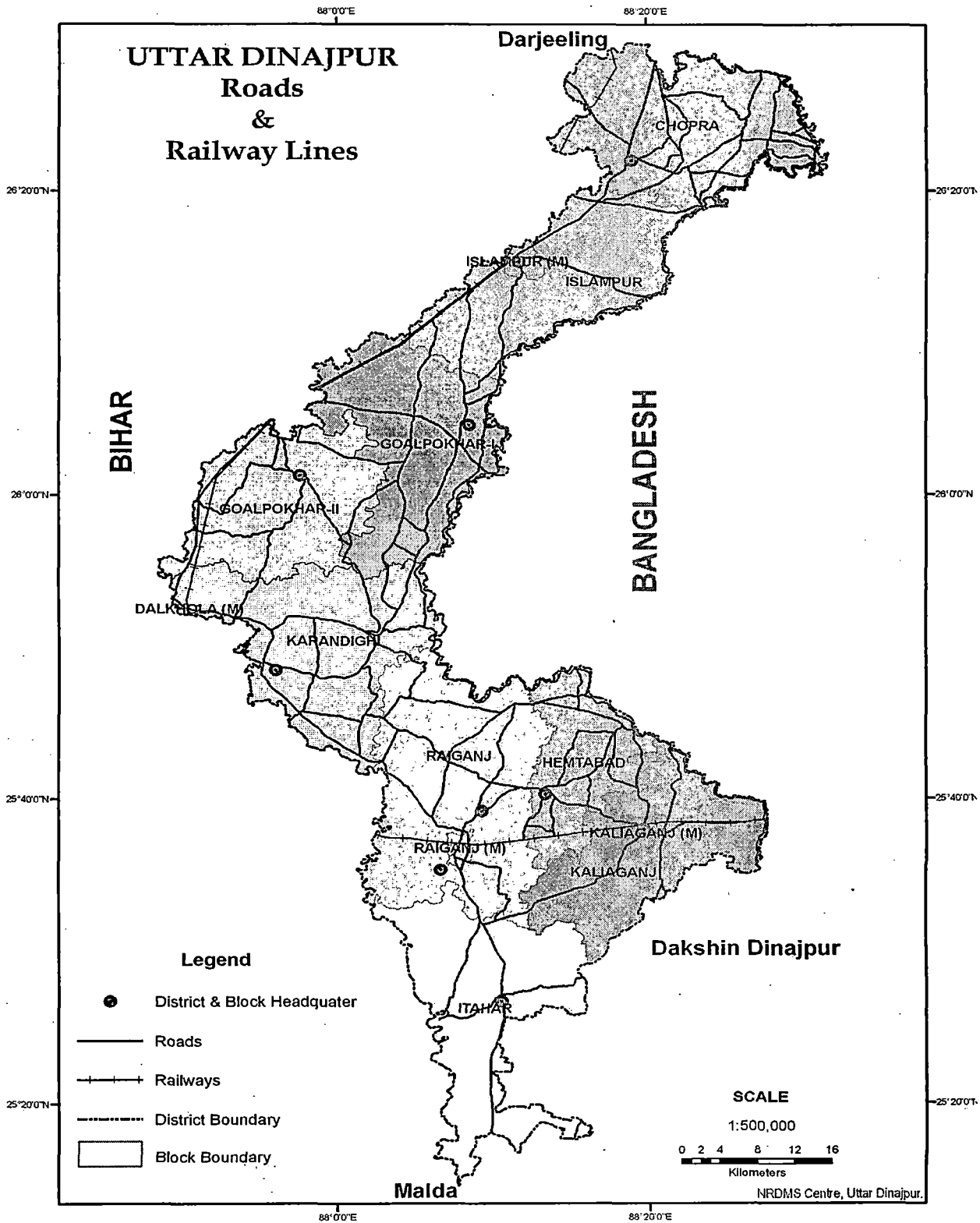


4.1 UTTAR DINAJPUR: A BRIEF PROFILE



North Dinajpur district or Uttar Dinajpur district (uttar

meaning North) came into existence on 1992-04-01 after the bifurcation of erstwhile West Dinajpur District by the Gazette Notification No. 177 L.R / 6M-7/92 dated 28.2.1992. It is located in the north of West Bengal. The District lies between latitude 25°11' N to 26°49' N and longitude 87°49' E to 90°00' E occupying an area of 3142 km² enclosed by Bangladesh on the east, Bihar on the west, Darjeeling District and Jalpaiguri District on the north and Malda District and South Dinajpur District on the south. The district is constituted of nine Blocks under two Sub-Divisions namely Raiganj and Islampur. This is a multi-lingual district dominated by Bengali speaking people and there are Urdu and Hindi speaking population in the Islampur area.

