

**District profile**  
**Of**  
**Darjeeling , West Bengal**  
**EXPORT FACILITATION CENTRE WEST BENGAL**  
**(AN INITIATIVE OF WBIDC IN COLLABORATION WITH IIFT)**



**Submitted by**  
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## About the District:

The district of Darjeeling is the northern most district of the State of West Bengal. Lying on the foot hills of the Himalayas, the district is the gateway to the State of Sikkim and the bordering countries of Bhutan and Nepal. The town provides a splendid view of the towering Kanchanjunga. Over the years Darjeeling has attracted tourists from all parts of the country and outside and has come to be known as the “**Queen of the Hills**”. And provides a perfect gateway for those seeking to be in harmony with nature. This is the land of the muscatel flavored **Darjeeling tea** revered by connoisseurs across the globe. This is the land of the world heritage **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** where the century old miniature steam engine still chugs uphill vying for space with the fast disappearing Land Rovers. “Flowers are everywhere. The days are cold and the sun almost seems to play hide and seek with us”. – Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore. It is certainly that Darjeeling in the postmodern era comprises of six **T's - Tea, Teak, Tourism, Toy Train, Tiger Hill and Trekkers' paradise.**

Darjeeling district is bounded on the north by the State of Sikkim, on the south by Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal; on the east by Bhutan and on the west by Nepal.

The name Darjeeling acclaimed from the [Tibetan](#) words *Dorje*, which is the [thunderbolt sceptre](#) of the Hindu deity [Indra](#), and *ling*, which means "a place" or "land. The name Darjeeling is a composition of 'dorje' meaning 'thunderbolt' and 'ling' meaning 'place' ... 'the Land of Thunderbolt'. Until the beginning of the 18th century the Darjeeling belonged to the rajas of Sikkim. In 1780 they lost Darjeeling to Gurkhas. A series of wars were fought between the Gurkhas and East India Company, eventually leading to the defeat of the Gurkhas. Campbell (from British) built the district and laid the foundation of the, now multi-million dollar tea industry in 1841. Now after freedom Darjeeling had developed a lot and numerous tea gardens had been established. Since the formation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in 1988 the hill areas fall under its jurisdiction. It has elected Councillors and they have the authority in managing certain affairs of the hill like education, tourism, health etc. Its beauty attracts the tourist from all over the world.



## Geography:

The district is situated between  $26^{\circ}31'$  and  $27^{\circ}13'$  N latitude and between  $87^{\circ}59'$  and  $88^{\circ}53'E$  longitude. Geographically, the district can be divided into two broad divisions: the hills and the plains, with the former being the dominant geographical entity. The entire hilly region of the district comes under the [Gorkhaland Territorial Administration](#), a semi-autonomous administrative body under the state government of West Bengal. This body covers the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Mirik and the district of Kalimpong. The foothills of Darjeeling Himalayas, which comes under the Siliguri subdivision, is known as the [Terai](#).

The Darjeeling hill area is formed of comparatively recent rock structure that has a direct bearing on landslides. Heavy monsoon precipitation contributes to the landslides. Soils of Darjeeling hill areas are extremely varied, depending on elevation, degree of slope, vegetative cover and geolithology.

The Himalayas serve as the source of natural resources for the population residing in the hills as well as in the plains. As human population expands in the hills, forests are being depleted for the extension of agricultural lands, introduction of new settlements, roadways, etc. The growing changes coming in the wake of urbanisation and industrialisation leave deep impressions on the hill ecosystem.

Mahananda, Teesta, Mechi, Greater Rangil, Jaldhaka and Balasan are the major rivers draining the district. Tributaries of Teesta namely Ghis, Lish, Mauza, Taipu, Lachka, etc. flow through the district in different ways. All the major rivers originate from the Himalayas and are perennial in nature, being fed by the melting snow of the glaciers. Due to shallow beds, they become turbulent during the monsoons, after heavy precipitation in catchment areas. The Darjeeling Hill area is primarily composed of erosional landforms produced by southerly flowing streams, which have exposed a full cross section of different tectonic units. The form units are, however approximately the same throughout the hill area, having more or less uniform lithology, structure, climate, soil and vegetative covers.

A brief description of various formations of the Darjeeling Himalaya is given here under:

**Raised Terraces:** A recent to sub recent formation form a fringe along the hills, especially at the confluences of the rivers. These terraces are composed of gravels, pebbles and boulders mixed with sand and clay. The formation is semi-consolidated, stratified along with the evidences of upheaval at places. This type of high-level terraces is also called the Terai. A 40 m high terrace is found in the Tista valley at Kalijhora.

