

Chapter–I

Geography and History of Jammu Region

For understanding the architectural heritage of Jammu, we have to understand the physical settings of Jammu region and historical background of Jammu.

The Jammu Region

The region of Jammu stretches between 32° 20' to 33° 10' latitude and 74° 45' to 75° 55' longitude¹. The plains of Punjab bound it on the south and south- west, high mountain ranges of Pir Panjal in the north and the great Himalayan ranges in the northeast (see figure- 1). Thus, the area lying between the Rivers of Jhelum and Ravi to the south of Pir Panjal range is designated as Jammu region. It includes

- The Outer Plains.
- The Siwaliks.
- The Middle Himalayas.

The Outer Himalayas

The outer plains stretching from Rivers Chenab to Ravi include the areas of Kathua, Samba, Ranbir Singh Pura, and Akhnur. These areas are locally known as *Anderwah* and *Bajwat*. Besides Chenab and Ravi Rivers, the outer plains are also drained by the Rivers -Ujh, Basantar, Tawi and Manwar Tawi.

The Siwaliks

The Siwalik ranges are commonly known as Himalayan foothills. It is at the foothills that the town of Jammu is situated. To the north of Jammu plains, the Siwaliks stretch between the Jhelum and Ravi Rivers. The slopes of Siwalik hills facing the outer plains are covered with deciduous forests and evergreen

¹Charles Ellison Bates, *A Gazetteer of Kashmir*, Gulshan Books, Residency Road Srinagar, 2005, p. 212.

bushes. To the east and west of Jammu township, in the Siwaliks are situated two popular lakes i.e. Saronisar and Mansar.

The Middle Himalayas

The Middle Himalayas locally known as *Pahar* (mountain) stretch from the River Ravi in the east and the Poonch district in the west and continues towards north-west beyond Muzaffarabad (now in Pakistan). In the Middle Himalayas, are the Trikuta hills which nestles the sacred shrine of *Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji*. Baderwah and Kishtwar (Doda district), two famous valleys of the Jammu region, fall in the Middle Himalayas. The National Highway (NH-1) leading to the valley of Kashmir. has been carved out through the Middle Himalayas.

The Pir Panjal mountains form a part of Middle Himalayas and several important rivers like Manwar, Tawi, Basantar and Ujh have their sources in the Middle Himalayas.

Jammu in Ancient Literature

Jammu has been variously referred to as *Madra-Desa*, *Darva-Abhisara*, *Durgara/Duggar- Chibbal Desa* and recently as *Duggar-Desa* i.e. the land of Dogras.²

Madra-Desa

The *Madra-Desa* context of Jammu finds reference in Panini's *Ashtadhyayi*. While discussing the *Madra-Desa*, Panini refers to the *Madra* tribe residing between Jhelum and Ravi Rivers. In this connection he refers to the two divisions of the *Madra* s i.e. *Purva* (between Rivers Chenab and Ravi) and *Apara* (between Rivers Jhelum and Chenab) with *Purva Madras* having their capital at Sialkot .He also details the further division of *Purva Madra* into *Savitri Putrakah* and *Madrakarah*. Accordingly, he informs that *Madrakhas*

²V.S. Agarwala, *India as Known to Panini*, Allahbad, 1953, Pp.52-53 ; Kalhana, *Rajtarangni, A chronicle of the kings of Kashmir*, English translation by M.A. Stein , Vol. 1; Moti Lal Banarsidass Publishers, New Delhi, 1989, p.180 ; J. Hutchison, J.Ph.Vogel, *History of Punjab Hill States*, Vol. II, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, 1994, p.518.

settled in an uneven land and this land has been identified by the later historians with Jammu.

The early Vedic literature refers to the occupation of Central Punjab and its adjoining regions by the *Anu* tribe. This tribe later branched off into three sections known as the *Kakayas*, *Usinaras* and *Madrās*.³ Among them, the *Madrās* seem to have further divided themselves into separate groups which were known as Northern *Madrās* (*Uttara Madras*), Eastern *Madrās* (*Purva Madras*) and Western *Madrās* (*Apara Madras*). Panini places *Purva* and *Apara Madras* between Rivers Ravi and Chenab and Chenab and Jhelum respectively.⁴ The *Ashtadhyayi* of Panini refers to another division of the *Madrās* because of the marriage of *Madra* princess *Savitri* with the *Salva* Prince *Satyavahana*, which further divided them into *Savitri Putrakah* and *Madrakah*.⁵ This text also refers to the nature of the land occupied by one of these *Madrās*, which was called as *Madram*⁶ (the uneven land of the *Madrās*). It was the *Madrakah* tribe, which is said to have moved towards Jammu and founded a new kingdom.⁷

Darva-Abhisara

Similarly association of Jammu with *Darva-Abhisara* is also in connection with two tribe's i.e.-*Darva* and *Abhisara* and the area, which they inhabited, came to be known as *Darva-Abhisara* tract. According to N.L.Dey's 'The Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval India', the *Darva-Abhisara* tract comprised the area lying between the Rivers Jhelum and Ravi.⁸ *Darva* corresponding to the area lying between the two Rivers Ravi and Chenab, which in turn corresponds to present day Jammu and Billawar areas. Whereas *Abhisara* the area lying between the two Rivers Chenab and Jhelum,

³H.C. Ray Chaudhary, *Political History of Ancient India*, p.63

⁴V.S. Aggarwal, *op. cit*, p.52.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶*Ibid.*

⁷V.S. Aggarwal, *op. cit*, p.52.

