



Report on Economic Scenario & Prospects of North Bengal

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Executive Summary

North Bengal comprises of seven districts namely, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Coochbehar, and Alipurduar (created in 2014). North Bengal's strength is its strategic location. It shares international borders with three South Asian countries — Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. It shares state borders with Assam, Sikkim and Bihar. It is also known as the gateway to the Northeast, and serves as a corridor to China and some South East Asian countries like Myanmar and Thailand.

Its water resources are vast and its natural beauty is fascinating. Almost every town is situated on the banks of a river — the Teesta, Mahananda, Balason, Karla and Torsa.

North Bengal is famous as a business hub for tea, timber and tourism. Recent development in a wide variety of emerging sectors such as real estate, IT and ITES, healthcare, education, manufacturing etc is raising new hopes.

With mangoes in Malda, pineapples in Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, Black Pepper in Alipurduar, oranges in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, the region is also a veritable food basket. In fact, North Bengal also has another great advantage.

It is a region where people of Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan can easily identify themselves with — in terms of history, heritage, languages, cultures and customs. This is something that helps create a comfort zone for those keen to do business in the region, which is on the cusp of transition.

Chapter 1: Economic and Industrial Overview of North Bengal



Introduction:

North Bengal comprises of seven districts out of the twenty districts of West Bengal, namely, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Coochbehar, and Alipurduar (created in June 2014). North Bengal comprises of about 18.35% percent of the State's total area. A brief overview is as follows:

- Total Population: 17.2 million
- Literacy Rate (excluding 0-6 age group): 71%
- Sex Ratio (Females per Thousand Males): 946
- Density (per sq.km.): 803

Source: Census 2011

Teesta, Mahananda and Jaldhaka are the snow-fed rivers of the Himalyas that flow through the region. These rivers are characterized by erratic changes in their courses and flooding. The hills and adjacent areas are covered with temperate and tropical forest composed of Pine, Fir and other evergreen trees. Sal is also quite abundant in the forest. About 18 percent of the region is covered by forest area, much of which is concentrated in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri.

There is further scope for improvement with reference to the three main civic amenities i.e. electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in North Bengal. Being predominantly rural, the access to the infrastructure is even more limited. Similar situation exists when we consider the region in terms of human development indicators. Districts under North Bengal are characterized by lower literacy levels compared to the rest of Bengal. But Darjeeling district records a comparatively high literacy rate. In addition to low levels of literacy there is also marked gender disparity. The educational composition of main workers in the districts of North Bengal reveals availability of a bulk of unskilled and illiterate workers in comparison to the State as a whole. The relative proportion of educated (matriculate and above) people in the districts of North Bengal (excluding Darjeeling) is far below the State average.

Though not much heavy industry was set up in the area, North Bengal consists of many Small and Medium Enterprises. The services sector is gradually picking up, whereas, in Darjeeling district, it has already taken roots. As per the income estimates available, the per-capita income in all the districts of North Bengal is far below the State average. However, in Darjeeling, it is just below the State average.

North Bengal's economy is pre-dominantly farm-based, although many tertiary activities are carried out in the region. Recent years have witnessed a rapid growth of manufacturing industries in North Bengal whose geographical location makes the region a potential candidate for a vibrant economic centre with both agriculture and non-agricultural activities. Traditionally, tea plantation remains one of the core areas of its economic strengths accounting for more than one-fifth of tea produced in the entire country and adding to foreign exchange reserves through export.

Manufacturing industries that can streamline the economy of North Bengal region would have to come up with private investments. It is thus required to create an environment that can attract private investors to North Bengal.

The following is a list of the basic demographic data for the districts of North Bengal by their population rank in India:

Rank District Population Growth Rate Sex Ratio Literacy Density/KM

Rank	District	Population	Growth Rate	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Density/KM
58	Maldah	3,997,970	21.5	939	62.71	1071
66	Jalpaiguri	3,869,675	13.77	954	73.79	621
124	North Dinajpur	3,000,849	22.9	936	60.13	956
136	CoochBihar	2,822,780	13.86	942	75.49	833
257	Darjeeling	1,842,034	14.47	971	79.92	585
295	South Dinajpur	1,670,931	11.16	954	73.86	753

Source: Census 2011

Economic Prospects of North Bengal:

North Bengal, which is traditionally known as a business hub for tea, timber and tourism, is eager to transcend boundaries and reach the next level of development by offering a wide variety of options to investors and entrepreneurs to put their money in emerging sectors such as real estate, IT and ITES, healthcare, education, manufacturing, etc. North Bengal's strength is its strategic location. It shares international borders with three South Asian countries — Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. It shares state borders with Assam, Sikkim and Bihar. It is also known as the gateway to the Northeast, and serves as a corridor to China and some South East Asian countries like Myanmar and Thailand. Its water resources are vast and its natural beauty is fascinating. Almost every town is situated on the banks of a river — the Teesta, Mahananda, Balason, Karla and Torsa. With mangoes in Malda, pineapples in Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, oranges in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, the region is also a veritable food basket. In fact, North Bengal also has another great advantage. It is a region where people of Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan can easily identify themselves with — in terms of history, heritage, languages, cultures and customs. This is something that helps create a comfort zone for those keen to do business in the region, which is on the cusp of transition.