**Siwalik:** The Siwalik system in the Darjeeling hill areas is comprised of mudstones, sandstones, shale and conglomerates along with the bands of shale and lignite. In the Hill Cart Road and along the Tista River a few stretches of good exposers of Siwalik are found. The general strike of these rocks is NNE-SSW to NW-SE with dips varying between 30° to 60°.

**Damuda Series:** Just after Siwalik, coarse-grained hard sandstone, quartzites, carbonaceous shale and slates belong to Damuda series are found. The Damuda series of Darjeeling hill areas is equivalent to the Gondwanas of Indian peninsular region. The maximum width of the Damuda is about 2.5 km along the Tista valley. The maximum thickness is about 1000m. The general strike of the bed is from ENE to WSW, with a varying dip of 40° to 90°. In this belt coal seams of about 3 mt. are found near Tindharia region, Lish and Gish Rivers.

**Daling Series:** This series is comprised of chlorite shales, phyllites and schist associated with quartzite, which rest over Damuda series. Well-developed form of Damuda series is found along the Tista River and the stretches along the Tindharia –Paglajhora on the Hill Cart Road. The rocks are occasionally traversed by quartz and feldspar veins. The most important feature of this series is increasing metamorphism upwards, where slates form the lowest bed.

Darjeeling Gneiss: In the higher reaches of the Darjeeling hill areas, the Dalings gradually grade into the more metamorphosed rocks, which is known as Darjeeling Gneiss. The dips of the rocks are irregular and vary in between  $40^{\circ}$  –  $70^{\circ}$ . Darjeeling gneisses are highly foliated due to metamorphism. There are two prominent sets of joints in the Darjeeling gneiss, one running roughly NW-SE and the other NNW-SSE. The general direction of the hill spurs is in accordance with the joint directions.

### **Climate:**

Darjeeling hill areas is unique from environmental Eco-perception. The relief varies from 100 Mts. above sea level to the mighty Kanchanjungha. There are different climatic zones with distinctive attributes and there are endangered animals like red panda etc along with memory orchids and medicinal plants are available in this hilly region.

The amount of rainfall plays a very important role in causing instability of slopes. A very high intensity of rainfall within a short span of time is not uncommon in Darjeeling hill areas. The isohyets, maps prepared on the basis of average annual rainfall during last 25 years in 3 subdivisions in Darjeeling hill areas, shows that the value increases from west to east, a maximum concentration of landslides fall between 210cm and 410cm of Isohyets.

Besides seasonality, another climatic feature in the Darjeeling hills is created by orographic factor; causing the vertical zonation of temperature and decline of precipitation. Thus, the mountain front is exposed to heavy rainfall, especially the middle parts of the southern hills. The mean annual temperature fluctuates from  $24^{\circ}\text{c}$  in the plains and drops below  $12^{\circ}\text{c}$  on the ridge. During summer month the temperature reaches  $16^{\circ}\text{c}$ - $17^{\circ}\text{c}$  on the ridge and during winter drops at  $5^{\circ}\text{c}$ - $6^{\circ}\text{c}$ .

There is no distinct relation between total rainfall and altitude. The southern slopes of the ridges get much higher (4000-5000mm) precipitation than the leeward sides (2000-2500mm). The annual total rainfall in Darjeeling town fluctuates between 1870-3690 mm.

Due to unprecedented growth of population during the last few decades in the Darjeeling hill areas, nature has started reacting sharply to the accumulated human guilt. Landslide hazards, especially during rainy season have become a common factor to the people of the hill.

In respect of landslide hazards, the duration of rainfall is very important. Long duration along with heavy down pour may cause deeper infiltration and overland flow, which ultimately may

result into the occurrence of landslides on weaker slopes. The records show some of the long continued down pours. Amongst them the most remembered ones are in 1787,1789, 1827 (493 mm in one day) and in June 1950 (965 mm). The last such rainfall recorded during 1968 (2nd and 5th Oct – about 1780 mm). Thereafter, 358 mm in Oct 1973, 382 mm in June 1983, 457 mm in September 1986 and 350mm in 1990 were recorded.

Source : <https://darjeeling.gov.in/economy/>

## Demography:

The district covers an area of 3149 sq.km (Year-2011). This district is one of the least populated districts of the state with the total population of the district 1,842,034 (according to 2011 census). The total no. of males and females are 934,796 and 907,238 respectively and the density of population is 585 persons per square kilometers. The district ranks 6 th in terms of literacy rate and 1st in terms of sex ratio among all other districts of West Bengal.

Sex ratio: 970 (females every 1000 males).

## Infrastructure:

Darjeeling being one of the most visited tourist places in eastern India has its own importance in road network not only for local mobility but also for the development of tourism and economic prosperity of the region. The majority of the population lives in the Darjeeling town itself. The district is well networked with other parts of the states through:

Road ways: **National Highway:**

**NH 55** (others NH 31, NH 31A, NH 31C) o

Lane: o

Length of NH 55 within the district: 77 KM (total length of all the NHs within the district is 100 Km.

