

## **Chapter – VI**

### **GROWTH OF MUFASSAL TOWNS IN JALPAIGURI DISTRICT IN THE POST COLONIAL PERIOD: (Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar)**

It has been already analysed that Jalpaiguri as an administrative unit came into being in 1869, by amalgamating Western Dooars with Jalpaiguri Sub-division of Rangpur (now in Bangladesh)<sup>1</sup>. It is true that Jalpaiguri town had got municipal status in Colonial Age (1885), but till 1961 characteristically it appears to be a non-municipality or mufassal towns. During the time all types of municipal facilities were not available for community service at Jalpaiguri till 1951. Jalpaiguri despite being the district headquarter had hardly any civil amenities. In the same way Alipurduar town, the second largest settlement in the district acquired the status of municipal town in 1957. But till 1971 all the characteristics of the town were like a mufassal town. Thus, the researcher had focused his light on Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar also. Apart from the two municipal towns of Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar, there are six non-municipal towns like – Alipurduar Railway Jn., Dhupguri, Maynaguri, Falakata, Mal and Domohini

according to the Census of 1971<sup>2</sup>. But in the records of Census Report it was raised in 14 in 2001 and 35 in 2011. However, the present researcher gives his light on – Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Falakata, Dhupguri, Maynaguri, Malbazar and Domohini. Among these towns Domohini situated on the left bank of the river Teesta attained the characterisitic of a railway settlement.

## **JALPAIGURI**

‘Jalpaiguri’ a district town, a Municipality and a Civil Division in North Bengal is situated on the northern part of West Bengal. The *Karala* River divides the town into two parts and connects with few small beautifully laid bridges. Jalpaiguri is a picturesque town having several avenues shaded peaks of Kanchanjangha Mountains can be viewed from the town. A big well maintained park by the rivers of mound Karala and Tessta is a place to spend some leisure hours in the fresh environment.

The town Jalpaiguri is quite right to state that throughout the colonial period. Jalpaiguri district remained primarily a rural and plantation area. The most significant historical development after the formation of Jalpaiguri district was the growth of tea industry. But after Partition (1947) due to heavy influx of refugees from East Pakistan the pattern of urbanization of Jalpaiguri district rapidly changed. It not only changed the landscape but also the socio–economic and demographic pattern of the district. The vast tract of forestlands can be dotted with tea gardens, villages and markets. In the colonial period the British had a long cherished dream to make Jalpaiguri town a district Headquarter. During the Anglo–Bhutan war the southern part of the town an army cantonment was established to collect revenues from the North–Eastern Regions and to assess the potentialities of trade and commerce of the Jalpaiguri district region<sup>3</sup>.

The decision to establish Jalpaiguri town was determined by several factors. With the growth of tea plantation in the district primarily the British and the later stage the Bengali entrepreneurs began to participate in it and their respective registered offices were established in the town. Besides this,

Administrative District Headquarter, Sub-division, Police Station and so many offices were there. In this connection the growth of other cash crops i.e. tea, jute, tobacco, the colonial exploitation of natural resources like timber and the development of transport and communication system were linked with the process of urbanization in the district. In the year 1970 – 71 Jalpaiguri town was connected with the Dooars region and Assam through the ‘Jalpesh Setu’ over the Teesta River. Apart from these, the town was transformed into a vibrant trading centre and provided a channel through which various consumer goods reached the remote trading centre of the Dooars region.

In this way the town (Jalpaiguri) as a centre of export, mobilized and siphoned off tea, timber, jute tobacco, etc. to Calcutta. The expanding network of services and professional and obviously economic interests in a backdrop of colonial situation facilitated the socio-economic growth of the town.

#### **Administrative Growth of the Town:**

The Jalpaiguri Municipal Board was the oldest and sole Municipal Board in the district which was established in the Colonial Age or before Partition (1947) in the year of 1885. Thus the town has already celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Municipal Township. So, as a long history of 125 years the town has developed in area or in administration. Now it is a ‘C’ category Municipal town having its jurisdiction over 12.50 sq. km. boundary area. Three Panchayets – a) Arabinda Nagar-I G.P. b) Faria G.P.-I (part) and c) Paharpur G.P. (part) have been included in the Municipal area in 1995. According to the 1991 Census the population of the town was nearly 90,000. As per Municipal Records of 1995 the town was divided into 25 Wards and the numbers of holdings are 17,641. The Councillors are elected from each Ward. Among the Councillors 15 are male and 10 are female. Besides these, 4 Councillors were elected from the reserved for Scheduled Casts and 5 female members elected from the seat reserved for Women category. This representative pattern of the electoral of the municipality fulfills the aims of the WBMA – 1993 as well as 74<sup>th</sup> CAA 1992.