Agriculture: Agriculture remains the prime occupation for many in the districts of North Bengal. Principal crops include rice and wheat; among food grains; rapeseed and mustard, jute and tea among non food grains. The region also produces certain fruits that hold a good deal of economic growth potential. Among the fruits grown in the region important ones are pineapple, papaya, litchi, jackfruit, banana and mandarin. Some other citrus fruits are also grown here. This area is the sole producer of Mandarin in the state. Pineapple accounts for more than half of the total production in the state. Commercial varieties of pineapple, viz. Kew/Giant Kew, are grown in the Terai region. Since there are not enough facilities for storage and processing of pineapple in the region, farmers often suffer from a lack of enough demand and are forced to resort to distress sale. As a result, many pineapple plantations have been converted into tea plantation.

The following table shows the gross cropped areas, net sown area, and cropping intensity in the districts of North Bengal are given below:-

**Gross Cropped Area, Net Sown Area and Cropping Intensity in the Districts of North Bengal
(Area in '000 Hectares)**

Districts	Cultivable Area *	Gross Cropped Area	Net Sown Area	Cropping Intensity (%)
Darjeeling	157	194	132	147
Jalpaiguri	353	546	336	163
Coochbehar	258	521	251	207
Uttar Dinajpur	279	488	276	177
Dakshin Dinajpur	188	308	186	166
Malda	282	443	216	205
West Bengal	5682	9530	5256	181

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal.

* Cultivable area includes net area sown, current fallow, fallow land other than current fallow, cultivable waste land, land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves.

Kisan Mandis & Crop Insurance Scheme

The State Government has opened kisan mandis (farmer markets) at block levels. The mandis have storage facilities and huge infrastructure created by Govt. The State government is opening one mandi in each block. Also warehouses for seeds are also under construction. The godowns will entail an estimated investment of Rs 23 crore. The state government has released Rs 10 crore for this project.

The State Government has also chalked out plans to introduce a "crop insurance scheme" for commercial crops. This scheme is aimed at helping the farmers recover their crop loss due floods and other natural disasters.

Multi-species Cropping in North Bengal:

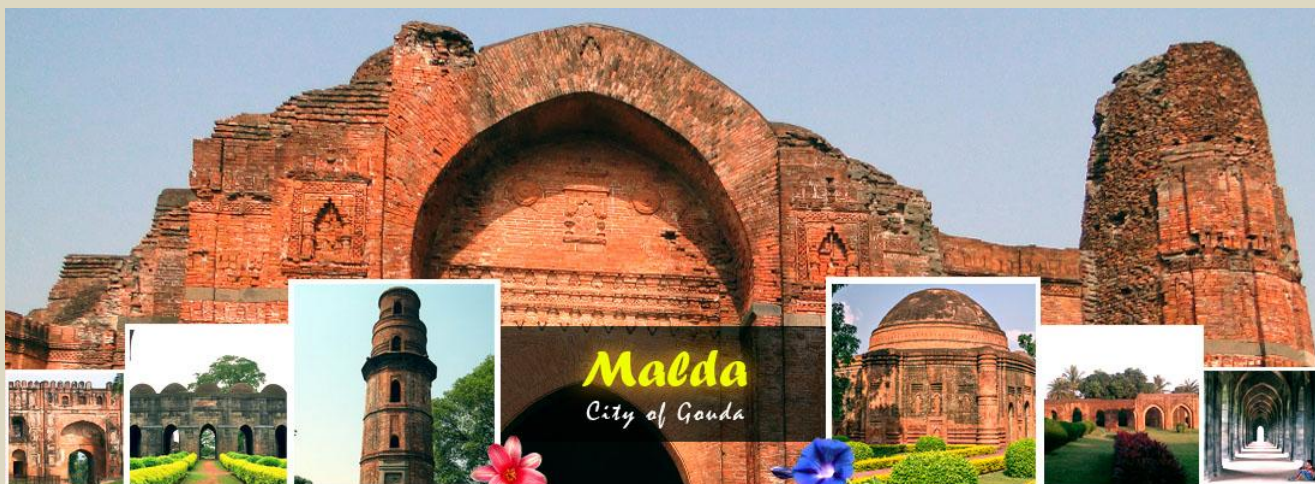
Multi-species cropping in is encouraged with the objective of increase income from unit area. Multi-species cropping help to overcome the risk of loss of income due to fluctuating prices, in order to pests and diseases etc. In West Bengal, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri Districts are selected for such farming. Each such unit requires approx 1 acre of land and each Project Period is 3 years. Total Financial Requirement for such project is estimated to be Rs 18 lakhs approx in 3 years. Ideal crop combination for multi-spices cropping for a large area of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri Districts is Areca nut, Pepper, Black Pepper, Betel vine, Acid lime, and Turmeric.

