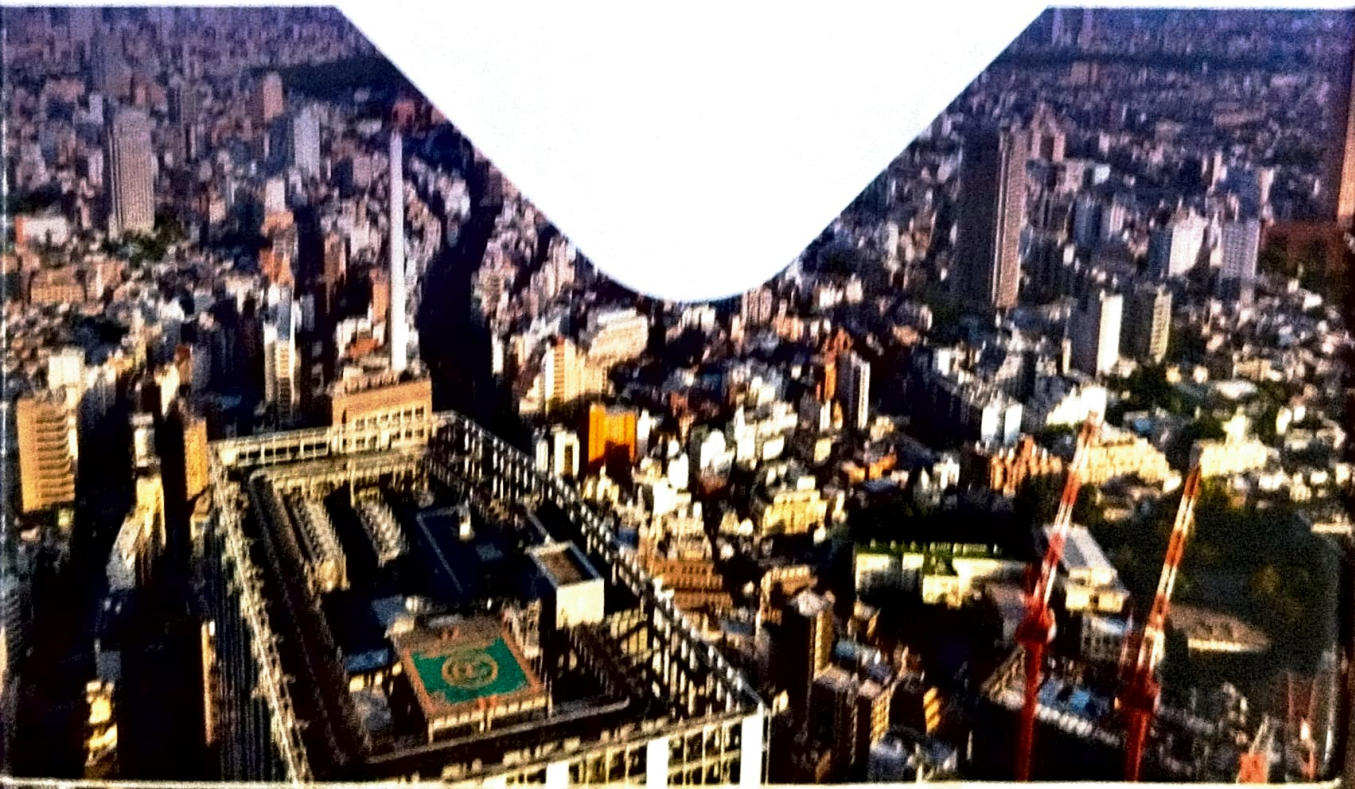


Rural and Urban Development in India: Issues and Challenges

Edited by:

Dr. Neelee K.C. Lepcha



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Published by :

Sanjay Gupta

RAJESH PUBLICATIONS

1, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110002

Ph.: 011-23274550, 43084725

Email : rajeshpublications@gmail.com

rajeshpubdelhi@gmail.com

Website : www.rajeshpublications.com

© Editor

(Dr. Neelee K.C. Lepcha)

First Published in India : 2022

ISBN: 978-93-91139-25-4

Printed in India by :

Aryan Digital Press

Delhi-110002

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From a Mere Military Cantonment to the Capital of Green Colony : Journey of Jalpaiguri Town and Process of Urbanization in Pre-Independence Period

Sudip Bhattacharya

Introduction

In recent times, what we called Jalpaiguri, is not known in the same name during the initial colonial period. In this regard, various interpretations have been found, about the previous name of Jalpaiguri. During 1788 the particular area termed as "Jelpigory" is found from 'Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan or the Mogul Empire' by Mr. Rennel. In 1849 J.D. Hooker explained "Jeelpigoree as a large straggling village". Later, during the time of Bhutan war, David Field Rennia named the area as "Julpigorie"¹. It has also been seen in the District Gazetteer that by the name of famous Jalpesh Temple, the area was known as Jalpaiguri and according to the same source, the large number of Olive tree was available in the nearby area (Olive is called in Bengali as "Jalpai"), so the area was being called as Jalpaiguri. But these all are assumptions and there are no conclusive evidences in this regard. Subsequently, the king of Baikunthapur, Jayantaveba shifted his kingdom to Jalpaiguri from Baikunthapur² during 1793 to 1800.³

From another interpretation, it has been found in this region the availability of 'Jalpaye' group of people who supply water to Royal House of Baikunthapur from the holy river