While the general slope of the town is from north to south, the embankments along River Tista and Karala have altered the natural slope of the town, and are responsible for many hazards particularly water logging.

LOCATION MAP  
OF  
JALPAIGURI TOWN

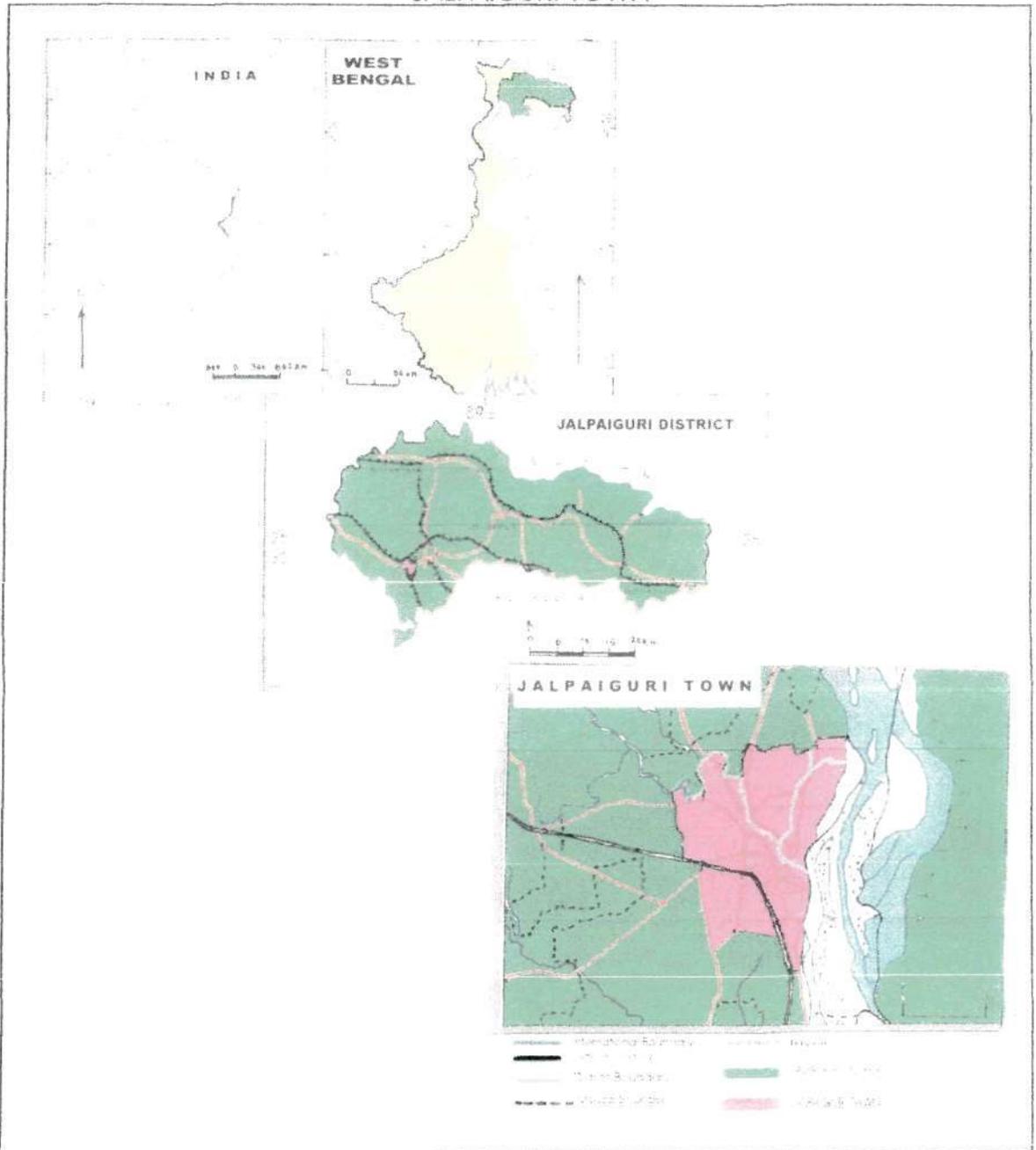


Fig - 1

Jalpaiguri town is situated on the west bank of river Tista and the entire town area is drained by the Tista and its tributaries i.e, Karala, Dhardhara, Rukruka, Chukchuka and Gadadhar, the last one is the tributary to the river Panga. The climatic condition of Jalpaiguri town is of wet monsoon type, characterized by heavy rainfall and cold winter. But the total numbers of annual rainy days have decreased recently with heavy rainfall in a short period. Heavy rains and hot summer are favourable for the growth of wet evergreen forest. Along with wet evergreen forest, dry mixed forest is also found in the town.