The most important indicator for the development of the Jalpaiguri town was the growth of population which occurred due to the influx of immigrant

populations in the town. The pattern of population from the outset was rather sluggish. In 1872 before the establishment of Municipal Board the population of the town was 6,598, but slowly the population grew and touched the figure 27,766 in 1941. But after Partition the population of the town increased. The huge influx of refugees from the East Pakistan was responsible for it. Thus, from 1941 to 1971 i.e. only in 30 years the growth of population increased from 27,766 to 55,159 and from 1971 to 2001 in this 30 years the growth of population increased from 55,159 to 1,00,348<sup>4</sup>. Here the researcher shows in the table No.–6.1 the growth of population in the Jalpaiguri Municipality.

Table – 6.1  
Growth of Population in the Jalpaiguri Municipality  
(1941–2011)

<b>YEARS</b>	<b>PERSONS</b>	<b>MALES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>
1941	27,766	17,420	10,346
1951	41,259	24,551	16,708
1961	48,738	27,608	21,130
1971	55,159	30,665	24,494
1981	61,632	---	---
1991	90,825	---	---
2001	1,00,348	50,629	49,719
2011	1,07,341	53,708	53,633

Source: Census of India (1941 – 2011)

In the embryonic stage numerous Bengali Hindus and Muslims migrants from East Bengal particularly from Pabna and Rajshahi district (now in Bangladesh)

settled in the town. Along with Rahim Baksh came his relatives from Noakhali, Kumilla and Murshidabad. The Brahamins and other higher castes people came from Dacca and Pabna districts. Further a remarkable portion of immigrants hailed from Rangpur, Rajshahi, Maimansingh and 24–Parganas. This immigrant population was so called *bhadralok* due to their professional affiliation to different respectable jobs. They emerged as Government officers, lawyers, teachers, clerks and contractors etc. The Muslim traders from Dacca district and Marwari traders and merchants being tempted by the rising economic potentialities decided to settle in the town<sup>5</sup>. Specially the Tea Planters and their associates (Manager, Asstt. Manager and many others) and lawyers had played a vital role in different social activities and games & sports of the town. Apart from these the different types of lower category professionals such as washer men, barbers, sweepers specially who came from Bihar and locally called Biharies also performed a significant role for the growth of Jalpaiguri town.

Besides these the European population, a microscopic segment of the total population was the real social leaders of the town. They played the part of an arbiter for all related matters of revenue, public works and criminal affairs. They introduced the various principles, rules and regulations of municipal administration in Jalpaiguri town.

However, terminating a long wait when the independence day finally arrived the Municipal Board decided on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1947 that – “It is unanimously resolved that the flag hoisting ceremony be performed at 8.15 pm. on 15.08.1947 at the Municipal office building. Honourable, Sri Tarini Prasad Roy, the first non–official Vice–chairman and eminent citizen of the town was requested to hoist the flag”<sup>6</sup>.

Most probably this is the first time in municipal history in India that Independence Day ceremony was observed at night. But till 17<sup>th</sup> August the people of Jalpaiguri were fully tensed, because they did not know whether Jalpaiguri would be a part of Pakistan or India. At last on 17<sup>th</sup> August by the declaration of Radcliff Award police station of Boda, Patgram, Debiganj, Pachagar and Tetulia went in Pakinstan and the rest whole district was in India<sup>7</sup>. So the partition of the district happened with the Partition of India (1947). However, within short period Sri Tarini

Prasad Roy who first hoisted the flag in Jalpaiguri after independence. But unfortunately he died on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1948.

Immediate after independence numerous refugees from East Pakistan came in big numbers in the town. The refugees first took shelter in Sonallah School and Patgola of Kadamtola. In the second stage the refugee camps were made in Commerce College, Nurmanjil Bhawan (Now DPSC office) and Batia Building. At that time the town was famine-affected and the roads and passages were nasty and were all most unfit for use. The town was under utter distress by the pressure of the refugees. Cholera, Small pox were constant companion<sup>8</sup>. The drinking water was insufficient. In this situation the municipal election was held in 1948 and 13 members were elected in 5 wards. A new Municipal Committee was formed on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1948 under the Chairmanship of Sri Jiban Jyoti Roy<sup>9</sup>.