⁸N.L. Dey, *The Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval India*, Oriental Books, Reprint, New Delhi, 1971, p. 54; B. K. Shastri, *Duggar Cha Devika Nadi Da Sanskrit Mahatav*, Ajay Parkashan, Jammu, 1986, Pp.4 -5 ; Kalhana, *op.cit* , p.180, refer to *Darva Abhisara* as an area lying between Rivers Jhelum and Chenab.

which corresponds to present day Poonch and Rajouri areas.⁹ The ruler of *Abhisara* is said to have entered into an alliance with Alexander, the Greek ruler.

Jammu in Medieval Chronicles

There after we find reference to *Duggar Desa* as Jammu in the Persian chronicle *Mulfuzat - i- Timuri*, in the last quarter of 14th century AD i.e. in 1398-9 AD.¹⁰ Many other Persian chronicle accounts like *Tarikh-i-Mubark Shahi*, *Tarikh-i-Feroz Shahi*, *Tarikh-i-Muhammad Shahi*, *Tabkat-i-Akabari*, *Akabarnama*, *Tuzak-i-Jahangiri*, *Badshanama*, *Tarikh-i-Farishta*, etc. make frequent mention to the events happening in Jammu hill states.

Dvigarta

Reference may also be made to *Dvigarta*¹¹ which has been taken to mean as the land between two waters i.e. Rivers Chenab and Ravi. This corresponds to present day area extending from Lakhampur in the vicinity of River Ravi to Akhnur, which is on the banks of River Chenab.¹² It seems that the term *Dvigarta* was probably suggested from the analogy of *Trigarta*¹³. The term *Dvigarta*¹⁴ might have become popular in the early part of 18th century when Jammu proper began to establish its supremacy over other hill states lying between Rivers Chenab and Ravi.¹⁵ Frederic Drew refers to Jammu as *Dvigartdesh* or “the country of two hollows” i.e. the land between the two

⁹*Abhisara* - Present day Rajouri, Poonch and Bhimber formed a part of this tract. Bhimber is now in Pakistan. This area is also known as Chibhal or Chibhan.

¹⁰ H.M. Elliotts, J. Dowson, *History of India*, Kitab Mahal Pvt. Ltd. Allahabad, 1964, Pp.468-72., *Mulfuzat-i-Timuri*, an autobiography of Amir Timur.

¹¹J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit*, p.55.

¹²*Ibid*.

¹³According to Panini the area lying to the south-east of *Madras* was occupied by the *Trigartas*. The area inhabited by the *Trigarta* was s drained by the three rivers- Ravi, Beas and Satluj. A Cunningham, *The ancient Geography of India, The Buddhist Period, including the campaigns of Alexander, and the travels of Hwen Thsang*, Indological Book House, Varanasi, 1963, p 115 ; J. Hutchison and J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit*, p55. They says the term *Trigarta* has been taken to mean as the land of three rivers i.e. Ravi, Bias and Satluj Thus this proves that the area lying between rivers Ravi and Chenab was known as *Dvigarta* although the term became popular in the 17th and 18th centuries.

¹⁴J. Hutchison and J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit*, p55. They mentions that the word ‘*Dvigarta*’ is not the ancient form of the term *Dugar* because it is not found in any ancient texts.

¹⁵*Ibid*.

famous lakes i.e. Saronisar and Mansar.¹⁶ But one cannot rule out the fact that *Dvigarta*¹⁷ could have meant the area lying between Rivers Chenab and Tawi. This could coincide with the present day Jammu city.

Durgara / Duggar- Desa

Later Jammu is found as being referred to as *Durgara/ Duggar- Desa*. This finds reference in two Chamba copper plates of 11th century AD (1056 – 66 AD) in which mention is made to Lord of *Durgara*.¹⁸ J. Hutchison and J.Ph. Vogel have further suggested that the terms *Dugar* and *Dogra* perhaps derived their names from *Durgara* and *Daurgara* respectively.¹⁹ The term *Dugar* indicates the name of a hill country i.e. modern Jammu and the term *Dogra* signifies the inhabitants of that country.

Coming to the name *Dugar*, we find that it finds mention in several Persian texts.²⁰ Amir Khusru while referring to India's climate, animals and languages mentions *Dugar* for Jammu and Dogri, the language of *Dugar* people.²¹ The text also refers to the fact that the land of '*Dugar*' lay between Lahore and Kashmir²².

The historical accounts found in the travelogues of European travellers who had visited the state Jammu and Kashmir, and the modern historians mentions names of various states associated with *Duggar* as forming the Central group under the name *Dugar*.

Alexander Cunningham refers to the Central or Jammu Division comprising of nineteen hill principalities:²³

1. Jammu
2. Bhau

¹⁶Frederic Drew, *Jammu and Kashmir Territories*, Jay Kay Book House, Jammu, 1999, Pp.43-44.