According to 2001 census, Jalpaiguri Municipality with an area of 12.975 km<sup>2</sup> has a population of 1,00,348, which includes 50.45% (50629) males and 49.55% (49719) female population. Jalpaiguri town had a population of 9,708 in 1901 and 1,00,348 in 2001. But its population was 68732 in 1991. So the population of the town has been increased by 7 times during the last 90 years and 10 times during the last 100 years.

## **SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Jalpaiguri was an important urban center of north Bengal since last 200 years. It was then under Baikunthapur Mouza which was ruled by Raikat Kings. After then when municipal administration was introduced in 1885, it became the administrative head quarters of Jalpaiguri district. After then it was developed rapidly by increasing its area, population and various socio-economic functions. But by this time Siliguri developed rapidly due to its locational importance. It hindered the development of Jalpaiguri Town.

Different features that attract to study Jalpaiguri town (Municipality) are as follows: Jalpaiguri is an important border town, located at a most sensitive area near Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal. So the study is necessary from a national point of view. It is important to study the reason and the nature of concentration of population within the town as well as in the fringe area. Different socio-economic, urban amenities and employment opportunities are to be studied in the light of increased population and to accommodate the growing population from the rural areas of the district as well as neighboring states by push or pull factors. The economic structure of Jalpaiguri town is controlled mainly by the district influence of tea industries of surrounding

areas of the town. But the condition has been declining significantly during the past 2-3 decades. So it is essential to study the factors for low level of economic development. Several demographic, cultural and socio-economic problems became acute because the urban facilities failed to cope up with the haphazard growth due to lack of proper planning and defective implementation of earlier plans. Some environmental pollution in urban areas causing imbalance of eco-system in the town need to be studied.

This study will help to identify the reasons off slow development and old characteristics of Jalpaiguri town. There is also enough scope to study different parameters, which help in the developmental process of the town. The purpose of the study is to formulate a well developmental plan, which was not planned before for its development.

## **MAJOR PROBLEMS**

Every urban center has some common problems, which develop with the increase of urbanization and population of that area. Jalpaiguri is not an exception of that Jalpaiguri both have physical and socio-economic problems.

### **Physical Barrier:**

As river Karala diagonally bisected the town and stretch for 5.23 km. From north-west to south and only has 3 connected bridge at the southern half of Jalpaiguri, it creates some physical barriers. The railway line, which connects New Jalpaiguri and Haldibari Stations restricts the easy movement of the people to the southern part.

One of the main problems is drainage problem which caused water logging in different part of the town. N.F. Railway track from the main drainage barriers. Even after a medium shower extensive areas become water logged. The privy system is not sufficient. The drains are not leveled according to the slope. The hampered the layout of the water. Garbage are hipped on the drains which are not cleared regularly. This obstruct the flows of water through the drains..

### **Population Pressure:**

Pressure of population growth is also an obstacle to it's growth. Population pressure led to over crowding, conjection and lack of space and it also has an indirect effect on the emergence of

slums. Low economic conditions and unemployments are the adverse effect of population growth.

**Socio-economic problems:**

Jalpaiguri suffers from inadequate medical facilities. Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital is confined in a particular area and some private nursing homes are scatteredly established in the town which are not very satisfactory. Most of the administrative functions are scatteredly situated in the residential area and are away from the bus routes. Schools and colleges have students more than their capacity. Children in some primary schools still use to sit on the floor. Post and telegraph services are poor and unevenly distributed in the town.

**Problem in the field of Trade and Commerce:**

Roads are very narrow in the C.B.D., which led high congestion and overflow of traffic. There is a lack of parking spaces at the commercial centers of Jalpaiguri. Commercial area suffers from the pressure of residential houses. In trading monopoly of some products are found.

**Transport Problem:**

There are only two main roads in Jalpaiguri town. Roads of Jalpaiguri create a network which has not any definite pattern. Most of the roads are narrow and unsuitable for the movement of heavy vehicles such as Station Road New Town Para area etc.

Railway Ghoomti No.3 and its adjoining areas have been suffering from intense traffic jam, which is found to be beyond control. Almost a permanent chaos is seen here during frequent closure of railway gate between 10.30 – 11 A.M. Long queues of vehicles caused traffic jam at the gate. Traffic congestion is also found in Kadamtala, Head Post Office etc. due to unplanned traffic rules.