The Municipal committee first arranged a condolence meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1948 after the death of Mahatma Gandhi (30<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1948). The Commissioner of Jalpaiguri Municipality offers their most heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family and as a mark of respect to the departed great soul. The meeting was adjourned<sup>10</sup>. Then the new municipality formed 'Nagar Unnayan Parikalpana' for rearranging the Jalpaiguri town after Partition (1947).

By the recommendation of the committee to make some programmes i.e. to dig well for supply of drinking water, protective works against erosion and flooding from the river Karala, to extend and repairs of numerous roads and passages. The amount of Rs 78.80 allotted for development of the Harijan Society, some money was allotted for section of Cholera, Pox, Leprosy etc. and for buying a Steam-roller, formation of some night schools, electric poles etc.<sup>11</sup>. The Municipal Board first fixed the salary of the officers of the municipality from 1st April, 1948<sup>12</sup>.

## Table – 6.2

Structure of Salaries of the Municipal Workers of Jalpaiguri<sup>13</sup>.

(Since – 01 – 04 – 1949)

1.Lamp Lights --- 16—01—25 Rs.	6. Tax Collector --- 21—04—75 Rs.
2. Peon --- 16 – 01 – 25 Rs.	7.Tax Inspector ---150—05—175 Rs.
3. Watchmen --- 25 – 01 – 35 Rs.	8. Asst. Inspector ---81—04—125 Rs.
4. Record keeper --- 20 – 01 – 30 Rs	9. A.L.T.D --- 60 – 04 – 115 Rs.
5. Belief --- 58 – 08 – C	10. A.L.T.D. -- 2 --- 32—04—75 Rs.

Source: Records from Municipal Office, Jalpaiguri

### Sanitation Department

1. Sanitary Inspector --- 150 --- 05 --- 175 Rs
2. Additional Inspector --- 75 --- 05 --- 125 Rs
3. Health Assistance --- 40 --- 03 --- 80 Rs
4. Typist --- 45 --- 04 --- 100 Rs
5. Recordkeeper/Clerk --- 60 --- 04 --- 100 Rs
6. Asst. Head Clerk --- 85 --- 05 --- 125 Rs
7. Head Clerk --- 200 --- 05 --- 225 Rs

### P.W.D. Department

1. Overseer --- 125 --- 05 --- 175 Rs
2. Building Inspector --- 100 --- 05 --- 165 Rs
1. Yard Supervisor --- 32 --- 02 --- 50 Rs

### Vaccination Department

1. Chief Vaccinator --- 50 --- 03 --- 75 Rs
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2.	Additional Vaccinator --- 45--- 03 --- 65 Rs
3.	Women Vaccinator --- 45--- 03 --- 65 Rs
4.	Part – time Vaccinator --- 50 Rs. Per month

Source: Records from Municipal Office, Jalpaiguri (24/02/ 2016)

An Adhoc Municipal Board was formed due to the Partition (1947) and a permanent Municipal Board came into existence after the municipal election of April 1949. Sri Satyandra Prasad Roy became the chairman. The oath was taken by the chairman with 14 ward members on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1949<sup>14</sup>.

In this year (1949) the New Board recommended Md. Matiar Rahaman to sketch a town map of Jalpaiguri. Besides this, permission was given to the District Board for construction of buildings, a loan of Rs 62,000 was received from the Government for development of the town; interested persons were given an aid of Rs 10 each to open Ration shop. All roads and lamps were illuminated with Kerosene lamp. An amusement park was made in one acre land in the cantonment area. 20% carbolic shop was allotted free of cost for each bull and ox. Permission was given to make store house for fire wood. The Cinema Hall owners were alerted against any illegal deal. Strict vigil was imposed upon supply of pure baby milk, prohibition of selling beef in open place, building up a traffic point in Dinbazar, 27 unmetalled roads and 15 culverts etc. Besides these tax was imposed on numerous business i.e. slaughter house, tannery, fishery, soap factory, washer man, coal storage, Kerosene storage, tin, soap, jute, grocery, tea, electronic tools, cinema hall, saloon, oil mill, cloth shop etc.<sup>15</sup>

In the mean time refugees onslaught from East Pakistan were coming at Jalpaiguri town. Several thousands of refugees took shelter temporarily at Patgola and Batai Building (now in Commerce College) Refugee Camps. Then in 1951 for rehabilitation of the refugees numerous colonies such as – Arobinda Nagar–I, Arobinda Nagar–II, Patakata Colony, Maskalaibari, Pandapara, Mohit Nagar, Debnagar etc. were setup in the adjacent areas of Jalpaiguri town. Due to refugees advent the population of Jalpaiguri town heavily increased between 1941 to 1951.

