

CLASS -1



Landscape analysis through Maps



Col. William
Lambton

The British realized that they could ascertain power and collect the taxes in their colonies only if they clearly understood the special geographical features of each of them. This made them decide to conduct various surveys and prepare maps on their basis. Accordingly three surveys namely

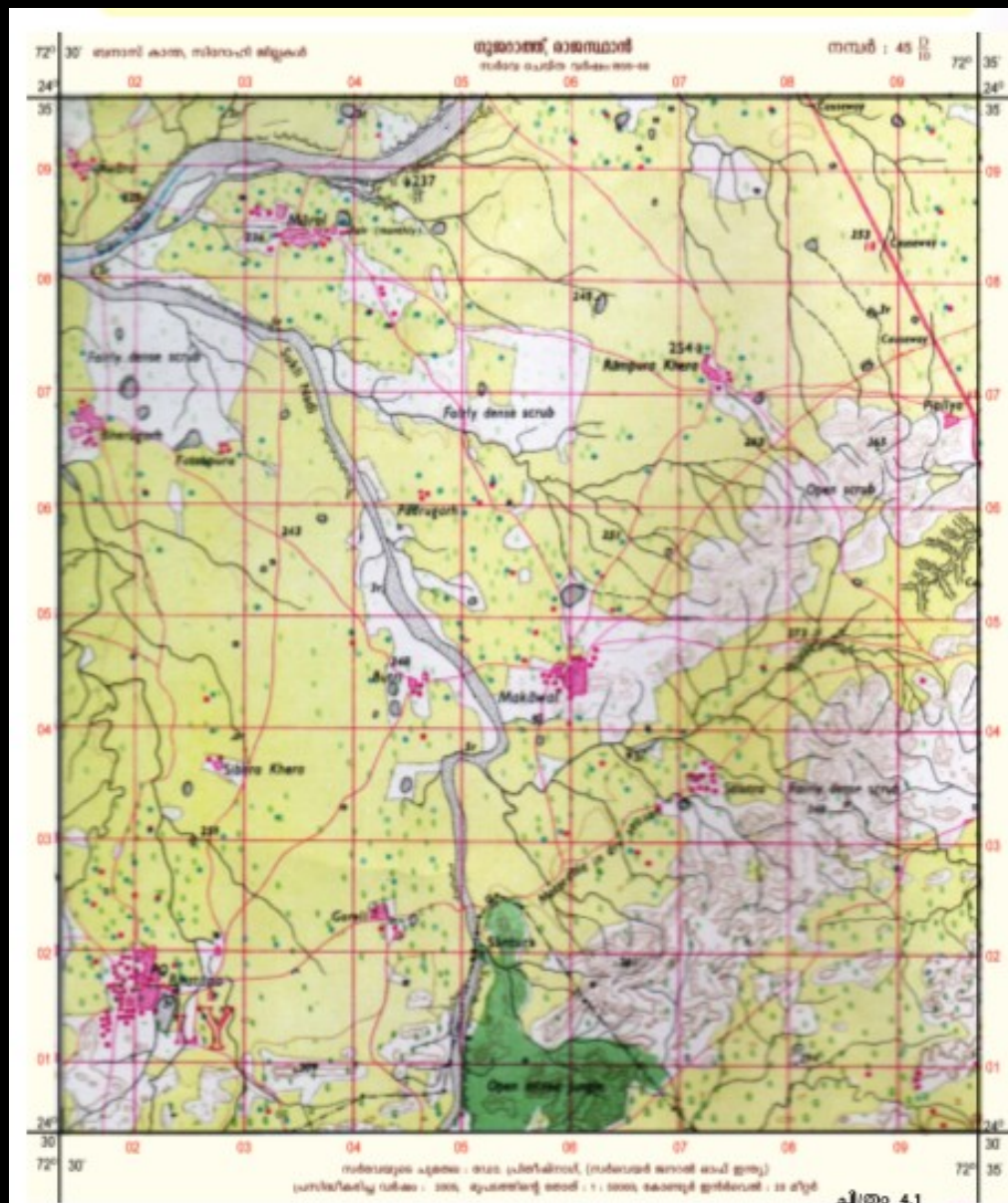


George Everest

the Tax Survey, the Topographic Survey, and the Trigonometric survey were carried out by the East India Company in the Indian subcontinent. These surveys that were began with the stewardship of Col. William Lambton in 1802 which took more than 50 years to be completed, were very accurate.

Several Indians were part of these surveys conducted through difficult terrains and hostile climate, carrying the heavy metallic survey instrument called theodolite which weighed half a ton. The surveys incurred immense expenditure and took a toll on many. Col. George Everest joined as an assistant to Lambton in 1818. This was the first survey that recorded the correct measurements of the Himalayan mountain ranges.

As a tribute to George Everest who took up the survey as Lambton's successor the highest peak in the Himalayan mountain ranges was named as Mount Everest. The first topographic maps of the Indian subcontinent were prepared after the completion of the survey in 1854.



Topographical Map



Toposheets

The English term ‘topography’ is derived from the Greek terms ‘topo’ and ‘graphie’ which mean ‘place’ and ‘to write or draw’ respectively. Topographic maps are also known as toposheets.

What is Topographical maps?

- Topographical maps depict in minute detail all the natural and man made features on the earth's surface.**
- These maps contain the important surface features such as the undulations of the terrain, rivers, other water bodies, forests, agricultural land, barren land, villages, towns, and transport and telecommunication systems.**
- These maps show both natural and man-made features in details.**
- Topographic maps are large-scale maps.**
- Large-scale maps are maps depicting detailed information of relatively small areas.**

Who is responsible for making the Topographic map in India? Why?

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Survey of India

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-Certain restrictions have been imposed on the use of topographic maps of strategic regions owing to the national security concerns.

Uses of topographical maps?

-Analysis of the physical and the cultural features of the earth surface.

-For military operations and the preparation of military maps.

-Identification and studying of the natural and the cultural resources of a region as part of economic planning.

-For urban planning.

-To understand land use.

-To understand the topography.

-For resource conservation and allocation.

-For computerized form of maps - GIS

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