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## Geographical Location and Nomenclature of Jalpaiguri District

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**Abstract:**Jalpaiguri district is one of the districts of North Bengal. Geographically this district is one of the most diverse. The region has been variously described in various literature since ancient times. The historical importance of this region can be explored from literary accounts. There are various theories about the naming of this region. Along with this different ethnic groups can be seen living here. Since the formation of the district the size and shape of the district has changed in many ways and at different introduction of discussion research focusing on multi diversity Jalpaiguri.

**Key words:**Geographical Location Jalpaiguri,North Bengal, Pundravardhan etc.

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### Introduction

It should be mentioned at the beginning of the discussion that the history and social structure of the North-Eastern region of the Indian Sub-continent is extensive. Due to the geographical location and the characteristic diversity of the population, an alternative Structure developed. The driving force behind this automotive structure was the Anglo- Mongoloyed Population. This population is called Kirat by the Aryan's in their literature<sup>1</sup>. That is the historical importance of the area is understood. Although important from the historical point of view there is a considerable lack of information in the construction of history here. This is because of the lack of continued history and the origin of the northern region of North Bengal it still not discussed.

When the topic of North Bengal comes up, it is important to discuss about the northern region of North Bengal. In order to know about any area, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of its geographical location. In Tantric literature. This region is described as Ratnapitha on the other hand the geographical identity of this region is found in

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Kalikapurana. This vast geographical area is divided into four parts line-Soumar pitha, "Subarna pitha", "Kamapitha" and "Ratna pitha". To the Ratnapitha has Manas River and to the west has Karotoya River. In which again Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and eastern part of Goalpara are included.<sup>2</sup>

The historical importance of this region has been recorded in various literatures since ancient-times. Before discussing the historical importance of North Bengal, it is necessary to understand what should be the definition of North Bengal. It can't be said exactly when the word North Bengal was first used. The present North Bengal refers to the six districts of the northern region namely North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Malda, Darjeeling Jalpaiguri and Cooch behar. At present these two districts of Kalimpong and Alipurduar have been formed to speed up the administrative work, So currently the number of district in North Bengal is 8. The historic decision to form North Bengal was taken in July 1947, originally the natural boundaries of present-day North Bengal were determined through the Radcliff award, In this case modern North Bengal was formed with part of Malda, Dinajpur, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts Subsequently by 1950 Coochbehar was merged with the Kard State to establish its geographical and administrative boundaries as North Bengal

The region called North Bengal has been known by different names since ages. In this case it can be described Step by step: -

i. North Bengal was once known as "Pundra", "Pundravardhan", "prag-Jyotishpur", "Varendrabhumi" and also "Kiratbhumi".

ii. At the time of Rajendra Chola's Bengal invasion, this region known as "Uttarir Ladam".

During the Medieval ages, this region was known as "Uttardesh".

iii. Bankimchandra used the term "Uttar Bangla" in his Anandamath novel<sup>3</sup>.

So, it appears that the territory called North Bengal is live. Material gives amazing place of land Literary an idea of the historical importance of the region. This time we will discuss about Jalpagari, one of the districts of this land. It is also necessary to discuss the geographical boundaries of North Bengal and the geographical location of Jalpaiguri in its definition Jalpaiguri distrust has its own topographic features. The south is the land of evergreens The Mountains, rivers forests and horizons are full of variety. The mountain merges with the Himalayan plain<sup>4</sup>.

Major Renni Survey and observations from 1765 to 1773-AD Snow that roughly from the 26.5° North axis the sal and khair forest starts and merges into the deep forest<sup>5</sup>.

This district has a unique variety from the natural point of view. But according to the geographical environment and the nature of the production system, this district can be divided into the parts like-

- a. Northern Himalaya
- b. Interspersed with plantation and forests
- c. Agriculture region of plains<sup>6</sup>

That is an idea about the topographic structure of the district is being obtained. Now discuss how Jalpaiguri emerged as independent district.

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Marginal about Jalpaiguri is a Himalayan district of undivided Bengal. In the year of 1864, 12th Nov, the West Dooars or Bengal Dooars were annexed to British India by an official proclamation. Meanwhile after a year. Of Sporadic fighting the defeated Bhutan signed the Sinchula treaty on 11th Nov 1865. After the signing of the agreement the initiative to form a new district beginning. Meanwhile, the Western Dooars was formed in 1864 with the declaration- of India I and of western Dooars. These western Dooars were formed around three transits like-

- a. These region between Teesta and Tursa was constituted to Sadar with main office at Maynaguri.
- b. Boxa Tansil was formed in the region between torsa and Sankesh rivers with Boxa as the headquarters.
- c. Dalimcoat Tansil was formed on the Willy area adjacent to Darjeeling in dooars.

However, on 8th December 1868 Kishanganj, Sannyashikata and Fakirganj Thana of Jalpaiguri Sub- Division Dooars and Rangpur district were added<sup>7</sup>.

Since, the emergence of the district, people of different-larks and tribes started to build settlement's here. The diversity of settlements is not seen anywhere all in West Bengal. However, there is difference of opinion about how Jalpaiguri was named. I think there is a need to discuss this matter.