Connected other states:

Connected other districts: Siliguri

Blocks and towns on the NH: NH 55 passes through Matigara, Mirik, Sevoke, Odlabari, Karsyang. NH 31C passes through Batasi, Kharibari.

State Highway (SH):

**SH 12** passes through Mirik, Peshok and Kalimpong and it touches the districts like Siliguri and Coochbihar. The length of the SH with in the district is 80

**Railway:**

Nearest major railway station is New Jalpaiguri (NJP). NJP is also the nodal point to access other North Eastern states. NJP to Dajeeling is 3 hours journey

### **Airways:**

Customs Airport, Bagdogra

Only 16 KM away from Siliguri city

2nd airport in West Bengal

Have flight connectivity to parts of India:

Kolkata , New Delhi , Mumbai , Bangalore , Chennai and Guwahati

Have direct flight connectivity to Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi, Paro

### **Other social infrastructure:**

In recent years, Darjeeling has experienced a marked increase in population and faster pace of urbanization that has resulted in rapid growth of traffic volume within the city exasperating the existing problems of limited road space. Moreover, a huge number of tourists visit Darjeeling every year. Unfortunately, the town's infrastructure was never meant for such an enormous number of people; hence the utility and services are not always at par with people's expectation. The Darjeeling Municipality, located on the Laden La Road, is doing its level best to improve the situation. In general, the three most important areas of function for any municipality are health and sanitation, supply of drinking water, maintenance and lighting of roads. Other than that, municipalities also run primary schools; maintain parks, remove encroachment from public places etc. Darjeeling Municipality, though constraint with funds, has been able to achieve great success in most fields. In spite of its small size, the district has adequate number of hospitals run both by the governmental agencies and private parties. Among them, District Hospital, located on the Hill Cart Road, is run by the government while DDMA Hospital, located on Nehru Road, is a private hospital. Other than these, Yuma Nursing Home and Diagnostic Centre, Mariam Nursing Home, Jeet Eye Clinic, Baba Ram Dev Patanjalin Arogya Kendro, Tibetan Medical Clinic, Himalayan Pathological Centre are few other establishments, which are run by private parties.

Quite a few reputed banks have opened their branches in Darjeeling. Among them:

- The State Bank of India, Axis Bank Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd and Corporation Bank are located on the Laden La Road.
- Bank Of Baroda, UCO Bank and Indian Bank are located on the Robertson Road.
- Bank of India and Allahabad Bank are located on H. D. Lama Road.
- Vijaya Bank is located on Gandhi Road.

- Union Bank is located in Darjeeling Bazar.

<b>Name of the Bank</b>	<b>No. of branches</b>
SBI	55
Allahabad	43
UBI	37
UCO	24
BOI	22
PNB	20
CBI	16
AXIX	11
IOB	8
Union Bank of India	8
ICICI	7
HDFC	6
BOB	6
Syndicate	3
IDBI	3
Indian	2
Oriental	2

### **Education:**

- (a) No. of Primary school - 1233
- (b) No. of Middle schools - 126
- (c) No. of Secondary & senior secondary schools - 85
- (d) No. of Colleges Nos. 3
- (e) Technical Education: Engineering College: 05  
Polytechnics: 04  
ITI: 02

Source : <file:///C:/Users/Tapan%20Basak/Downloads/Survey%20-%20District%20wise.pdf>

### **District Administration:**

#### **Administrative Subdivisions**

Darjeeling District comprises four subdivisions:

- Darjeeling Sadar subdivision
- Kurseong subdivision
- Mirik subdivision



- Siliguri subdivision

- Darjeeling town, the headquarters of the district, is at an altitude of 6710 feet. Kurseong, and Siliguri are other main towns and sub divisional headquarters. Siliguri is the largest town and one of the most densely populated cities and industrial towns of the state. Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Kurseong are popular hill stations.

The other towns in Darjeeling subdivision are Pulbazar, Rangli Rangliot and Sukhlapokhari. Towns in Kalimpong subdivision are Kalimpong and Gurubathan. The towns in Kurseong division are Kurseong and Mirik, and the towns in Siliguri subdivision are Matigara, Naxalbari, Kharibari, Batasi, Baghdogra and Phansidewa.