¹⁷The word '*Dvigarta*' can be said to have been derived from two words '*Dvi*' and '*Garta*'- the word '*Dvi*' meaning 'two' and the word '*Garta*' meaning '*Khada*' in *Dogri* language, that is to say 'land in between two *khads*'.

¹⁸J. Hutchison and J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p.523.

¹⁹*Ibid*, p.518.

²⁰H.M. Elliotts, J. Dowson, *op.cit.*, p.562.

²¹*Ibid*, It has been borne out by the couplets of the poem '*Nuh Siphir*' written by the famous poet Amir Khusru during the reign of Qutbuddin Mubark Shah.

²²H.M. Elliotts, J. Dowson, *op.cit.*, p.562.

²³Alexander Cunningham, *op.cit.*, p. 112.

3. Reasi
4. Poonch
5. Rajouri
6. Kotli
7. Bhimber
8. Khariali
9. Kashtwar
10. Bhadrwar
11. Akhnur
12. Chaneni
13. Bandralta
14. Samba
15. Jasrota
16. Tirikot
17. Mankot
18. Badwal
19. Billawar or Basohli

However, Hutchison and Vogel refers to twenty two hill principalities which included the names of

20. Lakhanpur,
21. Bhoti and
22. Dalpatpur

as forming the part of *Dugar* circle (Central Group).²⁴ (see figure- 2)

It appears that politically twenty-two states and linguistically only sixteen states belonged to the *Dugar* circle. The inhabitants of the remaining seven states spoke *Pahari* and considered themselves *Paharis* and not Dogras. According to J. Hutchison and J.Ph. Vogel, these twenty-two principalities of Jammu region were ruled by different Rajput clans namely Jamwal, Bahuwal, Jasrotia, Billawaria, Bhadrnal, Mankotia, Bhatyal, Huntal,etc.²⁵

²⁴J. Hutchison, J. Ph.Vogel, *op.cit.*, Pp45-46.

²⁵*Ibid*, Pp.57-58.

Architectural Heritage of Jammu Region

In the first quarter of 19th century AD, the Jammu and Kashmir State did not exist as it is today. It was largely *Maharaja* Gulab Singh who was responsible for the creation of Jammu and Kashmir State. On 17th of June 1822 AD, *Maharaja* Ranjit Singh of Lahore *darbar* gave Jammu as *Jagir* to Gulab Singh and made him the *Raja* of Jammu. After holding his position in Jammu, Gulab Singh took over Kishtwar and Rajouri. Till 1827AD *Raja* Gulab Singh had brought under his control other various principalities lying between the Kashmir valley and Jammu. By 1837 AD *Raja* Gulab Singh had emerged as the most important feudatory of *Maharaja* Ranjit Singh. General Zorawar Singh led various expeditions to Ladakh from 1834-1841 AD, and in the course of his expeditions, he annexed Ladakh, Baltistan, Sakardu, etc. into Jammu kingdom.

After the defeat of Sikhs by Britishers in Anglo Sikh war, on 16th of March, 1846 AD²⁶, the 'Treaty of Amritsar' was signed between *Raja* Gulab Singh of Jammu on one part and on the part of British Indian Government, Frederick Curie, Esquire, Major Hennesy Montgomery Lawrence, acting under the orders of Sir Hennesy Hardinge, wherein Kashmir was transferred to *Raja* Gulab Singh. Therefore, an independent state of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh emerged in 1846 AD under the leadership of *Maharaja* Gulab Singh.

Maharaja Gulab Singh was succeeded by his son *Maharaja* Ranbir Singh (1856 to 1885 AD), he by *Maharaja* Pratap Singh (1885-1925 AD) and *Maharaja* Pratap Singh by *Maharaja* Hari Singh (1925-1947AD). The successors of *Maharaja* Gulab Singh concentrated mainly on the development of art and architecture, education and social reforms. They also undertook construction of large number of buildings including religious, official, residential, public and institutional buildings in Jammu.

It, thus, becomes clear from the literary sources that Jammu was the centre of political power among twenty-two principalities in the region. Jammu town remained the main seat of Dogra rulers from 1846 to 1947 AD. Secondly, most of the architectural heritage of Jammu region found in the vicinity of Jammu town and in the surrounding areas is in the form of forts, temples,

²⁶J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, appendix -II

palaces, mosques, etc. therefore it is important to understand its historical significance and evolution of Jammu town to its present position.²⁷

Nomenclature of Jammu

Various local traditions exist regarding the name 'Jammu'. The most popular, being that the place got its name after the name Jambu Lochan, the first legendary ruler of Jammu.