Paritosh Dutta Specify discuss the mystery of Jalpaiguri name. The matter is much the this-

Word→ JE-LE	Word→ PE	Word → SWAR
Meaning - Market	Meaning - wool/ Blanket or worm clothes	Meaning – East side
Word→ JE-LE-PE	Word→ GO	Word→ RI
Meaning - wool/ Blanket or worm	Meaning – Door	Meaning – HILL

From the above analysis it is seen that the gateway to Bhutan is called Dooars. From which the English coined the term Dooars. English word Doors, Sanskrit word Doors, whose Bengal ward is Duar. That is how Dooars was named. Also, a place in Sikkim is named Je-le-Pela. It was located. On the Tibetan Border and was a centre of exchange. Here the word 'La' mean's entrance. It is a synonym of Jele Po-gori, the ward Gori is omitted as it is located in the hills, and added “La”

The above name agrees with the description of Renell and Hooker. Not with the olive tree whose original name is Jalpesh, Jalpish or Jalpeswar. From which Jalpaiguri was born<sup>8</sup>. In other words the matter regarding the meaning of Jalpauguri district creates a lot of curiosity. Later many rhymes centred on this district. Amiya Kumar Bandhopadhyay's name has to be mentored in this context. He wrote in one Place:

“Kata, Mari, Guri  
Ei teen e Jalpaiguri<sup>9</sup>”

Although apart from these three words, the words. "Ganj; vita, Pur, Bari & Tori etc can also be associated with various name of this district. Prof. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya's opinion on the nomenclature matter is worth considering. He say's why the geographical nomenclature of North Bengal seems Significant, Pub-Kona-Gori, Sil-guri, Jalpaiguri etc

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name was adopted from Kannada gadde, Telegu gadda believed by lingual. These words were used to mean river banus and townships<sup>10</sup>. That is one thing clear that different cultures were bring in this region. This district is called "Mini India" as such a diverse culture is not seen anywhere else in India.

Jalpaiguri a district of diverse culture, has been many changes since its establishment. In this case, it can be said that by December 8th 1868, a notification was published. that Jalpaiguri Sub-divisions of west. Dooars and Rangpur districts were amalgamated to form Jalpaiguri district. Meanwhile, the district is again divided into two subdivisions. There are-

- a. Sadar is formed from Jalpaiguri Sub-division of Rangpur district.
- b. Falakata Sub-division was formed on the territory between Teesta and Jaldhaka<sup>11</sup>

Meanwhile, long after the formation of the district Considerable changes took place in the boundary area. These issues also need to be discussed. Can be shown based on the data obtained

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name of the Place</i>	<i>Transformed from the district</i>	<i>Area<sup>12</sup></i>
1870	Palgram P.S. form. Rangpur district transferred to falakata Sub-division.	–	–
1880	–	Deosthem (A small trout hilly country east to Buxa)	11 S.q Miles
1881	–	A Portion of Silguri town and some adjoining land's transferees to Darjeeling district-	–
1888	The part of county Known as Jaint".	–	2143 sq miles
1896	–	Taluk in Chotaguma –Pargana Bhalka Transferred to the Goalpara in Assam.	–
1911	–	civil, criminal and false Jurisdiction of some Portion of Taluk Kharia'	870 areas

From the above list one idea gets from that 1870-1911 A-D Several areas were annexed or isolated to this district, Naturally there have been changes in the border area as well. However, the biggest change in the administrative Part as well as in the boundary area came after the Partition of India. In this context it can be Said that- on 15th August 1947 Patgram, Pachagarh, Deviganj. Boda and Tetulia were merged with present day Bangladesh. It goes without saying that the size of the district was naturally reduced.

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Located in the foot hits of Himalaya's, this district is home to numerous communities. Their linguistic diversity is a sign of the district uniqueness. The location of numerous 10 Language Speaking people can be noticed again in this district, gratin came a list presented based on the Statistics obtained.

Mother Tongue	Number of People
Nepalese (Included Garkhali, Gurung, Limbu, Sherpa, Tamang)	113043
Urdu	3604
Sadri	76610
Munda	43749
Santali	27413
Rajbansi	18673
Boro	5773
Meech	9936
Rabha	4506
Malpahari	1774
Toto	376

The above list shows that a large number of people in the district belong to Nepali, Urdu, Sadri, Munda, Santali Rajbansi. Boro, Mech,Rava, Malpahari and Toto language groups. Besties, the position of other groups can be seen. A list is given based on the information obtained according to the district gazetteer of the religious communities bring here and their presence, apart from the linguistic aspect -

Religious Community	Year (1961) <sup>14</sup>
Hindu	1160954
Muslim	120771
Christian	48570
Buddhist	18258
Jain	780
Sikh	950

A clear idea about Jalpaiguri district is contained from the Statistics. Itis important to look at the police administration and Police Stations here along with discussing the issues related to the district. Needless to say, many old Police stations were abashed and many Police stations

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were added in this district when entered the year of 150 years. In this case, a list of defunct Police Stations is provided

## Defunct Police Station

- i. Boda Police Station
- ii. Pachagarh Police Station
- iii. Debiganj Police Station
- iv. Tetulia
- v. Patgram

## Present Police Stations

- |                |                 |              |               |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| i. Jalpaiguri  | ix. Mal         |              |               |
| ii. Rajganj    | x. Alipurduars  |              |               |
| iii. Mainaguri | xi. Salbari     | iv. Dhupguri | xii. Kalchini |
| v. Nagrakata   | xiii. Kumargram |              |               |
| vi. Meteli     | xiv. Madarihat  |              |               |
| vii. Kranti    | xv. Birpara     | viii. Damdim |               |

Along, with there, a list of Police Stations within the present. Jalpaiguri headquarters is also provided :

Kotwali

Rajganj

Bhaktinagar

Maynaguri

Dhupguri

Banarhat

Mal

Meteli

Nagrakata<sup>15</sup>

## Conclusion

In terms of general discussion, it can be found that the aila of this district is 6227 62 Sqkm, out of which tea gardens are 1987 Sq. Km. Jalpaiguri is one of the districts of North Bengal cantered on 13 blocks, 125 villages Panchayet and 152 tea-gardens<sup>16</sup>. The district in very unique as such a diverse district is not seen anywhere else in West Bengal.

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