Kurseong Station, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

### **Assembly constituencies**

The district was previously divided into six [assembly constituencies](#).<sup>[8]</sup> As per the order of the [Delimitation Commission](#) in respect of the [delimitation of constituencies](#) in West Bengal, the district had been divided into six assembly constituencies. **Kalimpong has become a separate district from 14 February 2017, so the number of assembly constituencies in Darjeeling district is now five.**

1. [Darjeeling](#) (assembly constituency no. 23)
2. [Kurseong](#) (assembly constituency no. 24)
3. [Matigara-Naxalbari \(SC\)](#) (assembly constituency no. 25)
4. [Siliguri](#) (assembly constituency no. 26)
5. [Phansidewa \(ST\)](#) (assembly constituency no. 27)

Phansidewa constituency is reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates. Matigara-Naxalbari constituency is reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) candidates. Along with one assembly constituency from [Kalimpong district](#).

### **Economy of the district:**

Agriculture and tourism are the major industries of the district. The principal economy of Darjeeling Hill Area depends on tea production, horticulture, agriculture and forestry. The major portions of the forests are today found at elevations of 2000 metres and above. The area located in between 1000-2000 metres is cleared either for tea plantation or cultivation.

The district is famous for Tea cultivation. Tea is mainly grown in Darjeeling Sadar sub-division and to some extent in the Kurseong sub-division. The Kalimpong subdivision has excellent potential for passion fruit cultivation.

Major field crops – Rice, Maize, Wheat, Oilseed (mustard, linseed)

Fruits –Pineapple Mandarin, Banana, Litchi

The district has rich forest coverage, with major forest resources being citronella grass, sal, leaves, honey, medicinal plant, etc. Forest is another important resource for economic development. The area under forest is 124575 hectares which is 38.28 percent of the total area of the district. The district is rich in minor forest resources like Amliso grass (used for making brooms and cattle fodder), Total fruits (used for decoration purpose), etc. The district is also rich in medicinal plants and meets the raw material requirement of pharmaceutical and ayurvedic units established outside of the district.

Reporting area in the district for Agriculture & Horticulture is 325474 hectares. Net sown area is 40.71% of total reporting area. Due to rocky nature of soil it is not so rich in agricultural produce but due to same reason and for favourable weather the district **is the highest producer of Pineapple and Orange**. Major producing blocks of Orange are: Kalimpong I & II, Kurseong, Mirik.

#### Position of District in terms of State production:

Darjeeling	Crops/ Veg/ Fruits/ livestock	Rank in the state	Production, 000' MT	% of states' production
Agriculture	Maize	3rd	39.6	10.27
Vegetables	Peas	3rd	12.59	10.02
Fruits	Pineapple	1st	131.9	43.44
	Mandarin Orange	1st	36.53	98.70
	Temperate fruits	1st	30.16	100.00
Livestock population (in numbers)	Pig	3rd	75516(No)	9.27

Other than the above items vegetables are also available in significant quantity in the district. Along with spices like ginger, large cardamom etc.

Darjeeling had become an important tourist destination as early as 1860. Since India's economic liberalisation in 1991, tourism in Darjeeling has become cheaper, and Darjeeling,

once considered a luxury destination, has become accessible to **mass tourism**. A 2016 study recorded the tourist influx into Darjeeling town between 2009 and 2014 as ranging from a low of 243,255 individuals in the 2010–2011 season to a high of 488,675 in 2012–2013; the large majority were domestic tourists, with foreign tourists never comprising more than 35,000 annual visitors.

#### **INDUSTRIAL SCENERIO OF DARJEELING DISTRICT:**

1. NO. OF REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT- 302
2. ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES - 208
3. NO. OF EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES - 14965
4. TURNOVER OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES - 104,000 IN LAKHS

#### **Large Scale Industries in Darjeeling: Tea Industry**

#### **Medium Scale Enterprises:**

1. Lumtex Agri Udyog Ltd.
2. M/s Merigold Industries Pvt. Ltd.

#### **Service Enterprises:**

Khorabari Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.

#### **Potential industries in Darjeeling have been categorized in three groups namely:**

#### **RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRIES –**

**Food Processing** -Darjeeling district alone produces approximately 90,000 tonnes of Pineapple, 20,000 tonnes of Oranges, 80,000 tonnes of Tomato per annum. Besides as much as 6,00,000 nos. of Oranges per day are available in peak season from Sikkim. These huge resources of raw fruits justifies setting up of an integrated plant for producing various items like Orange Squash, Orange Marmalade, Tomato Sauce, Vinegar, Juice, Pineapple rings, Frozen fruits etc.

**Floriculture** - Existing production of 60 MT of flowers in Darjeeling district and 20 MT available from Sikkim can easily be exploited. Besides flower cymbidiums, cypridium and other orchards, cactuses, bulbs, gladiolie etc., which are in huge demand, are available in abundance. Tissue culture also has tremendous prospects.

**Wood based industries** - Large forest cover with abundant supply of wood, bamboo, cane etc. provides excellent opportunity for setting up of industries for manufacture of plywood, veneer, particle board from wood dust, wooden furniture, wood charcoal, cane furniture etc. Sericulture» Climate of Darjeeling district is ideally suited for mulberry cultivation, which does

not require larger pieces of land. Further processing of cocoons at local level will ensure high value addition thereby increasing its acceptability amongst small farmers.