Industry: Industries have been playing a significant role in the industrial scene of the state. It not only contributes substantially to SDP of West Bengal, but also provides a great deal of employment. Districts such as Darjeeling, Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri possess quite investor-friendly environment. Today the major industries in this region include tea, food processing, fruit juices, blended spices, vegetables, floriculture, cement, paper, hospitality, hospitals, tourism, sericulture, and rubber based industries. The strategic location,

growing urbanization of Siliguri, and conducive weather conditions of Darjeeling have the potential of making it a favorable destination of IT players. Big software and hardware firms can come up around Siliguri. Moreover, large international Call Centers / BPOs can very well come up in Darjeeling and Siliguri towns. Darjeeling is home to a number of reputable English medium-schools. The English speaking abilities of the local population can be suitably leveraged to procure quality manpower for the ITES industry. Many Call Centres and BPOs based in Bengaluru and Gurgaon currently employ many young people from the hills. The establishment of these firms in this region would somewhat arrest the brain-drain that is currently taking place. It may be necessary to give these firms 'essential services' status to ensure uninterrupted service.

Services: Service sector has been the main engine of economic growth in North Bengal. The largest share of SDP is contributed by banking and insurance businesses, which received a boost as a result of policies of economic liberalization being followed at the national level. With faster urbanization in the region, demands for banking and insurance services rise, especially from trading sector. The next largest sector which contributes significantly to the SDP is the tourism and hospitality industry. In the trading sector, wholesale trading activities plays an important role in the economy of North Bengal as well as its entire hinterland extending over the north eastern states and countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Chapter 2: The Economy of Malda District



Introduction:

In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Malda one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the eleven districts in West Bengal currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). Since, it has grown to become a much more developed district, with clear prospects and roadmaps of growth, under the present administration.

The economy of the district is basically an agrarian. The district is characterised by low per capita income, fair yield per acre of land, backwardness in industrialization, shortage of capital and entrepreneurship, and also the lack of infrastructure and large labour surplus. The district has no known mineral resources and agriculture remains the main stay. The main agricultural products are paddy, Wheat, jute and Rabi-crops.

Despite projected constraints, Malda occupies an important place in the map of the State for the production of raw-silk yarn. The annual estimated production of raw-silk yarn in this district is about 85 % of the total output of the State which, if taken in terms of money amounts to approximately rupees 4 crores. Production of mango is another important aspect of Malda's economy. About forty five thousand acres of land are covered by mango orchards which, in normal years, bear fruit to the extent of 3,60,000 tonnes the value of which in money terms comes to about Rs. 5.5 crores.

It will not be out of place to put in a few words about the mango production of Malda district, which has earned fame for this district. Mango is abundantly grown Over the whole district with the exception of "Barind" area. Englishbazar is by far the highest and the best mango-growing thana. It is followed by other thanas namely Ratua, Manickchak, Kaliachak, Chanchal, Malda and Harischandrapur in that order. There are mainly two varieties of mangoes (i) the 'gooti' or the ordinary varieties of mango grown from 'seed' and (ii)

'Kalam' which is grown from grafting .The latter is of superior-quality and fetches higher price. The finest variety is the Gopalbhog, though there are other varieties namely, Brindaboni, Langra, Kshirshapati, kishanbhog and Fazli.

The mango trade is one of the most important feature of the economy of this district and one which leaves important impact on the economy of this district. The price of mango varies according to its class and the effect of weather on the crop, for hail and heavy rains are most injurious to the formation of a goods fruit. In recent years, there have been several failures of crops and there seems to be a cycle of good and bad years. A bumper crop usually comes once in four years and is followed by a bad year in which the production may come down to 25% 30% of the average production. Then comes a moderate crop with production ranging between 45-50% followed by a second bad year. The only consolation for such a bad year is that the price rises in proportion to the extent of failure of crop. Such fluctuation in the total product and price make it very difficult to reach an accurate estimate of the annual value of the mango trade.

Key Statistics:

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	66
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	-
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	-
4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	1232
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	2559
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	2
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	801.14
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	NA

Source: District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt.of W.B

List of the units in the district:

Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	Sl.	Name of the Unit
	1	Down stream of HPL (2 units)
	2	M/S Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
	3	M/S Strescon Industries Ltd.
	4	M/S Sukhjit Starch & Chemical Ltd.

