

# The Coastal Plains in Tamralipta (Tamluk)



**Prasenjit Nayek**

Guest Lecturer,  
Deptt. of History,  
Purba, Medinipur,  
West Bengal, India

## Abstract

A Coastal Plain is a low – lying flat area that is adjoining or close to the sea.

The Coastal Plains of India are narrow strips of land running on either side of the Bay of Bengal. Those Plains lie between the Ghats and the sea. The from a V Shape around the plateau region of India, joiningat the Southern tip of peninsular India at West Bengal where the town of tamluk is located. The pain along the eastern coast between theEastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal is called eastern coastal plain. These plains run for about 80 K.M in length and their width is about 120 K. M in the eastern Coastal plain and 65 K.M in the western coastal plain. The eastern coastal plain is wider than the western coastal plain. The moisture content in the air is high in these plains due quick evaporation of water from the sea the Tamluk Ghats bordering the plain have a cooler climate.

**Keywords :** Coastal Plains, Tamluk.

## Introduction

The eastern coastal plain extends from West Bengal Coast in the east to the Tamil Nadu coast in the south. This Tamluk plain is drained by major rivers Saraswati was silted up. These rivers how across the plains and empty into the Bay of Bengal. The deltas of These Rivers from a large part of The Tamluk plain. The area is known as the 'Rice Bowl of India' because it is very fertile and is suitable for rice plantations. Coconut, Casuarine frees grow in abundance on the plain. These plains are divided into two parts the Eastern part and Western coast in the west.

Purba Medinipur is one of the 18 administrative districts of West Bengal with its headquarters located at Tamluk. Tamralipta was the most important port of Bengal. Which was previously called Tamralipta. The district was carved out of the erstwhile Medinipur district on January 1, 2002, The district was 4 sub- division : Tamluk, Contai, Agra and Haldia (Anonymous, website) total area of the district is 430140 laks Hac .The Purba Medinipur district 21° 36' 35" N and 22° 57'10" N Latitude and 86° 33'E west and 88° 12' 40" E East Longitude and is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal Balasore district of Orissa State in its south, Paschim Medinipur in its west , Howrah district in the north and south 24parganas in the east .

## Study Area

Tamralipta word comes from two Sanskrit words 'Tamra' and 'Lipta' meaning full of copper. According to the folklore concept the word Tamralipta come from the king Tamradhwaja (meaning the king with copper flag/symbol) name who was the king of Mayura-Dhwaja (Peacock) dynasty. Location suitability of Tamralipta port was the very good, eastern side river Rupnarayan and western side river Subarnarekha and the port was nearer of the Bay of Bengal, where river Ganga meet with Bay of Bengal and this site is confluence portion of river Ganga. The place Geonkhali was nearer portion of the port where river Rupnarayan meets with river Hugli. During historical time trading take place through this port by Uttarapath.The port was connected with different parts of ancient India, like Varanasi, Rajgriha through land routes<sup>8</sup>. Cotton cloths, rice, pearls, glass was exported and gold, silver was imported through the Tamralipta port , not only that horse was also exported and imported and the horse was exported to the China. During the historical time for come to the ancient India from China, Japan through sea routes the mandatory was that come to the Tamralipta port. Hinterland of Tamralipta port was extended up to Assam, Bangladesh, Bihar, Uttarpradesh, and Orissa<sup>7</sup>. Latitudinal and longitudinal location of the port was 22.30N and 87.920E (approximate) and average elevation was 7m (approximate) from mean sea-level. Archaeological excavation process was done by Archaeological survey of

India in the adjoining areas of the port area and terracotta objects, pottery and coins are found there. Stratigraphically the area reveals the different historical period of different dynasty and the area represents the sophisticated urban civilization and society was closely related with quality artistic lifestyle. Hiuen Tsang was also come to this port and the condition reveals the importance of historical Tamralipta port and its adjoining urban community's cultural richness. At Tamralipta port adjoining areas there was cauterization of settlement take place according to their occupation and specific family relate with specific occupation, although the area formerly known as sophisticated urbanized area. Malakar Para (flower traders), Adhikary Para (Brahmins), Metia Para (transport business and timber merchants), Dey Para (gold traders), Mathore Para (sweepers colony)- this type of caste basis occupational homogeneity now also found in the area.

