

PREFACE

The topic under study, "Problems and Prospects of Development of Siliguri and Jalpaiguri Town - A Comparative Study" is selected to unravel the different origin, trend, nature and scale of growth of two towns viz. Siliguri and Jalpaiguri, located almost in the same physical set-up and very close to each other (45 km distance). The programme is not merely the study of the said elements in their present situation, it also hints to some proposals for the solution of many problems coming across in those towns. Follow up of those proposals might shape these towns to centres of economy of the North Bengal, a region of West Bengal.

The work has been divided into seven chapters preceded by an "Introduction". The introductory portion of the work is devoted to identify the location and history of the towns. It also deals with the purpose and objectives of the study, methodology used for study and design of the thesis.

Chapter I deals with demographic studies i.e., population structure and its composition, its density pattern, growth and migration of the people. Literacy rate and the Occupations of the town dwellers are also discussed in this chapter. The Chapter II is devoted to study major landuse pattern. Distribution, characteristic and changes of landuses in the towns have also been analysed in this chapter. In Chapter III different socio-economic amenities and their characteristics in the towns which include housing and living condi-

tion of the people, different functional and cultural characteristics are discussed in detail.

The Chapter IV has been dealt with identification of various problems and their origin. It is followed by Chapter V that throws some light on the formulation of strategies for development. In this chapter examinations and analysis of the previous plans prepared by various authorities are made and desired strategies for the development of Siliguri and Jalpaiguri towns are suggested. The next chapter i.e. Chapter VI is devoted to analysis and synthesis of statistical data obtained from field study, different mathematical observations as well as computational results. In this chapter various plans for all round development of these two towns have also been discussed.

Finally, summarising the problems and comparing different aspects in both the towns some suggestions have been mentioned for their Master Plan in Chapter VII. A proposal for developing these two towns together by establishing an industrial belt in the gap inbetween these towns have also been suggested. This chapter concludes with some futuristic outlook for the development of Siliguri and Jalpaiguri towns.