Total population of 19 Wards of the town was 27,256 in 1941. But in 1951 it raised to 41,259. So, 14,000 populations increased only in 10 years.

Due to the development of refugees several 'Development Committees' were formed by themselves. By the movement of these committees and the initiative of Refugee Rehabilitation Department of the district had arranged 600 plots for settlers in Maskalaibari Colonies. Among them 220 plots measuring 10 kathas each was distributed to each family. The rest 380 plots having 7.5 kathas were given to each refugee family.

The Municipal Board had tried to rehabilitate for refugees in the town. The Honourable Governor came on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1950 to visit the rehabilitation of refugees in the town. Some deep well were dug for purification of the drinking water. Preventive measures were taken against Cholera, Typhoid, and Paratyphoid etc. Two Lorries were purchased for carrying filth out of the town. It was also decided to take the birth–death registration.

Apart from these the Municipal Board resolved “that the councillors will make a provision for the construction of the municipal quota towards the erection of the statue of Netaji Subhas Ch. Bose and construction of a temple as proposed by Kaviraj Sri Satish Ch. Lahiri.”

By the resolution of the Municipal Board this statue was erected on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 1951 on the bank of the river Teesta<sup>16</sup>. But this statue was demolished by the devastating flood of Teesta in 1968. However, the statue was reconstructed by the Netaji Subhas Ch. Foundation and Municipal Board combinedly on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2007<sup>17</sup>.

The Municipal Board granted in aid Rs 19,632 for the development of the 20 primary schools of the town. Rs. 370 was granted for the building of Indrajamal School. Municipal grants were also given to some libraries in the town i.e. – 1) Mahila Pathagar, 2) Marwari Pustakalaya, 3) Azadhind Hind Pathagar, 4) Poursabha Pathagar, 5) Rabindra Pathagar, 6) Babupara Pathagar, 7) Congress Pathagar and 8) Jalpaiguri Institute<sup>18</sup>.

In the year 1951 the Municipal Board passed a resolution from which the researcher is able to know that the rate of holdings be fixed at 10%, conservancy rate at 7%, water rate at 2.5% on holdings within the radius of 500 mtr. from pipelines<sup>19</sup>. ‘Rickshaw Owners Association’ and ‘Rickshaw Paddlers Association’ were formed. The Municipal Board imposed the tax on them which was to be renewed every year.

In 1953 municipal area was expanded and 7 wards were reformed. Service rule was passed for municipal workers. At that time in town there were 3 street Lamps of 100 wt, 7 Lamps of 25 wt, 160 Lamps of 60 wt, 67 Lamps of 40 wt, and 6 lamps of 30 wt. There is an apparent surplus of Rs 20,740 is the budget of 1953. But the real picture is a Rs. 87,000 was deficient. Govt. loan was Rs. 62,000 and grant from Govt. was Rs. 25,000<sup>20</sup>.

Table – 6.3  
Statement of Budget Provision

<b>HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>BUDGET PROVISION</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>EXCESS EXPENDITURE</b>
General establishment	14,780.00	15,697/9/4	917/9/11
Collection of taxes	21,930.00	22,141/7/11	211/7/11
Water supply	16,420.00	19,638/11/6	3,218/11/6
Repair and construction of wells & tanks	500.00	621/3/0	121/3/0
Public latrine	2,160.00	2,180/-/3	201/0/3
Road watering	7,116.00	7,260/9/11	144/9/11
Sanitary inspector	4,992.00	5,426/9/11	434/9/1
Vaccination	3,837.00	4,056/3/10	219/3/10
Other sanitary requirements building	5,000.00	5,934/8/9	934/8/9

repair & new work			
Road repair	28,000.00	30,565/3/0	2,565/3/0
Compost manure	4,992.00	7,059/14/6	2,067/14/6
Disposal of paper / dead bodies	100.00	661/5/0	561/5/0
Miscellaneous	4,042.00	52,600/13/0	9,600/13
Purchase of ration	43,000.00	52,600/13/0	9,600/13
	1,59,165.00	1,81,416/11/6	22,551/11/8

Additional expenditure Rs. 22,251, Ana 11 and Pai 8.<sup>21</sup>

Due to the population growth and expansion of town the 7 wards were re-arranged and the number of members was raised to 19 in the municipality by the resolution of 16<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1953. Here scholar shows in Table-6.4 the number of wards and number of members of Jalpaiguri Municipality.