Another tradition states that Jammu was named after *Jamwant*²⁸, a general in the army of Lord Rama (of *Ramayana* fame). *Jamvant* is said to have performed penance in a cave, on the right bank of River Tawi. The cave came to be known as *Jamwant* cave which later became famous as *Pirkho* cave.²⁹

A local tradition links the origin of the name 'Jammu' to the word "*Jambudivipa*", which signifies territory between two rivers or lakes. The word "*Jambudivipa*" is taken as a combination of the two words i.e. - *Jambu* and *divipa*.³⁰ According to Panini the word '*divipa*' is derived from the conjugation of '*dvi*' and '*apah*'. The word '*dvi*' meaning two and the word '*apah*' meaning water. It would indicate a piece of land surrounded by two waters.³¹ The explanation of Panini regarding Jammu matches with the present description of Jammu, which is bounded by the two Rivers Chenab and Ravi.³²

Another tradition suggests the derivation of the name 'Jammu' from the word '*Jamun*', a name of fruit (blackberry), which is found in abundance in Jammu.

²⁷J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p.545.

²⁸Jamwant or Jambavan, the king of bears, helped Lord Rama with his army of bears to fight Lankapati Ravana. Legend traces this event to *Dvaparayuga*, when lord Rama is said to have lived.

²⁹Pirkho cave is an old shrine of Lord Shiva. Large number of people visit this shrine on Mondays and on the occasion of Shivratri festival.

³⁰Walter Hamilton, *A Geographical Statistical and Historical Description of Hindustan and the Adjacent Countries*, Delhi, 1971, p.499.

³¹V. S. Agrawala, *op.cit.*, p. 397.

³²H.C. Raychaudhuri, *op.cit.*, p. 65. This fact is further strengthened by the adjoining town *Sakala* that was also surrounded by two waters and known as *Sakaladivpa*

Expansion of Jammu Township

The township of Jammu developed in phases during different periods of history. The foundation of the city of Jammu has been attributed to *Raja Jambhu Lochan*.³³ Accordingly we are informed that Jambu Lochan once on a hunting trip on the right bank of River Tawi, saw a strange scene in the jungle rather an unexpected one, a deer and a tiger drinking water from the same natural pond. On seeing this strange phenomenon, Jambu Lochan called his ministers and enquired the meaning of such an occurrence. They replied that since the soil of the place excelled in virtue such sights were common and because of this peaceful co-existence no living creature bore enmity against another. Jambu Lochan is said to have got so impressed by this explanation that he decided to lay the foundation of a new town at the very site and named it *Jambupura* or *Jambu* after his own name³⁴. He is also said to have raised his own mansion there.

The name Jammu later finds reference in *Tarikhi –i-Kashmir-i-Azami* (1417 AD) where *Raja* of Jammu is mentioned and at that time town was about five hundred year old.³⁵ Accordingly J. Hutchison and J. Ph. Vogel have concluded that Jammu was founded in about 900 AD.³⁶

However, historically the township of Jammu came into existence in around 14th century when *Raja Mal Dev*, most probably shifted his capital from Babbapura or Babbor (now in Udhampur district) to the hills of Jammu before Amir Timur's invasion of India in A.D.1398-99. *Raja Mal Dev* is said to have ruled Jammu nearly for forty years.³⁷ According to Hutchison and Vogel, *Raja*

³³Jambu Lochan, a scion of the solar dynasty of Ayodhya, founded the town of Jammu. It is believed that the ruling clan of Jammu i.e. the inhabitants migrated from Ayodhya about thousand years before the 'Kaliyuga'. Agnibaran is said to be the ancestor of Dogra rulers. Agnibaran entered into the Dogra hill country via Nagarkote (Kangra) and settled in the village Bhupanagari also called Nagari near Kathua adjoining to the river Ravi. Bahu Lochan and Jambu Lochan were seventh in succession from Agnibaran, the founders of Bahu and Jambu States.

³⁴Ganesh Dass Wadhera, *Rajdarshani*, translated by S.D.S.Charak and annotated by A.K. Billawaria, Jammu 1971, p.9 ; Kirpa Ram, *Gulabnama*, translated and annotated by S.D.S.Charak, Jammu, 1977, Pp. 6-7 ; J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p.521.

³⁵ J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p.521.

³⁶*Ibid*, p. 522.

³⁷*Ibid*, Pp. 516- 517 &521-522.

Architectural Heritage of Jammu Region

Mal Dev succeeded to the throne in about 1370 AD where as S.D.S. Charak places his date of accession to power in 1360 AD.³⁸

Further we are informed that it was *Raja Mal Dev*, who laid the foundation of Jammu city by placing a huge stone at *Kalijani* near *Purani Mandi*.³⁹ There, he is said to have erected several residential- cum official buildings for the royalty.⁴⁰ It has been further suggested that *Raja Mal Dev* brought three huge stones one after the other from the bed of River Tawi and placed them in the vicinity of *Mandi*, which later became famous as *Purani Mandi* or *Mal Dev-ki-Mandi / Khalki Mandi*.⁴¹ One such stone is still there at the curve of a narrow lane, popularly known as *Mohalla Kalijani*.