**Drinking Water Problem:**

Drinking water facility is not equally sufficient in all the wards.

**Problem of Street Light:**

People suffer due to the absence of street light in some part of municipality and due to short of voltage and load shading.

**Problem related to living condition:**

Growth of population caused the growth of slums and congestion in the residential area, which increase in sanitary condition.

### **Institutional Problem:**

There are also some institutional problems such as land reform problem, problem related with land distribution among poorer land development, taxation and other problems.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To analyze and evaluate the location, physical set up, population structure, occupational pattern, land uses and socio-economic functions in Jalpaiguri town.
2. Detail study of urban morphology of the town, and urban land use changes during 1992-2007.
3. To analyze the maximum utilization of different urban amenities, resources and functions available for the people in the study area
4. To find out different functional and spatial gaps and problems in the way of urban development.
5. To suggest and recommended proper development plans for future.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The following methodologies are to be adopted at the time of study of the town.

1. As the work is largely based on field investigation, different types of primary data were collected by preparing different types of questionnaires.
2. Secondary data was collected from Municipality and other Government or non-government offices, in the form of census, gazetteer, reports etc.
3. Data also collected from individual person covering entire area by interview.
4. Different statistical techniques were used for analyzing the data and information. A mathematical method is used to find out the relationship between an independent variable and one or more dependent variables, which are used in making predictions and assessing the variables. The form of any linear relationship between a dependent

and independent variable is given as  $Y_c = a + bx$ . Other statistical methods are also used to analyze the data.

5. Different types of cartographical maps were drawn with the help of data and these are to be analyzed for preparing report.

## **HYPOTHESIS:**

Taking 20-30% random sampling did Ward wise individual study of population and households along the roads or fringe areas. Ward wise socio-economic study will be done by collecting data from municipality and field study. Determining the level of pollutants did environmental study. The previous literatures and data are to be taken for reference.

## **LIMITATIONS**

As there are many households and number of population is very large in the town, it is impossible to interview all the families through questionnaires. So, 20-35% samples of the households (random) and population are to be taken to analyze the study of information. So, a large portion of the households has been remaining left out of our study. Land use is to be studied by eye-estimation. Due to insufficiency of published data field survey get more importance in this study.

## **DESIGN OF THE THESIS:**

	Introduction
Chapter I	Historical development of Jalpaiguri town.
Chapter II	Geographical Background of the study area. Introduction
2.1	Physiography
2.2	Climate
2.3	Drainage System
2.4	Ground Water
2.5	Natural Vegetation
	Conclusion
Chapter III	Population Characteristics of Jalpaiguri Town Introduction.

- 3.1 Distribution of population
- 3.2 Composition of S.C. and S.T. Population
- 3.3 Density of population
- 3.4 Growth of population.
- 3.5 Migration pattern
- 3.6 Literacy
- 3.7 Religious structure
- 3.8 Occupation structure, changes of occupation
- 3.9 Slum population
- Conclusion

**Chapter IV Land uses and their Changes**

- Introduction
- 4.1 Classification
- 4.2 Land use pattern in 81, 91 and 2001
- 4.3 Distribution of functional zones.
- 4.4 Direction and area of changes
- 4.5 Character of Changes
- Conclusion

**Chapter V Socio-economic condition of the Town**

- Introduction
- 5.1 Education
- 5.2 Health
- 5.3 Trade and Commerce
- 5.4 Finance
- 5.5 Transport and Communication
- 5.6 Housing and Living condition
- Plot size
- Drinking Water
- Privy system
- 5.7 Sewerage system
- 5.8 Dumping garbage
- 5.9 Recreational Places
- 5.10 Others
- Conclusion

**Chapter VI Levels of Socio-economic functions and their gaps.**

- Introduction
- 6.1 Spatial gaps
- 6.2 Functional gaps
- Conclusion

**Chapter VII Identification of Major Problems in the Town**

- Introduction

- 7.1 Physical
- 7.2 Population and demographic
- 7.3 Land use
- 7.4 Socio-economic
- 7.5 Institutional
- 7.6 Environment
- 7.7 Slums
- Conclusion

**Chapter VIII Different Development Strategies**

- Introduction
- 8.1 Earlier strategies and their implication
- 8.2 Impact of the implication of strategies
- 8.3 Recent Plans
- Conclusion

**Chapter IX Suggested Development Plans**  
Conclusion