**Pharmaceuticals** - Darjeeling has the potential to come up as one of the most promising area for production of phytochemical and pharmaceutical products. Apart from the present exploitation of Chinchona bark for quinine and ipecac root for emetine, the following items have been identified:

Raserpin from Rauwolfia, Contraceptive pills and hormones from Dioscorea. Cardia glycosides from Digitalis, Alkaloids from Ergot, Atropine and Scopolamine from Daturas, Lemongrass oil, Palmarosa oil, Khas Khas Oil, Citronella Oil, Vinca Rosia.

The West Bengal Photochemical and Pharmaceutical Development Corporation has already been running one profit making unit in Toralpara in Jalpaiguri. The Forest Department of West Bengal has been producing 50,000 litres of Citronella oil per annum in Sukna Distillation Plant. The medicinal plants do not need big plots of land for their cultivation. They can well grow in forest, tea gardens and in other farming lands. Ginger products manufacturing, extraction of papein from papaya are other very lucrative possibilities. Darjeeling produces nearly 4,000 tonnes of ginger per annum most of which is sent outside the district without any processing.

#### **DEMAND BASED INDUSTRIES-**

In keeping with the rising demand of cheap protein, Darjeeling district has been nurturing a number of button and oyster mushroom farms quite successfully. These farms require a little amount of land and local entrepreneurs are quite well equipped with the technology. The industry has excellent export potential as well.

Dust free and cool regions of Darjeeling could be utilized for promotion of Electronic and Software industry. Some tea industry based Electronic appliances identified by West Bengal Electronic Industry Development Corporation are, namely, Digital Thermometer, Electronic Pressure Gauge, Electronic Hygrometer, Sequential Timer, Electronic Thermometer, Automatic Temperature Controlling system, Multiple Peripheral Controller, Moisture Meter, Automatic Weighing system, Electronic Colour sawing system, Electronic Image Processing system.

The Concept of DTP (Desk Top Publishing) which has revolutionized the printing technology the world over, has opened a whole new world of innovative designing and publishing for the people engaged in printing, writing, designing, visualizing, advertising, commercial art etc. The burgeoning urban population in Siliguri, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Darjeeling is expected to make increasing demand on such sophisticated electronic media of printing.

TV Set Assembling TV Antenna Manufacturing has already seen quite a considerable number of profit making industrial enterprises in and around Siliguri. Similar enterprises could be set up in Darjeeling, K

Bio-fertilizer units have tremendous potential in view of adverse effects of chemical fertilizers on the quality of tea in particular and other agricultural produce in general. There is also a possibility for processing the urban waste into organic manure which shall find ready market in the tea and other plantations. Siliguri Municipal Corporation area alone produces about 200 MT of garbage daily.

Household consumables and consumer durables both can be produced at Siliguri in view of large distribution network which can be used for marketing of these products in eastern India. As a result of growth of small and medium industry around Siliguri there is a possibility of setting up of units for manufacturing of industrial spares, consumables, lubricants, automobile spares and other such articles of replaceable nature.

### **SKILLBASED INDUSTRIES**

The artisans of these districts create exquisite varieties of ornaments, carpets, household articles, handicrafts, and other articles, which are widely acclaimed. The traditional cottage industries also include woolen garments, and cane and bamboo work. These cottage and handicraft industries however need proper marketing support through purchase, organising of handicraft exhibitions, formation of societies and guilds etc.

### **TOURISM BASED INDUSTRIES**

Darjeeling needs wayside resorts at places like Sukna, Mirik, Teesta, Malli, Kurseong etc. where travelers could halt for brief rest and refreshment.