The second stone, perhaps, was placed near a pond, presently, behind the *Rajtilak* building and the third was carried to a small ridge by the side of which *Raja Mal Dev* sat and performed his coronation ceremony⁴². Today, *Rajtilak* building exists as an office of *Amar Kshastriya Rajput Sabha* and *Mohalla Kalijani* is linked by a narrow lane to *Rajtilak* road and which in turn leads towards *Purani Mandi Biradari* area. In AD 1925, His Highness *Maharaja Bahadur Sahib* is said to have ordered the improvement of the city roads and of *Rajtilak* building along with Mubarak Mandi Palace complex in connection with *Rajtilak* celebration ceremony of *Maharaja Hari Singh*⁴³

Purani Mandi, the older portion of Jammu town remained important throughout the history of Jammu and acted as city center around which the whole city expanded. The city expanded towards North-East, North-West, South-West and South-East direction i.e. towards the areas of *Darbagarh*, *Ramnagar* near Manda hills, *Kachi Chawani*, *Raghunath bazaar*, *Pirmittaha*, and *Wazarat* road (*Tehsil* road).

³⁸J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p.528; S.D.S. Charak, *A Short History of Jammu Raj*, Ajay Publishers Pathankot, 1984, p.63.

³⁹J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p. 528 ; S.D.S. Charak, *op.cit.*, p.63.

⁴⁰J. Hutchison, J. Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, p. 521

⁴¹Ashok Jerath, *Forts and Palaces of the Western Himalayas*, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi, 2000, p.60.

⁴²*Ibid.*

⁴³File No. R. T. 24-P, His Highness, Jammu and Kashmir State Department Records, SAR, Jammu

Fortification of Jammu Town

The city of Jammu was a fortress, which was, perhaps, fortified by many small forts during *Raja Mal Dev's* reign.⁴⁴ We do find references to these small forts, which were constructed on the banks of River Tawi. On the basis of some remains it has been suggested that one such fort, i.e. *Mastgarh* fort, was located at the lowest point of Jammu township and second at the highest point at Ramnagar. Another important fort was the fort of Bahu, which still exists on the left bank of River Tawi.⁴⁵

Mastgarh fort was perhaps, the oldest fort amongst all the forts of Jammu.⁴⁶ With a passage of time a *Mohalla* came into existence around the fort, popularly known as *Mohalla Mastgarh* after the name of the fort. A mosque which still exists in *Mohalla Mastgarh* near the fort of *Mastgarh*, is said to have been constructed by *Raja Gaje Singh*, (1692 to 1707 AD), to honour Kaleb Khan, an ambassador of the Mughal king Aurangzeab.⁴⁷ Ramnagar fort was most probably constructed during the reign period of *Raja Kapur Dev* and it is said that his son Man Singh alias Danga Man used to reside there.⁴⁸ Ramnagar fort was situated to the north of Jammu town on the right bank of River Tawi. At this very site, a new mansion, *Amar Mahal*, was constructed by Sir *Raja Amar Singh Bhadur Sahib*, during the reign period of His Highness *Maharaja Partap Singh Bahadur Sahib*. Presently, it houses a museum on the ground floor and a library on the second floor.

Subsequently, during the reign of *Raja Gaje Singh* and other rulers, the town of Jammu developed within the fortified area. During the time of *Raja Gaje Singh*, Jammu town ushered in peace and because of this reason we have references to large-scale migrations of people from the plains of Punjab and surrounding hills. During his time the boundary lines of Jammu town extended

⁴⁴ Ashok Jerath, *op.cit*, p. 60.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*, Pp. 60-61.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*,

⁴⁷ Kahan Singh Billoaira, *Twarikh -i - Rajgaan Jammu- wa- Kashmir*, Vol.1, p.21 ; Ashok Jerath, *op.cit*, p.61.

⁴⁸ Kahan Singh Billoaira, *op.cit*, p.21.

towards Ramnagar fort in the north, Tawi River in the east, *Gumat* slopes in the south and *Ajaib Ghar* in the west.⁴⁹

By the time we come to the period of *Raja Dhruv Dev*, attacks from the Mughals and the Sikhs had increased, hence a need arose to fortify the whole town and due to this reason a new fort came into existence. The fort wall ended in the eastern direction on the right bank of River Tawi, on the southern direction near *AjaibGhar* (*Zennana Park*) and on the northern direction, the fort wall ended up to the old structure of Ramnagar fort.⁵⁰

Gateways

Several gateways were erected at regular intervals to guard Jammu town. Among these were the *Gumat* gate (near Town hall building), Denis gate (near Mansar Hotel), *Maheshwari* gate (near Vivekananda *Chowk*) and *Jogi* gate (near Rajput school). The remains of *Gumat* gate along with a part of boundary wall near the Town hall building and the ruins of an arched entrance of *Jogi* gate, near S. P. M. Rajput school, still exist.

Almost a decade ago remains of the masonry work of the boundary wall of the fort was visible near Government Hari Singh Higher Secondary school but with the widening and renovation of the circular road and construction of newly built houses in the area, the remains of the boundary wall have been destroyed.

Local chronicles like *Rajdarshani*, *Gulabnama*, *Twarikh-i-Rajputana-i-Mulk—i-Punjab and Tarikh-i- Rajgaan Jammu wa Kashmir*, *Tharik-i-Duggar Desh* have discussed in detail the glorious past of Jammu and Kashmir in general and Jammu in particular.