Uttar Dinajpur is well connected with the rest of the state through National Highways, State Highways and Railways. NH-31 and NH-34 pass through the heart of the district.

The regional topography is generally flat with a gentle southerly slope towards which the main rivers like Kulik, Nagar, Mahananda have flown. The District forms a part of the basin lying between Rajmahal hills on the east. The older alluvium is estimated to be

Pleistocene age. Uttar Dinajpur is bestowed with a very fertile soil. The soil is very rich in nature due to the alluvial deposition which helps to grow Paddy, Jute, Mesta and Sugarcane etc. Raiganj is located on the banks of the River Kulik and it is the District Headquarters where the "Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary", the second largest bird sanctuary in Asia, is situated.

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In Uttar Dinajpur district, there are 2 sub-divisions, Raiganj and Islampur, 110 km (68 miles) apart from each other. There are 4 Municipalities, 9 Blocks and 99 Panchayats covering 1516 villages. The total population is nearly 25 lakh (2.5 million), consisting mainly of rural masses. Bengali is the main language but a sizeable number of Urdu and Hindi speaking people live in Islampur sub-division.

The district comprises two subdivisions: Raiganj and Islampur. Raiganj consists of Raiganj municipality, Kaliaganj municipality and four community development blocs: Hemtabad, Itahar, Kaliaganj and Raiganj. Islampur subdivision consists of Islampur and Dalkhola municipalities and five community development blocs: Chopra, Goalpokhar–I, Goalpokhar–II, Islampur and Karandighi. Raiganj is the district headquarters. There are 9 police stations- 9 development blocks, 4 municipalities, 98 gram panchayats and 1516 villages in this district.

Other than municipality area, each subdivision contains community development blocs which in turn are divided into rural areas and census towns. In total, there are 10 urban units: 4 municipalities and 2 census towns. Raiganj and Kasba form an urban agglomeration. Dalkhola was a census town in census 2001, but it was promoted to be a municipality in 2003.

The district is divided into 7 assembly constituencies:

1. Chopra (assembly constituency no. 27),
2. Islampur (assembly constituency no. 28),
3. Goalpokhar (assembly constituency no. 29),

4. Karandighi (assembly constituency no. 30),
5. Raiganj (SC) (assembly constituency no. 31),
6. Kaliaganj (SC) (assembly constituency no. 32) and
7. Itahar (assembly constituency no. 34).

Raiganj and Kaliaganj constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) candidates. Along with five assembly constituencies from Darjeeling district, Chopra and Islampur constituencies form the Darjeeling (Lok Sabha constituency). Goalpokhar, Karandighi, Raiganj and Itahar constituencies are part of the Raiganj (Lok Sabha constituency).

District HQ is Raiganj. It has 4 Municipalities: Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Dalkhola & Islampur

4.2 Facts & Figures about the District

Area	3142 Sq. Km
Latitude	250 11' N to 260 49' N
Longitude	870 49' E to 900 00' E
Population 2001)	2441824

Males	1260747
Females	1181077
Population density	778 Per Sq. K.M.
Sex Ratio	937
Literacy Rate	47.89%
No. of Sub-Division	02
No. of Blocks	09
No. of Villages	3192

4.3 Demographic Profile of the District at a Glance:

Sl.No.	Particular	Uttar Dinajpur	West Bengal	India
1.	Area (Sq.Km.)	3142	81,752	32,87263
2.	Villages	1516	37910	587226
3.	Population	2441794	8,0221171	1027015247
4.	Sex Ratio (F / 1000 M)	937	934	933
5.	Growth Rate	28.72%	17.84%	21.34%
6.	Density of Population	778	904	324
7.	Literacy Rate	47.89%	69.22%	65.38%
8.	S C	676582	16080611	138273277
9.	S T	124865	3808760	67758380
10.	SC to Total Population	27.71%	5.59%	8.01%