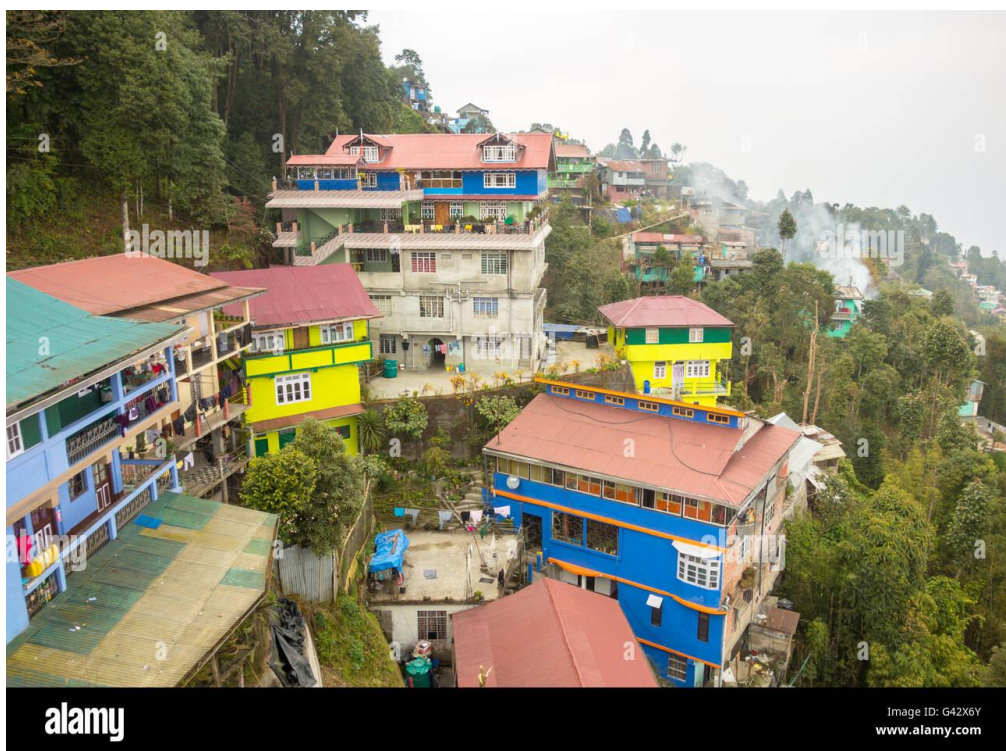
Big size highway hotels, catering to corporate conference and seminars are required for attracting business travel.

The existing and proposed hotels and extend their services to the local clientele and weekend tourists through swimming pools, Golf courses, family resorts, hut clusters etc.

Organisation of craft meals, local folk cultural meets, flower shows, Himalayan Car Rally etc. at a fixed time in the year preferably in March, April and May by the resorts themselves would attract visitors from all over the country.

Conversion of depressions, marshy land etc. into shallow waters for attracting migratory birds and construction of small resorts and catering facilities around these sites will attract local parties, wedding, school children and weekend tourists.

Source : <https://www.indiangorkhas.in/2014/02/potential-industries-in-darjeeling.html>



(Image : Darjeeling town)

### **DETAILS OF MAJOR CLUSTERS IN THE DISTRICT:**

- Lead Acid Battery, Siliguri, Darjeeling

- 1.Principal Products Manufactured in the Cluster - Lead Acid Storage Battery
- 2 Name of the SPV - Siliguri Storage Battery Cluster Services Pvt. Ltd.
- 3 No. of functional units in the clusters- 72
- 4 Turnover of the Clusters- Rs.100 cr.
- 5 Value of Exports from the Clusters -Rs.135 lakhs
- 6 Employment in Cluster- 1440
7. Problems & constraints - Low level of capacity utilization due to poor profitability.

- Clay Pottery, Siliguri

- 1.Principal Products Manufactured in the Cluster- Earthen utensils
- 2 Name of the SPV Matigara-Paulpara Industrial Cluster Cooperative Society Ltd.
- 3 No. of functional units in the clusters- 130
- 4 Turnover of the Clusters- Rs. 4.55 Cr.
- 5 Value of Exports from the Clusters
- 6 Employment in Cluster- 750
7. Problems & constraints-Non availability of improved ceramic; finance; marketing

- Production cluster for Pineapple , PHANSIDEWA

Phansedeoa block of Siliguri sub-division of Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

Name of the SPV - BIDHANNAGAR PINEAPPLE PROCESSING CLUSTER

No. of functional units in the clusters- 28

Turnover of the Clusters- 115.6 lakhs

Employment in Cluster- 59

Pineapple (*Ananus comesus*), an important commercial fruit crop, is a rich source of vitamin A, B and C and also contains a large number of nutrients essential for human health. Besides this, a large number of value added products like, jam, jelly mixed jam etc. can be produced, which will provide remunerative prices to the farming community in a sustainable manner and also will generate employment for unemployed rural people. Considering the economic importance of the crop, Government of India has sanctioned one out of the ten Agricultural Export Zone (AEZ) for pineapple for all-round development of the pine apple producing areas. Pineapple, generally, favours humid tropical climatic with sandy loam soil texture for production of maximum quality fruits, but it can also be cultivated successfully in areas having annual rainfall ranging between 100 – 150 cm. and medium rainfall areas having In West Bengal, it is the third important fruit crop in terms of area coverage and production after mango and banana. Although, the crop grows well in all the districts of West Bengal, it is the Darjeeling district of this state, which has the highest area under the crop and production during the period 2004-05.