Description of Jammu by European Travellers

The town of Jammu was at the zenith of its prosperity by 1775 AD during the reign of Ranjeet Dev, the eighty first ruler in a long line of Rajput princes who trace their descent from Dalip, the youngest of Bugju heroes who

⁴⁹ Ashok Jerath, *op.cit.*, p. 61.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

had migrated to Jammu by 527 BC from the hereditary states of the family, near Ayudhaya.⁵¹

Charles Ellison Bates⁵² writes “the town of Jammu is situated on the right bank of River Tawi about 27 miles north- east of the British cantonment and the city of Sialkot. The town is built upon the highest point of the first wooded sloping mountain range (ridge) that rises from the plains of Punjab at the place where it is divided by a narrow gorge (ravine), which allows an exit to the River Tawi on its way to its junction with the River Chenab.

The town Jammu lies at an elevation of about 150 ft above the bed of River Tawi. The white buildings of the place and the number of temples with their gilded domes are seen glistening in the sun from a great distance in the plains.

The town is entered by a paved road about 30'.0” wide, having a row of shops on either side. The southern and the lower portion of the town is very populated and consists of little more than this wide street towards the upper and ancient part of the town on the northern side. The street narrows considerably before it reaches the *Maharaja*’s palace which stands on top of the ridge. It is scarcely 8'. 0” wide and there is large population and traffic in this quarter.” The author is referring to the *Purani Mandi* area, the older portion of the city.

He further refers that the upper and ancient portion of the town contained a narrow street, which further narrowed before reaching Mubarak Mandi Palace complex (*Maharajas* palaces) and it stood on the top of ravine. In this portion of the town there was a large population and heavy rush of traffic.

“The *Maharaja*’s palace is an irregular pentagonal enclosure, containing in its center a temple surrounded by a pretty extensive grass plot. His Highness apartments are situated in a separate enclosure to the south-east overlooking the deep bed of the Tawi. The palace is now being rebuilt and is not yet completed.

The houses in the city are built principally of round stones and mud. They are single storied with flat roofs; many however in the upper part of the

⁵¹ Charles Ellison Bates, *op.cit.*, p. 215

⁵² *Ibid.* Pp. 212-215.

town are built of bricks (referring to the houses in the lower portion of *Purani Mandi* and in the upper part of old city i. e, *Jullaka Mohalla* area, *Pakki Dakki* area, *Dounthly* area, etc.). There are numerous open spaces and trees in Jammu, from amidst which the domes of various Hindu temples appear, most conspicuous is that erected by the present *Maharaja* in the memory of his father *Maharaja* Gulab Singh.

To the west of the town is the ‘Parade ground’, an open grassy plain with its northern side surrounded by the high walls of a magazine and the military store. As the name ‘Parade ground’ suggests, it was used by military and formed a part of military cantonment during the time of Dogra rulers”. ‘Parade ground’ is now the most congested area of Jammu city, on its northern side Govt. Women College and Ranbir Singh Higher Secondary School have come up in place of the magazine and military store.⁵³

Thus, the present day township presents a completely different picture from what was once described by C. E. Bates.

Frederic Drew⁵⁴ (Associate of the Royal School of Mines, who entered the *Maharaja* of Jammu and Kashmir’s service in 1862) writes:

“the city or town of Jammu is built at the very first rise of the hills out of the plain, on a slightly sloping plateau 200 to 300 ft above the flat country and it is about 1200 ft above the sea level. This is part of the outermost ridge of hills; the ridge is cut through by the valley of Tawi River. Tawi River flows out to the plains at level more than 60 meters below the hill over which the town is built, between steep but wooded banks. Coming to it from Punjab, one passes, while still on the plain, through two or three miles of the dense forest of acacia trees with bushy under wood, then one comes to the river bed (referring to River Tawi).

After crossing the River Tawi to reach the town, one has to again pass through the bushes along a narrow lane, at a turn of which one finds himself in front of a huge gate (referring to *Gumat* gate) situated at the top of a short but steep ascent. At this spot traveling on wheels comes to an end, from here

⁵³Charles Ellison Bates, *op.cit.*, Pp.213-215.

⁵⁴Frederic Drew, *Jammu and Kashmir territories: A Geographical Account*, Gulshan Books Residency Road Srinagar, Kashmir, 2009, Pp. 62-65.

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onwards carriage is performed by camels, pack horses, elephants or *coolies*. At the gate are stationed a guard, and a writer, whose duty is to report the arrivals and custom house messengers. After passing through this gateway one reaches to the plateau (Raghunath *bazaar*), on further advancement one reaches to another level ground (*Purani Mandi* area) which gives the promise of a comfortably built town, but a little further one suddenly becomes lost in a maze of narrow streets and lanes of low single storied houses and little narrow shops. The way is crowded and business is brisk and most of the people have well to do looks. A mile or so of this on a gradual rise one reaches to the centre of interest of the place- an open, irregular square, known as the *Mandi* or public place.

The *Mandi* is the place where all the business of the government is done. The place is entirely surrounded by government buildings. On three sides are the public offices built with considerable taste. The farther side of the square has a nearly similar building where the *Maharaja* holds his ordinary daily *darbar*; behind this is the more lofty pile of residential palaces.