Table – 6.4

The Numbers of Wards and Members in Jalpaiguri Municipality in 1953.<sup>22</sup>

Number of wards	Number of members
1	2
2	2
3	3
4	2
5	2
6	4
7	4

Source: Records of the Jalpaiguri Municipality

New Municipal Board was formed by the municipal election of 1955. Oath was taken on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1955 under the chairmanship of Sri Kaminikanto

Rahut<sup>23</sup>. Owing to the lack of consciousness among the members this Board did not work fully. In this situation the chairmanship of Mr. Kaminikanta Rahut was replaced by SriJiban Goti Roy. But the situation did not change. At last the Government appointed an administrator to run the Jalpaiguri Municipality in 1958.

Sri Sisir Kumar Sen first acted as administrator from 28.04.1958 to 15.07.1959<sup>24</sup>. But his some decisions created many problems. Then he was replaced by another administrator Sri J.N. Maitra. Within short time he was also replaced by another administrator – Sri N.C Roychoudhury. On 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1960 he introduced the cattle Trespass Act of 1871. Notification No. 323 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1911. By this Act he imposed tax of Rs 2 for Elephant, Rs .50 for Camel and Buffalo, Rs .25 for Horse, Bear, Bull, and Rs .12 for Ram, Goat etc<sup>25</sup>.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1960 a New Municipal Committee was formed with 19 members under the chairmanship of Dr. Sudhir Kr. Bose<sup>26</sup>. The New Board first emphasized on drainage pattern in the town. All service privies were rooted. It also decided that the plan of home could not be passed without well sanitary system. 100 dustbins were set up at different corner of the town. So many sub-committees were formed i.e. Health Committee, Road Committee, Finance Committee, Market Committee, Building Committee, Education Committee etc. In 1961 the most important work this Municipal Board was to build an auditorium hall (Rabindra Bhaban) with 500 seats. The estimated cost of this public hall was Rs. 1,25,000<sup>27</sup>. For the re-construction of streets and lanes Municipal Board estimated the cost to be Rs. 80,000 from the Govt. as debt. The Board decided all previous arrears will be given to all creditors. It also decided to build up some parks and gardens for children at 1) Ward No-7, near the home of Bimal Kr. Hore, 2) Ward No-5 near the Basti area, 3) Ward No-3, near the Madrasa School, and 4) Ward No-4, near the Post Office. On 19<sup>th</sup> September of the same year a proposal of 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge over the River Karala at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,28,600 was sent to the Govt<sup>28</sup>.

The Municipal Board introduced new scale for primary teachers in municipality on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1964. The new pay scale was –

- I) Trained Metric Passed Teachers – 35—01—45—02—65—03—80 Rs.

- II) Non-Trained Metric Passed Teachers – 35—01—50—02—60 Rs.  
 III) Non-Metric Non-Trained Teachers – 35—01—44—02 – 50 Rs.

Additional Rs 5 was given to the new teachers<sup>29</sup>. For the re-arrangement of the area of 19 wards Municipal Board had taken delimitation in January, 1965. It also decided that all old kerosene lamps were reformed and new 46 hajak lamps and 28 electric lamps were erected.

As per the provision of the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993 the Govt. (West Bengal) had provided the Municipality with an Executive Officer, a Finance Officer which are lying vacant. A Health Officer, an Engineer and an Office Superintendent with many other officers at the expense of the State Government were recruited. Here the table no.-6.5 shows the number of officials and the main posts of the Jalpaiguri Municipality.

Table – 6.5  
Existing Personel Status

SL No.	Name of the Post	Number of Officials
1.	Excutive Officer	1
2.	Finance Officer	1 (vacant)
3.	Health Officer	1
4.	Engineer	1
5.	Office Superintendent	1
6.	Accountant	1
7.	Cashier	1
8.	Sanitary Inspector	1
9.	Conservancy Inspector	1

10.	Market Superintendent	1
11.	Food Inspector	1
12.	Head Clerk	1
13.	License In-charge	1
14.	Assessment In-charge	1
15.	Tax Collector	1
16.	T.C.S.	22
17.	Overseer	9

