

Regarding need to promote Jalpaiguri in West Bengal as a heritage tourism destination-laid

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. The Jalpesh Temple, built in the traditional Kamrup style and dedicated to Lord Shiva, dates back to the 9th century and is especially revered during the Jalpaiguri monsoon festival. The Bhramridevi Temple along with the Garteshwari Temple forms part of the revered Shaktipeeth, is a prominent spiritual site surrounded by natural beauty, attracting devotees year-round. The Jotileshwar Temple, another ancient Shiva temple, has deep historical and mythological roots tied to the region's rulers. The Devi Choudhurani Temple, linked to the legendary revolutionary Devi Choudhurani and her accomplices Darpadeb Raikat and Bhabani Pathak, embodies the area's rich history of resistance against British rule. These temples, scattered across the district, can form a vibrant "Heritage and Pilgrimage Tourism Circuit", promoting spiritual tourism. Development of this circuit with improved roads, visitor amenities, and promotional efforts would attract pilgrims and tourists, create employment, and preserve the region's cultural legacy. I urge the Ministry of Tourism to consider this proposal under relevant schemes to promote Jalpaiguri as a heritage tourism destination.