Nearly all the houses are single storied except few large houses, which have been built by civil and military officials and the richer merchants of the town. The house of the family of the chief ministers, *Diwan* Jawala Sahai and his son *Diwan* Kirpa Ram, especially is a large pile of buildings. Then at one edge of the town, in a picturesque position overlooking the river valley, are few houses built by *Maharaja* in English fashion for the accommodation of European travellers, whether stray visitors or guest of his own.

The area of Jammu town is about a square mile and the town is bounded on two sides by the cliff or steep slope that overhangs the river bed. Some of the buildings of *Maharajas* Palace complex are placed at the edge of the most precipitous part, and they command a view over the flat valley of Tawi River.”

According to Drew, Jammu is not a walled town, though few defenses have been erected at different periods. Towards the river the steep bank has been trusted though it is not inaccessible. On the south, a wall runs along the edge of the high land, pierced by the high land gateways through which the road

from the Punjab enters. On the west and the northwest, the town is bounded by the jungle.

Walter R. Lawrence⁵⁵

Lawrence writes “the town of Jammu covers an area of about one square mile. It was densely populated and packed with single storied houses of round stones and mud was used as a binding material with flat roofs. The upper portion of town consisted of superior houses with brick masonry. In Mubarak Mandi stands, the palaces of royal family members and the official buildings of Jammu and Kashmir Government. The general effect of Jammu is striking and from a distance, the white washed temples, with their gild pinnacles, suggest a splendor, which is dispelled on nearer acquaintance. The most conspicuous of the temple is Raghunath Ji temple.”

Davide Ross⁵⁶

“Another foreign visitor who visited Jammu around 1880 AD had published his observations in 1883 AD. In his observations regarding the town of Jammu he writes “it occupies a ridge on the outer range of the Himalayas. The *Maharaja* of Kashmir has several palaces here and another was specially erected for the Prince of Wales, on his Royal visit to Jammu in January 1876 AD. The fort and palace stands about 150 ft above the street, on the light bank of River Tawi and has a very striking appearance.”

Hutchinson and Vogel⁵⁷

“The town of Jammu stands on the right bank of River Tawi at the point, where it leaves the low hills. It is built on three terraces rising one behind the other, the highest on which the palace stands being towards the north –viewed on approach from the plains, the palace presents a picturesque appearance with the low hills of the Siwaliks in the background rising till the horizon is closed in the snowy range of Pir Panjal. From this palace the visit to the north east, along the upper windings of the River Tawi, is very fascinating. The finest view of all is from Ramnagar forests to the north of town, striking piles of buildings

⁵⁵Ashok Jerath, *op.cit.*, p. 110.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*

⁵⁷J.Hutchison, J.Ph. Vogel, *op.cit.*, Pp. 528-529.

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erected by the late *Raja Amar Singh*, with frontage towards the river and the tastefully laid out grounds.

Jammu contains a large cluster of temples on the lower terraces but all of them seem to be of recent origin. The town was originally fortified towards the south, facing the Tawi, but the walls are now in a crumbling condition and have been breached in many places. Towards the north and east it was protected by the deep gorge of Tawi, and on the west by dense temples.”

From the above description, it appears that the town of Jammu developed in three phases on three terraces. First phase was the *Purani Mandi* area- the lower portion of the Jammu town, the second phase was *Darbargarh* area where Mubarak Mandi Palace exists and the third phase was the breathtaking Ramnagar forest area near Manda hills, where the castle of Amar *Mahal* exists. Like all the towns of medieval times, the residential cum official palaces of rulers continued to be the hub of activities like till date Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex continues to be the hub of the city and attraction for the people of Jammu.

The city of Jammu was linked by the railway network in 1890 AD through branch of northwestern railway line with Sialkot (presently in Pakistan) and the Jammu railway station was built to the south of the River Tawi, and this encouraged new settlement in this area. During the period between 1890 to 1920 some areas were newly built like old *Rehari*, *Kachi Chawani*, *Raghunath Bazaar*, *Urdu Bazaar* and the parts of Krishna Nagar area. Soon after the independence of India and accession of Jammu and Kashmir state with Indian Union, the settled population of Punjab and Jammu region's outer plains and outer hills was uprooted and this mass disturbance increased the population of Jammu city by about 50% to 55%. Due to this old Jammu city became congested and led to the development of some newly planned colonies on the periphery of the old city like Bakshi Nagar and Gandhi Nagar in the western and the southern directions of the Jammu city respectively. However, with the urban expansion in the recent years, the municipal limits of Jammu city have increased immensely in all the directions.