Sl.No.	Particular	Uttar Dinajpur	West Bengal	India
11.	ST to Total Population	5.11%	5.62%	7.53%
12.	CPR	21.59%	53.30%	--
13.	Safe Delivery	23.60%	52.80%	--
14.	BPHC	9	--	--
15.	PHC	20	--	--

4.4. List of Gram Panchayats in Uttar Dinajpur

List of Gram Panchayats under Uttar Dinajpur District

Sl. No.	Block	GP
1	Chopra	Sonapur
2	Chopra	Chopra
3	Chopra	Daspara
4	Chopra	Lakhipur
5	Chopra	Chutiakhore
6	Chopra	Majhiali
7	Chopra	Haptiagachh
8	Chopra	Ghirnigaon

9	Islampur	Matikunda-I
10	Islampur	Matikunda-II
11	Islampur	Ramganj-I
12	Islampur	Ramganj-II
13	Islampur	Ponditpota-I
14	Islampur	Ponditpota-II
15	Islampur	Gaisal-I
16	Islampur	Gaisal-II
17	Islampur	Gunjaria
18	Islampur	Kamalagaon Sujali
19	Islampur	Agdimti Khanti
20	Islampur	Islampur
21	Islampur	Gobindapur
22	Goalpokhar-II	Nijampur-I
23	Goalpokhar-II	Nijampur-II
24	Goalpokhar-II	Surjapur-I
25	Goalpokhar-II	Surjapur-II
26	Goalpokhar-II	Sahapur-I
27	Goalpokhar-II	Sahapur-II
28	Goalpokhar-II	Torial

29	Goalpokhar-II	Kanki
30	Goalpokhar-II	Belon
31	Goalpokhar-II	Bidyanandapur
32	Goalpokhar-II	Chakulia
33	Goalpokhar-I	Dharampur-I
34	Goalpokhar-I	Dharampur-II
35	Goalpokhar-I	Goagaon-I
36	Goalpokhar-I	Goagaon-II
37	Goalpokhar-I	Sahapur-I
38	Goalpokhar-I	Sahapur-II
39	Goalpokhar-I	Jaingonn
40	Goalpokhar-I	Lodhan
41	Goalpokhar-I	Khagore
42	Goalpokhar-I	Mohua
43	Goalpokhar-I	Panjipara
44	Goalpokhar-I	Pokharia
45	Goalpokhar-I	Goti
46	Goalpokhar-I	Goalpokher
47	Karandighi	Dalkhola-I
48	Karandighi	Raniganj

49	Karandighi	Karandighi-I
50	Karandighi	Karandighi-II
51	Karandighi	Rasakhowa-I
52	Karandighi	Rasakhowa-II
53	Karandighi	Altapur-I
54	Karandighi	Altapur-II
55	Karandighi	Lahutara-I
56	Karandighi	Lahutara-II
57	Karandighi	Bazarguan-I
58	Karandighi	Bazarguan-II
59	Karandighi	Domohona
60	Raiganj	Barua
61	Raiganj	Gouri
62	Raiganj	Maraikura
63	Raiganj	Rampur
64	Raiganj	Bindole
65	Raiganj	Sherpur
66	Raiganj	Mahipur
67	Raiganj	Kamlabari-I
68	Raiganj	Kamlabari-II

69	Raiganj	Jagadishpur
70	Raiganj	Bhatun
71	Raiganj	Sitgram
72	Raiganj	Birghai
73	Raiganj	Bahin
74	Hemtabad	Bishnupur
75	Hemtabad	Hemtabad
76	Hemtabad	Chainagar
77	Hemtabad	Nowda
78	Hemtabad	Bangalbari
79	Kaliyaganj	Bochadunga
80	Kaliyaganj	Bhander
81	Kaliyaganj	Mustafanagar
82	Kaliyaganj	Dhankoil
83	Kaliyaganj	Radhikapur
84	Kaliyaganj	Baruna
85	Kaliyaganj	Anantapur
86	Kaliyaganj	Malgaon
87	Itahar	Joyhat
88	Itahar	Patirajpur

89	Itahar	Durlavpur
90	Itahar	Surun-II
91	Itahar	Itahar
92	Itahar	Kapasia
93	Itahar	Durgapur
94	Itahar	Gulandar-I
95	Itahar	Surun-I
96	Itahar	Gulandar-II
97	Itahar	Marnai
98	Itahar	Chhayghara