Source: Jalpaiguri Municipality Office

### **Devastating Flood of 1968**

The Jalpaiguri Municipality was same as under the Administrator from 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1966 to 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1969<sup>30</sup>. During this time the most historical event was the devastating flood of the river Teesta. On 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, the day before Lakshmi Puja at night nearly 4 a.m. the dam of Teesta was broken near Rangdhamali and within short time the town was found 8/10 ft under water<sup>31</sup>. According to the Administrator “All normal activities of the town have been made standstill”. All necessary goods, food, money were damaged by the sand. After displacement the water the uncountable bodies of animals and human beings were sheltered here and there. The crisis of drinking water and food had reached its highest stage. This time the people of Siliguri had played a vital role. Many clubs, organizations of Siliguri sent food, drinking water, dress, baby food as relief<sup>32</sup>. To clean the roads and lanes all clubs and welfare organization and youths of Jalpaiguri had derived the works. In this time the Administrator’s first step was to clean the drainage of the town. On 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1969 the Deputy Commissioner of district had paid of Rs 8 lacs to meet the crisis<sup>33</sup>. In the meantime the elected Municipal Board took oath on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1969 under the chairmanship of Sri Bimal Kr. Hore.

To protect the Jalpaiguri town from devastating flood of the River Teesta and Karala several alternative proposals were thought from time to time for

tackling this problem. Finally, a committee was appointed by the Government of India after the most dangerous devastating flood of Jalpaiguri town of the River Karala and Teesta. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1971 all the members of the committee inspected the last 3 miles stretch of the Karala and Teesta River from the Railway Bridge to Mandalghat. The committee examined all the above mentioned 6 alternative schemes presented to them and opined in the interim report that scheme No. one (estimated to cost Rs. 173 lacs) contemplating a 4.5 mile extension of Karala channel within the Teesta, parallel and adjacent to its present right bank, with an outfall at Mandalghat is the cheapest and has the least number of human problems involved and could be executed quickly<sup>34</sup>. The chairman further highlighted that no other proposal except this could lower the sub-soil water on the Jalpaiguri town and the proposal divert the flood waters but not drain sub-soil water. The chairman of the committee made following suggestions for presenting a detailed scheme given below -

1) To start within the present condition the length of the outfall channel shall be 3,048 meters (10,000 ft.) which can be extended in the as and when the gradual aggravation of Teesta affect the new mouth.

2) The section of diversion channel shall be as follows:

- a) Bed width ---- 80 meter
- b) Full supply depth --- 03 meter
- c) Longitudinal slop ---
  - i) Within new outfall --- 1 in 6,400
  - ii) Within Karala --- 1 in 5,000
- d) Side slope of cutting --- 2 : 1
- e) Teesta side berm ---- 30 meter (about 100ft.)

(To be varied with a view to prevent

Piping or flowing of sand into the channel

under flood conditions of Teesta

and no flood in Karala.)

- f) Land side berm ---- 15 meter (50 ft.)
- g) F.D.L. at present  
Karala outfall ---- 80.40 metre.

- 3) Connected drain -- One meter deep and 4.57 meter wide—to drain out the stagnant water and put an end to the water hyacinth choking Karala within the town limits.
- 4) At the exit the end is to be flared to a width of 140 meter keeping a total cross-sectional area enough to ensure that the total energy line is not effluxed.
- 5) The crest width of the Teesta side embankment shall be 15 meters to utilize the excavated spoil as far possible.
- 6) The river face of Teesta embankment shall be protected from erosion by protruding solid super and boulder and aprons where wanted<sup>35</sup>.

The committee reviewed the proposals decided to implement them in the shortest possible duration to reduce the probability of damage by the flood in the River Teesta. Accordingly the Committee took the most effective measure to save Jalpaiguri town from the grip of the River Teesta.

### **Educational Institutions:**

It may be said that through the Colonial Ages Jalpaiguri became the town of educational institution in North Bengal. On the eve of Independence (1947) the town has so many reputed schools which are still present. First and the oldest school of the town is Jilla School established in 1876. The Joint Entrance Exam started in the school from 1887. It became the class X and class XII in 1930 and 1952<sup>36</sup>. Apart from this the other important schools were Fanindra Dev Institution in 1917, Sonaula High School in 1921, Kadamtala Balika Vidyalaya in 1928, Ananda Model Vidyalaya in 1922, and Sadar Balika vidyalaya in 1910<sup>37</sup>.