#### Some of the other existing cluster:

Sector	Name of Cluster	Location of Cluster	No of Unit	No. of people Employed	Turnover( in lakhs)
WOODEN FURNITURE	Shibmandir Wooden Furniture Cluster	Shibmandir and Darjeeling more	36	200	476
CHEMICAL PRODUCT	Khoribari Incense Sticks manufacturing Cluster	Khoribari	21	43	70
FOOD PRODUCTS & PROCESSING	Kawakhali Pickles Manufacturing Cluster	Kawakhali , Matigara, Siliguri	18	187	44.9
TEXTILES & READYMADE GARMENTS	Kharibari Readymade Garments Cluster	Kharibari , Siliguri	30	73	127.4

CLAY & CERAMIC	Matigara Clay Pottery	Clay Pottery, Matigara, Siliguri	25	102	116
FOOD PRODUCTS & PROCESSING	Bee keeping	Darjeeling-Pulbazar	30	150	3.6

Source : [https://dcmsme.gov.in/old/dips/DARJEELING\\_wb.pdf](https://dcmsme.gov.in/old/dips/DARJEELING_wb.pdf)

Source : <https://wbmsme.gov.in/msmecluster>

## Export from the district:

The major exportable items are:

**Tea** - India was the second largest tea producer in the world. The total tea export was US\$ 501.16 million in April 2020 to November 2020 and for November 2020 it was US\$ 71.61 million. Darjeeling Tea is widely and universally acknowledged to be the finest tea, because its flavour is so unique that it cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world. The Annual production of Darjeeling Tea is approximately 10 Million Kgs. At present Darjeeling district exports roughly 3 million tons of orthodox tea from Hills and 14 million tons of CTC from plains West Bengal has been the second largest tea growing State in India. Tea exports from West Bengal are estimated to be valued at around US\$ 172.22 million in 2019-20.

India's exports represent 5.1% of world exports for this product, its ranking in world exports is 4. The HS CODE IS 0902

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
EXPORT VALUE	376,545	687,890	692,074	813,746	767,710	768,406

Source: Trademap

(Value in USD thousand)





Food processing units and Food Grains (Rice, pulses, etc) – Till 2006-07, number of food processing units in the district was 166. At present, Darjeeling exports roughly 6500 tons per day of food grains (Rice, pulses, wheat, maize, etc) .

**Pineapple** – In West Bengal, it is the third important fruit crop in terms of area coverage and production after mango and banana. Pineapple (*Ananas comesus*), an important commercial fruit crop and a large number of value added products like, jam, jelly mixed jam etc. can be produced, which will provide remunerative prices to the farming community in a sustainable manner and also will generate employment for unemployed rural people. Although, the crop grows well in all the districts of West Bengal, it is the Darjeeling district of this state, which has the highest area under the crop and production during the period 2004-05. Major producing blocks are : Matigara , Naxalbari , Phansidewa. At present Darjeeling district exports roughly 1050 tons of Pineapple.

The HS CODE IS 0804.



Source : <https://www.cropandweed.com/archives/2008/vol4issue2/7.pdf>

### Government initiatives:

To help the Indian exporters market teas of Indian origin in overseas markets on a sustained basis, the Tea Board of India started a scheme: Promotion for packaged Tea of Indian origin. The scheme provides assistance in promotional campaigns - up to 25% of the cost reimbursement, display in International Departmental Stores, product literature and website development, and inspection charges reimbursement of up to 25% of the charges.

### Tea Development and Promotion Scheme:

This scheme was launched in November 2021 by the Tea Board of India for the period of 2021-26. The objective of this scheme is to enhance the productivity and quality of the production in India. There are seven important components to this scheme,

- Plantation development of small tea farmers
- Creation of sector specific actions plan for North East India
- Supporting the tea producers and trader in market promotion activities
- Worker's welfare
- Research and development activities
- Regulatory reforms
- Establishment expenses

### Government plans to promote evergreen revolution in Tea production:

#### 1. Roadmap for revolution in tea sector:

- **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, said evergreen revolution in the tea sector is the improvement in productivity in perpetuity without **ecological and social harm**.
  - Evergreen revolution takes care of the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental pollution, soil degradation, groundwater depletion and loss of biodiversity for increasing yield.
2. **Objective is to produce more from less inputs:**
    - More crops from less water, less land, less pesticide, less fertilizer.
  3. **Developing high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties:** The Evergreen revolution is necessary for ensuring food, nutrition and environmental security in a sustainable manner. In the last eight years, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the aegis of ICAR has released 2,122 high-yielding stress-tolerant crop varieties / hybrids of different field crops.
  4. **Strengthening the seed chain of Tea crops:** Government said seed breeders are being produced and supplied on the requirement of the states and other seed production agencies as per seed rolling plans of the states.

During 2017-18 to 2021-22, a total of 5,701 tonnes of breeder seed of more than 1,400 varieties of 56 crops have been produced and supplied to various public and private seed production agencies for their downstream multiplication to foundation and certified seed.

