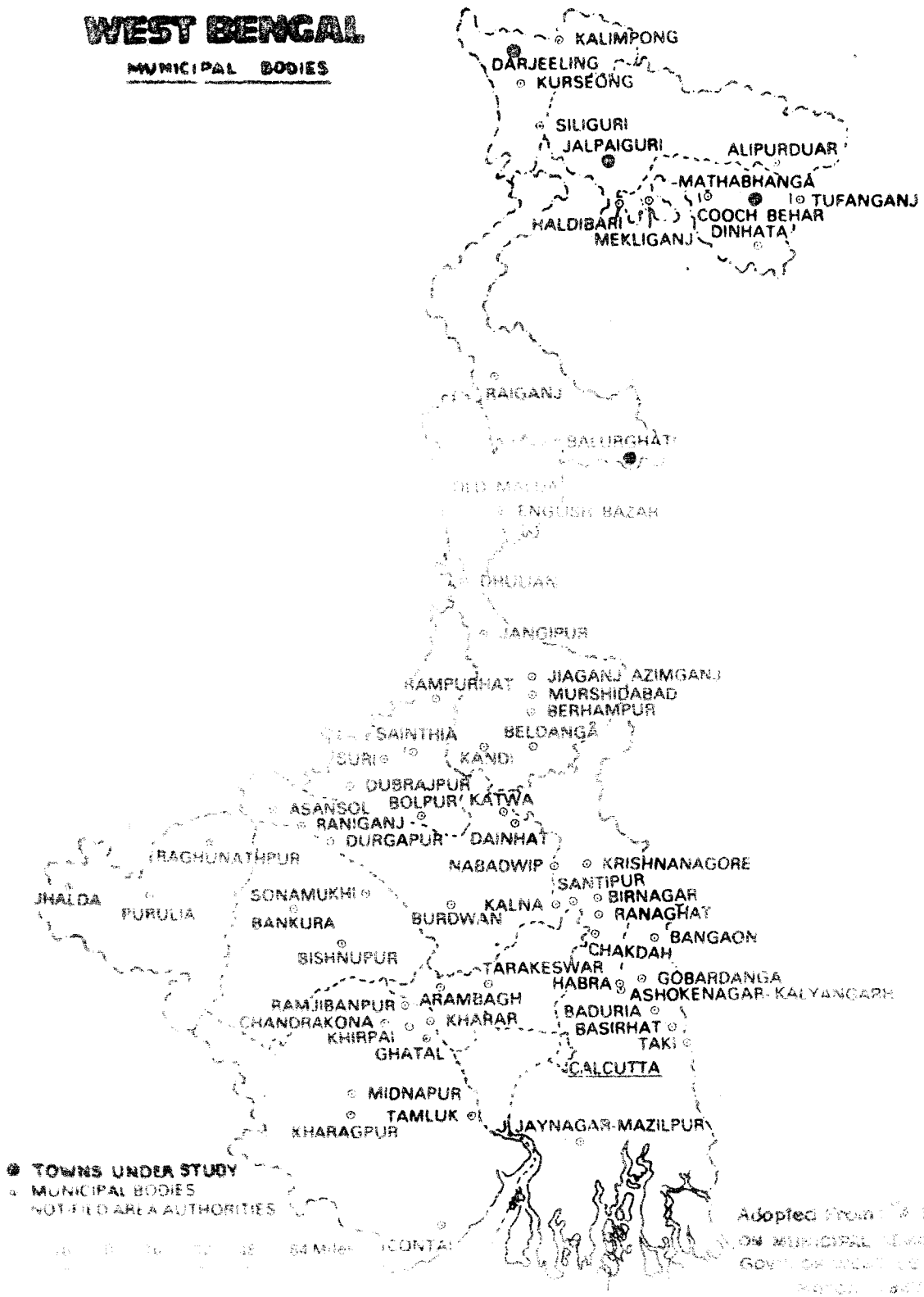


# WEST BENGAL

## MUNICIPAL BODIES



Adopted from THE HANDBOOK  
ON MUNICIPAL REVENUE SYSTEM  
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

The resurgence of interest in small and medium towns to generate more widespread and equitable economic development has stemmed out of primarily threefold considerations : the weight of the arguments about the need for a diffused and integrated system of settlements to promote economic with social equity; the reactions against the undesirable results of "top down" macro-economic approaches to development which failed to consider the lowest levels of the Spatial system; and pragmatic policy stemming out of the adverse effects in Third World countries of trends in urbanisation and rural development. (1)

Nevertheless, the debate still persists over the degree to which small urban centres should be the focus of regional development strategy and over the degree of linkage that should be encouraged with the respective hinterlands. (2) In reality, at the heart of the debate lies a number of questions. These are : do small and medium towns perform important functions justifying heavy national investment in their development? Can deliberate efforts to stimulate the growth and diversification of small towns be effectively planned and implemented? Would investments in the development of small towns and cities result in higher national economic development?