#### **Discussion**

Port formation conditions depend on different Geographical conditions or factors, such as location of harbor, navigability, hinterland, location suitability, etc. During historical time at Tamralipta port, these above preconditions were prevailing. The port situated was near the Bay of Bengal and in the eastern India this port was big hinterland, consequently the Tamralipta port was flourished during historical time. Not only that in the adjoining areas of the port maximum people was rich and they were included with business, consequently Tamralipta port produces as an important export and import center during this time. But it is a common matter is that geographical Conditions are not static. The conditions are changes due to changes of time. Unfortunately at Tamralipta port and its adjoining areas the favorable geographical pre-conditions of port formation was being started reduces, consequently the Tamralipta port was start loss of the navigability and consequently the port totally abolished. The main causes of the abolition of Tamralipta port was siltation of river, retreat of Bay of Bengal, changes of river course of river Brahmaputra and Hugli and their tributaries, reduces the hinterland, emergence the substitute port, political and social factors<sup>13</sup>. Unfortunately during this time no draizing system was prevailing for controlling the siltation process in the port area. History told that the Tamralipta port was start reduces the importance and shifting the natural harbor from Pal and Sen. period due to process of siltation and emergence of Saptagram in the area during Middle age and emergence of Chattagram as a natural harbor port at south-east portion of Bangladesh<sup>18</sup>. Chattagram port emergence as a substitute port of Tamralipta port. Shallowness of river Rupnarayan due to siltation process was the major cause of fall of Tamralipta port. Gangetic delta at the confluence of river Ganga are produced due to process of siltation of Ganga and its tributaries is the best example of abolition of natural port like Tamralipta, because the port was locate near the confluence of Ganga and the Gangetic delta are formed due to long term depositional process of river near the estuary. Not only that changes of the

worldwide business routes and development of land transport system, reduces the importance of Tamralipta port. The materials such as-jute cloth, cotton cloth, horse, wood, copper, etc. was exchanged through Tamralipta port during historical time, but due to changes of time demands of these materials are going to be reduces, consequently Tamralipta port was start loss in business. So, abolition of Tamralipta port was a long term process and several factors responsible for this.

#### **Aim of Study**

The Tamluk coastal plain weather is hot and humid. The eastern part of the plain receives light monsoon rain. The western part of the plain is the only region in the country that experiences winter monsoon. This is caused by rain bearing clouds that move from the Bay of Bengal and hit the Eastern Ghats. In most part of the plain, the climate is cool and pleasant during winter session.

In the present study the area with low deny composition. But high level of muddy flat basin that broad east's richness of ground vegetation protect soil havoc to generate succession to reach the vegetation of plantation stand to reach wearer climax. According to Corre Jean Jcques (1991) coastal sand dunes are the natural structures which protect the coastal environment by absorbing energy from wind, tide, and wave action.

#### **Conclusion**

The coastal zone, two types of linkages are necessary to achieve inter-sectoral cohesion viz (i) linkages between the agricultural sector and the industrial sector and (ii) Inter-industry linkages. The planned development of Haldia is apparently considerate to the latter. However, for the vast outlaying rural areas including the remotely located place in the Sundarbans region, a linkage relationships to be established between the agriculture and the industrial sector for a symbolic growth. Agro based industry should be setup for reducing the pressure on land and rectifying the increasingly adverse main land ratio. This could also help in provide market for rural skill based product. A frame of work should be made by Scientists, Researchers and Government while the force should be impressed by policy makers and politicians to make it a complete and eco-sustainable in near future. So, more and more projects are required to make a comprehensive report of the said area to solve the problem in near future.

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