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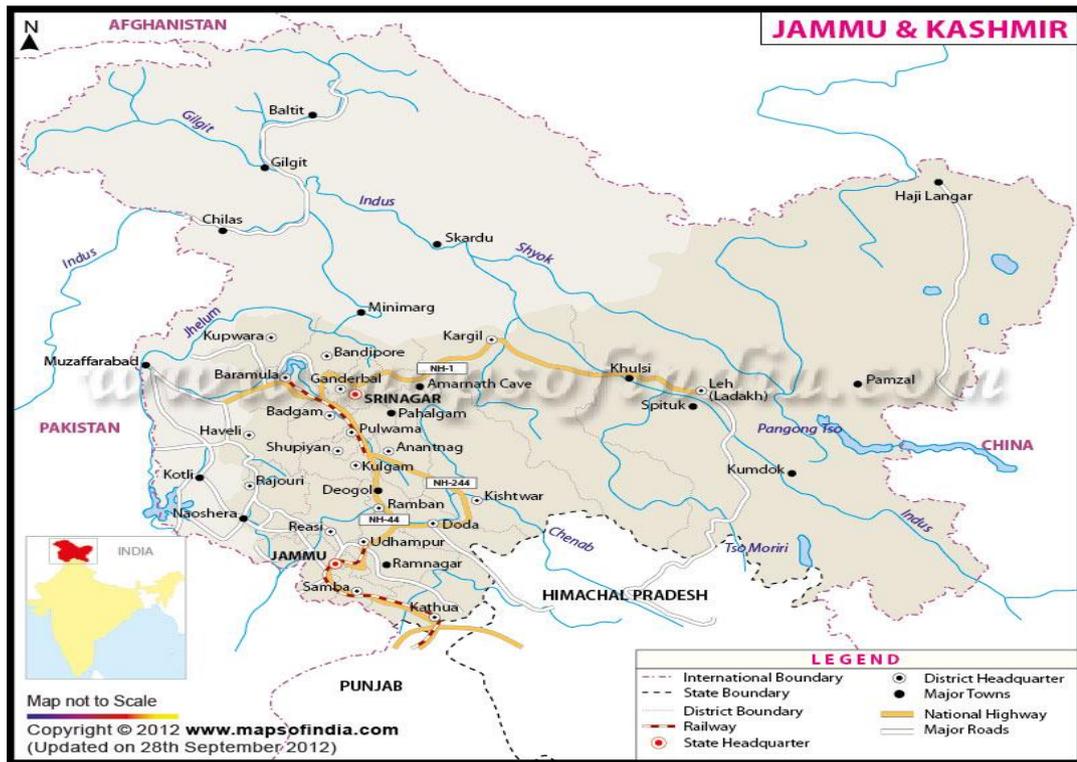


Figure-1 Map of Jammu and Kashmir State

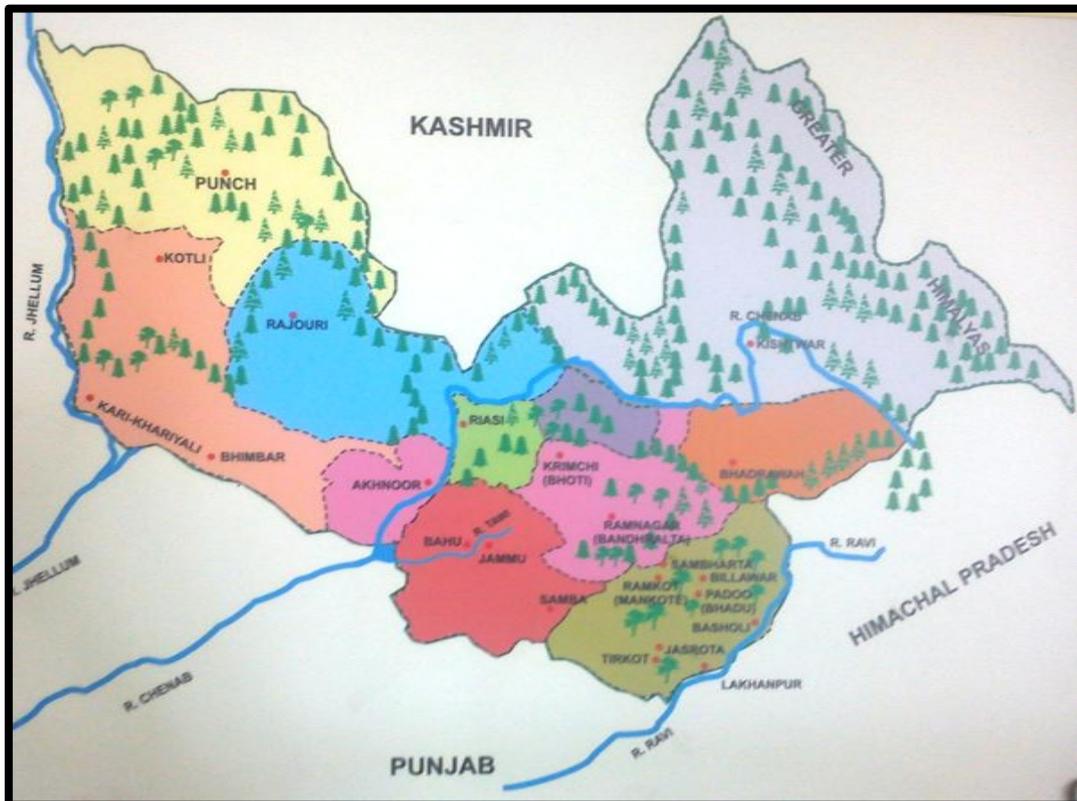


Figure-2 Map of twenty two principalities of Jammu region (courtesy SNNMH, JU)