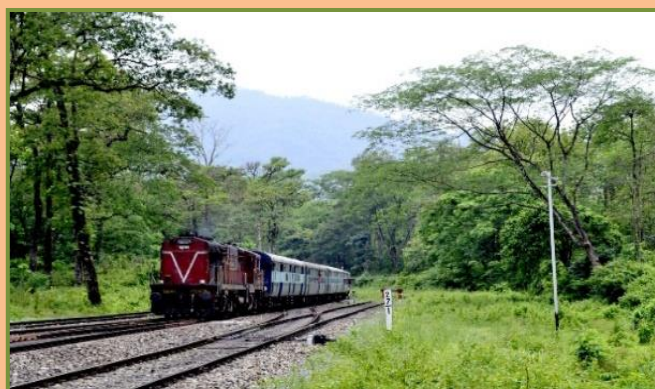




Northeast Frontier Railway Alipurduar Division



APDJ Division at a Glance

Division - At Glance

INTRODUCTION

Alipurduar Division is the gateway to the enchanting Northeast region comprising of seven states, also known as the Seven Sisters (Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh). Alipurduar Junction (APDJ) is the Head Quarter of the Division. Alipurduar is a district town of Alipurduar District and is situated on the foot- hills of Himalayas close to Bhutan on one side and Bangladesh on the other side. APDJ Division came into being in 1958 and was one of the biggest Divisions of Indian Railway which underwent bifurcation: after Rangiya Division was carved entirely out of this Division in 2003. APDJ Division is turning out as a front runner in loading of dolomites, potato & bamboo chips etc. The rail track between Siliguri and Alipurduar Jn. zigzags through the Dooars, a picturesque place endowed with natural bounty at the foothills of Bhutan, with numerous hilly rivers-rivulets criss-crossing its fertile terrain. This BG Section was opened for traffic in the year 2003 after gauge conversion of the old MG section. Train running started in New Cooch Behar – New Changrabanda new line (BG) and New Mal Jn. – Changrabandha (GC) section in the year 2016. On the other side, the section from Raninagar to New Bongaigaon spans across the lush greenery, interspersed with flowing rivers like Teesta, Torsa, Jaldhaka, Sankosh, Raidak with abundance of nature everywhere. This division occupies a key position not only because it acts as a conduit line between the North-eastern States and the rest of the country but also as a gateway to Bhutan and Bangladesh.



Between Sevak and Bagrakot

Salient Historical Events:

- This railway division was formed on 15 January 1958 with its headquarter at Alipurduar Jn.
- The Broad Gauge line from Raninagar to New Bongaigaon was opened for traffic in the year 1964-65. The 33 Km. long section between New Bongaigaon – Jogighopa was however opened during 1966.
- The Siliguri Jn.-Alipurduar Jn.-New Bongaigaon section was converted into Broad Gauge during 2003-2005.
- The Alipurduar-Coochbehar-Bamanhat branch line was converted into Broad Gauge in the year 2007.
- The Fakiragram-Golakganj-Dhubri branch line was converted into Broad Gauge in the year 2010.
- The New Mal Jn. – Domohoni – Changrabandha branch line was converted into Broad Gauge in the year 2015.
- The New Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon section being oversaturated with traffic, an alternative route was explored from New Maynaguri (on Raninagar - New Bongaigaon main line) to Jogighopa via Maynaguri Road, New Changrabandha, Mathabhanga, New Coochbehar, Tufanganj, Golakganj and Gauripur within the jurisdiction of APDJ Division and thereafter via Bilasipara up to Jogighopa in Rangiya Division. A 'Y connection' was conceived which would take off between New Maynaguri-Maynaguri Road and would meet the main line at New Domohoni to allow

the train movement to and from both Up and down directions. The project was sanctioned in the year 2000-01. During execution of the project, the 'Y connection' did not materialise due to land problem and finally the connectivity with Main Line was established by constructing a small line segment from Maynaguri Road up to the Guwahati end approach of Teesta Bridge. The project within Alipurduar Division has already been commissioned.

- New Projects: 44.96 Km long new line from Sivok (SGUJ-SMTA Section) to Rangpo (Sikkim) is under progress by IRCON. It is totally a hill section and most of the length is covered by tunnels and bridges. Another 16 km long new line project from Chalsa to Naxal was taken up NFR Construction Organisation which is presently held up at the instance of Railway Board due land constraint.

Important Stations in The Division

1. **Jalpaiguri Road (JPE):** It is situated in the westward extremity of APDJ division on BG-I section. Jalpaiguri Road is the nearest rail-head for the

district HQ of Jalpaiguri on main line. Located on the banks of Teesta River, Jalpaiguri has a rich historical background in as much as it was a princely state in British India. Presence of important National Parks / Forests close to this station has made it a prominent tourist destination. Turbulent rivers battling out of the steep gorges, the vast stretches of forest cover, the undulating span of Tea Estates and the panoramic

grandeur of the Himalayas are only a few jewels that made the British ground their roots deep into the heart of this land. Rarely can one find a place like Jalpaiguri that is so potentially rich in tourism. Still a major part of it remains to be exploited. Major Tourist attractions are various Sanctuaries, National Parks & Tiger Reserves.



Teesta River Bay -

2. **New Maynaguri (NMX):** This station is situated in NCB – NJP section. The ancient and famous 'Jalpesh' Shiva temple is situated within the catchments of New Maynaguri station.



3. **Dhupguri (DQG):** This is an important station in terms of passenger and goods handling. The locality around is famous for cultivation and agricultural activities and the township is growing fast. A significant portion of Division's earning is contributed by loading of potato at this station. Potato loading is seasonal though.