After the partition (1947) the first school of Jalpaiguri is Government Girls' High School, established in 1948<sup>38</sup>. The school's first class started in Nurmanjil (now in DPSC Building). But in 1958 the permanent building of the school was established near Club Road. So many renowned students came from this school. Smt. Gita Ghosh is one of them who had got 3rd position in Entrance Exam (1950) and had been working as reputed doctor at London. The other

important schools are the Bhavesh Ch. Girls' Junior High School, established in 1973 – 1974 near Sirishtala, the Mohitnagar Colony, Tara Prasad High School in 1954, Begum Fayejenyesa Girls' School in 1950, Central Girls' High School in 1957, Arabinda High School in 1950, Kumodini Girls' School in 1961, and Sonali Girls School in 1954<sup>39</sup>.

However, now 13 high schools and 2 Jr. High schools are in Jalpaiguri Municipal area. Among the important educational institutions in Jalpaiguri town 'The Jackson Medical Institution' was one of them. The institute was established in 1930<sup>40</sup>. But 1948 it became the Pharmacist Training Centre. Thereafter due to inevitable cause the North Bengal Medical College was established near Siliguri and this institution gradually lost importance and became non-existent today.

About higher education 'Anandra Chandra College' (A.C. College) is the oldest college in the whole district. A.C College was established in 1942 at Racecourse Para near Police Line<sup>41</sup>. For the establishment of the college the Routh Family had left an enormous contribution. Honourable, Sri Anandra Chandra Routh was a famous Tea-industrialist, social-worker and the Ex-chairman of the Jalpaiguri Municipality. His son donated the total land for the college and also donated Rs. 1,50,000 for college building. Thus, the name of college was commemorated with the name of his father Sri Ananda Chandra Routh. Within short time the main building of this college was shifted at Maskalaibari (Arabindo Nagar). Sri Indu Bhusan Mujumder was the first Principal of this college who was a great personality. So, many reputed and talented students studied in the college and they came from different corners of North Bengal.

In 1958 the Senior Basic Training College now called Ananda Chandra B. Ed College was established in the house of Md. Waliur Rahaman<sup>42</sup> on the DBC Road where now AC Commerce College was established. But after some years it was shifted on the Racecourse Road. First Principal of this college was Sri Sudhansu Sundar Maitra. This is the first B. Ed College in North Bengal and a huge number of teachers came for training from the different corners of North Bengal and South Bengal too.

The history of Educational Institution of Jalpaiguri occupied a very important place when the Jalpaiguri Engineering College was established (1961)<sup>43</sup>. From 1961–1967 the college was sponsored by an autonomous body and in 1968 the college was sponsored by the Govt. of West Bengal. Prof. NC. Bose became the first Principal of the college. The class was started at the building of Political Institute. Aftermath the main building was built on the western side of the town and near NH–31B. About the female education in the town the Prasanna Dev Women’s College has immense contribution. This college was established in 1950 with the contribution of Sri Prasannadeva Raykayet<sup>44</sup>. The first Principal was Prof. Swarna Kumari Roychoudhuri.

The Polytechnic Institute of Jalpaiguri was established in 1950 at Patgola Maidan of Kadamtala. The first Prof. was S.K. Bhattachariya. Another important college in Jalpaiguri town is Ananda Chandra Commerce College established in 1962 at the opposite side of Nurmanjil Bhaban (now DPSC office) on DBC Road. Prof. Naresh Ch. Bhowmik was the Founder Principal of this college<sup>45</sup>.

### **Library and Club Culture:**

Library and Club culture flourished in Jalpaiguri town since the Pre–colonial period. In 40’s in the 19th century the important Pathagars of the town were the Azad Hind Pathagar, Chalantika Pathagar and Babupara Pathagar. Sri Sushil Sannyal, Sri Sunil Chakraborty and Sri Sishir Sannyal had played an important role to establish the Azad Hind Pathagar (1946). Sri Sunil Paul is the pioneer for Babupara Pathagar. This Pathagar became the arbiter of cultural activities of the town at that time. Another Pathagar of this time is Bidhan Sangha of New town, Jagrata Sangha of Arbinda Nagar, and Sanghasree Pathagar was very important. With the contribution of Sri Syama Prasad Chaudhury and Sri Santosh Ghosh Suhrid Pathagar was established at Arobindanagar in 1952. Aftermath it was renamed Jagratah Sangha. Milan Sangha and Srikanta Pathagar were established in 1952. Sanghasree Club and Pathagar were established at New Circular Road in 1952. This Club was famous for Games and Sports of the town. An important club ‘Disaree’ was established for in 1960. This club was renowned for social welfare activities of the town. But the most important library in the town is the ‘District

Library', established at Race Course Para in 1952. More than 5000 valuable books in various sects were in this Library. Numerous Govt. declarations, Census Reports and District Hand Books are available in the library<sup>46</sup>.