### Way Forward:

- Support small growers to improve **quality with sustainability, increase production** to meet domestic and international demand.
- Create infrastructure to augment exports and focus on high value markets such as **EU, Canada, South America & Middle East.**
- Focus on the importance of a risk proof ecosystem, that is, the need for sustainable solutions to make tea plantations meet the challenges of climate change
- Promote organic and GI tea through brand promotion and marketing.
- Enable tea farmers to become **self-reliant and strengthen local supply chains.**

Source :

<https://www.ibef.org/exports/indian-tea-industry>

<https://www.dhyeyaias.com/current-affairs/daily-current-affairs/no-separate-relief-scheme-for-darjeeling-tea>

### DIC office:

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### Training institutions:

**Skill Development**

**Schemes -**

**Utkarsh Bangla, PMKVY** (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana), **DDUGKY** (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana).

Name of the Office-in-Charge/District Nodal Officer: Smt.Tshering Choden Dukpa,WBCS(Exe).

Contact: 9002994966

Government of West Bengal is Committed towards large scale Skill development for its youth population to improve the scope of gainful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities under the WBSDM (West Bengal Skill Development Mission) chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal.

To ensure that the above commitment is met successfully the Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development; Government of West Bengal has launched the "Utkarsh Bangla", a flagship scheme on 16th February 2016 under the aegis of the PBSSD (PaschimBanga Society for Skill Development) for placement linked short-term skill trainings across the State of West Bengal.

Applicants can register here for All Short-term Skill development trainings being offered by PBSSD (Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development), Government of West Bengal.

### **Key Features of Utkarsh Bangla Vocational Training:**

- Utkarsh Bangla scheme provides free of cost vocational training that would help youth and unemployed individuals to gain employment and better livelihood.
- The total hours of free of cost vocational training ranging from 400 to 1200 hours.
- On successful completion, the trainees will be given certificates as well Tiffin Allowance of Rs. 50 with respect to total cumulative course hour duration in a day through DBT.
- UB scheme also ensures successful placement opportunity for the trainees after training.

### **Total Number of Utkarsh Bangla Training Providers (TPs) & Training Centres (TCs) within Darjeeling District:**

Total number of Registered Training providers -02

Total number of Functional Training Providers-02

Total number of Registred Training Centres – 26

Total number of Functional Training Centres - 13

Total number of DDUGKY Centres – 02

Total number of PMKVY Centres - 02

\*DDUGKY centres are Residential Training Centres.

### **SWAPNO BHOR Convergence Program (Registration for Kanyashree Girls):**

“Swapno Bhor”, a convergence programme for skill development of Kanyashree Girls, to provide opportunity to Kanyashree Girls to gain skills & knowledge to become economically independent through Utkarsh Bangla programme of the Government. Kanyashree Girls will have priority in the admission in Skill Development Courses under Utkarsh Bangla.

#### **Some Features of Swopno Bhor:**

- Kanyashree girls can develop their skills under Utkarsha Bangla with the help of Swopno Bhor and become financially independent.
- The portal of Kanyashree Prakalpa and Utkarsha Bangla will be linked through Swopno Bhor.
- Kanyashree girls will get the opportunity to undertake their preferred training course free of cost.
- On successful completion of training, Kanyashree girls will get employment opportunities

### **Recognition Prior Learning (RPL):**

A large section of India’s unorganized workforce is unskilled and semi-skilled. Most of them pick up skills and knowledge informally while watching people or working under their guidance or through complete self-education. As a result, even though they manage to get a job and get a handsome development and quality of production. They need access to training programs and skills from their employers and to advance development. The objective of RPL is to enable a large number of youth, Self salary or wages, they may not be able to enhance their skills. This also affects their productivity, skill Help Group (SHG) and unemployed unrecognized youth to take up industry-demand based training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.themselves. This is why Recognition Prior Learning (RPL) can help in evaluating and certifying them on their current competencies according to NSQF levels. RPL also shows them

the way to bridge their current level of knowledge and skills to reach a competence level or go for higher skills for professional.

### **Darjeeling District basically focusing on following sectors for RPL mode of training –**

1. Cook cum Helper for SHG women under Mid-Day Meal Program.
2. Safaiwala/Safail Karmachari under Municipal Cooperation.
3. Unarmed Security Guard.
4. Home Stay Mushroom Cultivation.
5. Operator & Manager.

#### **Contact Details**

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(Sub: -Divisional Project Manager)

#### **Source :**

<https://www.cropandweed.com/archives/2008/vol4issue2/7.pdf>

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<https://www.ibef.org/exports/indian-tea-industry>

<https://darjeeling.gov.in/skill-development>