4. **New Cooch Behar (NCB):** New Coochbehar is the biggest 'A' category model station of this division. The entire district of Cooch Behar is served by this station. Cooch Behar district has several tourist spots with international repute and a lot of tourists are availing this station while coming to Cooch Behar.



5. **Cooch Behar (COB):** Coochbehar has a rich heritage background. Being the capital of 'Coach' Dynasty, there are several tourist places within Cooch Behar. A Railway Museum is located at this station. Prior to independence, this station was within the "Cooch Behar State Railway" of Maharaja Era. Considering the heritage background, the station has been selected as a 'Model' as well as 'Adarsh' station.



6. **New Mal Junction (NMZ):** New Mal Junction along with Nagrakata (NKB) and Chalsa (CLD) are three calm and quiet stations at the foothills of Himalayas. Chalsa is a few minutes' drive from Garumara National Park (home of one-horned rhinos) and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary; both fabled by numerous rivers, streams and picturesque tea gardens. Garumara National Park is located on the bank of rivers Murti and Raidak has vegetation of riverine grasslands interspersed with savannah woodlands, Chapramari is more of woodland with tall trees and thick canopy cover. Tourists, from India and abroad, chose to visit these towns for the sake of rejuvenation and solace.



7. **Binnaguri (BNV):-** Binnaguri is a small township in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The 20 Mountain Division of Indian Army is situated at Binnaguri, which is the second largest army set up in India having 50 Battalions. The Bhutanese town Samchi, famous for its breweries and fruit processing units is a few kilometre from Binnaguri via Banarhat.



8. **Dalgaon (DLO):-** Earning wise DLO is the highest earner of the Division. Interestingly DLO loads dolo, better known as dolomite or CaMg (CO₃). Dolomite was named after the French mineralogist and geologist, Deodat Guy de Delomieu, but one may not be wrong if Dolgaon is assigned as a 'gaon' of Dolomite or a *hub of dolo*. The high quality dolomite of Bhutan is supplied to industries for steel manufacturing.



9. **Hasimara (HSA):-** Hasimara is a small township, significant for IAF's 16 Wing airbase with the 20-Wing Airbase being at Bagdogra. This town of the Central Dooars region surrounded by a galore of lush green tea-gardens is well-known for earth-shattering sounds of the booming Mig-23/Mig-27s in mid-air. On the surface, down to earth, the NH-31 leads one to Phuentsholing and Bhutan.



10. **Alipurduar Junction (APDJ):** It is an important junction station of Alipurduar Division. Alipurduar is a district town of Alipurduar District, situated on the foothills of the Himalayas, the town is a gateway to Bhutan and North Eastern states of India. The town is surrounded by deep forest and tea gardens. There are two rivers flowing across the town namely kaljani and Nonai. The most important forest in Alipurduar is Buxa Tiger Reserve, famed for rare flora and fauna. The forest has the status of a National Park. The Chilapathar Forests provide an elephant corridor between the Buxa reserve and the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, another important eco-tourism destination.



11. **New Alipurduar (NOQ):** New Alipurduar is the serving station of the Civil District of Alipurduar town. New Alipurduar is one of the highest passenger earnings stations of this division. This station is declared as a model station.



12. **Kokrajhar (KOJ):** Kokrajhar is one of the important model stations in lower Assam where the HQ of Bodo Autonomous Council is situated. Passenger Earnings of this station is on increasing trend regularly. Earlier Kokrajhar was part of the then greater Goalpara District. Before freedom, it was part of the Bijni Kingdom, ruled by then Koch Rjbongshi kings. Bijni Kingdom and Biddapur Kingdom (Maharaja Ajit Narayan Dev) were part of the Kamatapur Kingdom, also known as Koch Kingdom, ruled by the then Koch Rajbongshi kings.



13. **Fakiragram (FKM):** Fakiragram is an important junction station. The railway route leads towards Dhubri from this station. Apart from Fakiragram, this station is serving a vast area of Gauripur, Dhubri, Bilashipara, Dotma etc. It derives its name from Late 'Fakir Baba'. It is heard that Fakir Baba used to cure people by dint of acquired God's Power. Every year his death anniversary is celebrated by the people of surrounding area.



14. **Dhubri (DBB):** Dhubri is the serving station of civil district of Dhubri. Dhubri is an old town with enriched heritage background, situated at the bank of River Brahmaputra and nearer to Indo-Bangladesh border.



15. **Bamanhat (BXT):** Bamanhat is an old station of Cooch Behar State Railway which is situated adjacent to Indo-Bangladesh border.



16. **Changrabandha (CBD):** This station is in newly gauge converted BG section between New Mal Jn. – Changrabanda and situated within the vicinity of Indo-Bangladesh border. The first DEMU train service has been introduced between CBD & SGUJ w.e.f. 20.01.2016.



Tourist Places (Nearest Railhead):

WEST BENGAL:

Lava-Lolleygaon(NMZ)
Buxa (RVK)

Hollong (MDT)
Jayanti (RVK)

Jaldapara(MDT)
Gorumara (CLD, NMX)

RasikBill (TFG, NOQ)
Lataguri (CLD, NMX)
Gajoldoba (CLD, JPE)

Cooch Behar (COB, NCB)
Jhalang-Bindu (CDL, NMZ)
Suntalekhola (CLD)

Jaldhaka (CLD)
Chilapathar (HSA, APDJ)
Jhandi (NMZ)

BHUTAN:

Phuentsholing (HSA)
Chukha(HSA)

Thimpu(HSA)
Punakha(HSA)

Paro (HSA)
Dochula (HSA)

Districts Served:

State	District
West Bengal	Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Alipurduar.
Assam	Kokrajhar, Chirang, Bongaigaon and Dhubri.