If we want to discuss the games and sports of the town, the first and most important club must be mentioned is the 'Town Club', established by the European Planters in 1898. From the Colonial Ages so many renounced national and international players came to Town Club Maidan and show their skills in 50's and 60's decades of the 20th century. They are Sri Sailen Manna, Md. Ahmed Khan, Appa Rao, Mealal, P.K. Benerjee and many others.

The other clubs of this period are JYCC, JYMM, Friends Union, Raikat Para Young Assosiation, Milan Sangha, Sporting Young, Tarun Dal, New Town, Bose Para Cultural Club, Bidhan Sangha etc. During this time the renowned player in the town were Sri Ranu Guha Thakurata, Manilal Ghatak, Arun Lama, Niti Ghatak, Sukalayan Ghosh Dostidar, Barun Sanyal, Samar Gupta, Md. Mujambel Hussain, Md. Afsab Ali, Maheswar Ghatak, Probodh Saha, Amitesh Paul, Sanker Mukherjee, Haripada Karmakar, Laloo Ganguli, Mangal Bhowmik, Satyabrota Bose, Santu Chatarjee, Pradip Ghosh and many others<sup>47</sup>.

### **Cultural Activities:**

Through the Colonial Ages Jalpaiguri town became the arbiter of cultural activities of North Bengal. Due to professional needs so many enthusiastic persons assembled in the town. The passage of time slowly the Bengali middle class leadership became assertive inspite of being marginalized in different sectors. The Bengali Pleaders, teachers, service-holder, traders, landowners etc. formed the backbone of the native middle class of the town. Among these particularly the legal professionals took the most proactive role and next the service-holders also had a significant role to play. It can be seen that not in Jalpaiguri town alone in the Indian sub-continent perspective also the legal professionals proved to be prominent mouth piece of the middle class people. One of the most significant features of the leadership of Jalpaiguri town is that both the Hindu and Muslim leadership were active for the development of the town. The families of Sri Gopal

Chandra Ghosh and his son Sri Jogesh Chandra Ghosh, Jaichandra Sanayal, Tarini Prosad Roy, Shashi Kumar Negogy, Md. Rahim Bakshi, his son-in-law Md. Musharaff Hossain and Mahammad Sonallah widely known for philanthropic activities irrespective of their religious and cultural backgrounds formed a solid platform. Besides these the famous Raikat family had also an immense contribution to make the town.

### **Magazine Culture:**

From the Pre-partition Era (1947) numerous magazines were published in Jalpaiguri town. The first monthly magazine was '*Bhikshuk*' which was published in 1893 and its editor was Sri Sarada Kanta Moitra<sup>48</sup>. Then *Tristrotā*, *Janamat*, *Muktibani*, *Bharatbani*, *Desbandhu* etc. were published. This time the Muslim middle class also published two important little magazine i.e. *Naojown* and *Nishan*<sup>49</sup>.

After the Partition (1947) the town Jalpaiguri has been enriched by the publication of so many valuable yearly, monthly and weekly magazines. The first important weekly magazine in the town was '*Shimantik*' which was published in 1950 under the editorialship of Sri Birendra Prasad Bose. But now we cannot find it. Another important magazine—'*The Barta*' was published in 1952<sup>50</sup>. The famous Congress leader and social activist Sri Rabindra Nath Sikdar was the pioneer of this magazine. So many reputed teachers, writers had written their articles in this magazine. The first monthly magazine - '*Amader Katha*' published in 1948 by the famous socialist leader Sri Niranjan Dutta (editor). Then after some years it was re-published by Sri Basu Neogi who was the composer, proof-reader and editor of this magazine. The office of this magazine is near Merina Nursing Home. The reputed communist leader Sri Gobinda Kundu and others used to meet here regularly. In the last phase of 60's, another important magazine '*Jalpaiguri*' was published by the editor Sri Kalyan Sikdar (lawyer) with help of Sri Gobinda Kundu. After some years the magazine was closed. But aftermath it was reprinted by the editor Sri Kalyan Dey who was the librarian at A.C. College. An editorial committee was formed with Gobinda Kundu, Subhas Choudhury, Sakti Das