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	1	M/S Woolworth India Ltd.
	2	M/S Rampal paper & Paper Board
	3	M/S East End Silk Ltd.
	4	M/S Kaliyangang Agro Trading Pvt. Ltd.

	1	Padma Himghar Pvt. Ltd.
	2	Jaikrishna Cold Storage
	3	Malda Samabay Himghar Samity. Samsi, Ratua
	4	Malda Samabay Himghar Samity. Samsi, Ratua

Service Enterprises	5	Multipurpose Cold Storage & Pack House. Gour Rd. English Bazeer.
	6	Malda Cold Storage (Pvt.) Ltd., Vill. Jadupur, Po. Kamalabari, English Bazeer
	7	Jogi Bhuvan Multipurpose Cold Storage (Pvt.) Ltd. Vill. Kamaladighi, Old Malda
	8	Malda Multipurpose Cold Storage. Samai, Ratua.
	9	Malda Mango Co-operative Society Ltd.(MALCOS), Bachamari, Old Malda.
	10	Adina Samabay Him-Ghar Samity Ltd. Adina, Gazole.
	11	Phonex Multipurpose Cold Storage (Pvt.) Ltd., Narayanpur, Old Malda.
	12	Ma Manaskamana Multipurpose Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. Mission Rd. Narayanpur, Old Malda.

Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

FOOD AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

- Rice, jute, legumes, and oilseed are the chief crops in the surrounding area. Malda is the largest producer of excellent quality of jute in India. The district has potential for development of jute textile industries, Industries related to processing of jute and thus enhancing jute trade.
- In Malda district mango is cultivated extensively. It may be mentioned that Englishbazar, Manikchak, Ratua-I, Ratua-II, Old Malda, Kaliachak-I, Kaliachak-II, Kaliachak-III and Gazole are the most important blocks for production of mangoes out of total 15 blocks of the district. There are more than 250 varieties of mangoes reported to be cultivated in Malda district, but Fazli, Aswina, Himsagar (Khirsapati), Langra, Laxmanbhog, Gopalbhog, Amrapalli, Mallika are the major commercial varieties. The district has enough potential for development of industries associated with mangoes like pulp packaging. Manufacturing products like wine from mango, mango oil, mango pulp and biscuits could be developed here.
- Milk processing and manufacturing milk products like butter, ghee, cheese, packaged milk and other health drinks related industries can also be set up in Malda.
- Horticultural production is rich and small scale industries based on horticultural resources can be developed in the district.
- Establishment of a Food Park near Malda town might also provide scope for exploiting the horticultural base.
- Existence of an Agri-Export Zone in Malda provides incentives for export of agricultural products.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

- Malda with its rich heritage and colonial history can indeed become one of the most cherished tourist destinations of West Bengal. Ideally nestled at the convergence of Mahananda and Kalindri River, the town Malda with its entire sheen enhances the beauty of Bengal. The immense traditional legacy, that Malda inherited from its glorified past history would help the flourishing growth of tourism in Malda. Malda, being a seat of the indigenous and the alien communities the tourism industry has been able to endow Malda with rich heritage. The tourism industry in Malda can grow up centering the conventional bequest on Malda. The relics of the ancient buildings, the historical sites would constitute the important places of tourist interest in Malda.
- The Gaur and Pandua region is the heart of the tourism industry, which is yet to be developed in Malda. The tourism in Gaur has immense potential to be developed round the mosques built during the Muslim regime in Malda. The relics of particular worth visiting are the Barasona Mosque, Dakhil Darwaja, Qadam Rasul Mosque, Lattan Mosque and the ruins of the extensive fortification. The interesting thing about these mosques is that the artistic fabrication on the walls of the mosques is the representation of the Muslim's traditional art.
- Sagardighi is a huge water body in the district, which can be renovated and converted into an ecotourism centre in the model of Dal lake, Kashmir with Shikara ride facilities and also be used for extensive fish cultivation simultaneously.

SILK MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

- Silk products: Malda is second in production of raw silk in West Bengal, after Murshidabad. Mulberry is cultivated over 20372 Acres in the district with a production of 138062 MT of raw silk in the year 2011. Almost 59094 families are involved in sericulture industry. Potential industries are silk garment manufacturing and value addition units.
- Sericulture is an agro based industry and plays a vital role in the economy of Malda district, comprising 60% of national share and 75% of state share in raw silk production. 80% of this industry is confined in Kaliachak block I, II and III. Sericulture is now practiced in about 660 villages in Malda district. More than 19,000 acres of land is under mulberry cultivation and more than 60,000 families are directly and indirectly earning their living from sericulture.
- Out of the total workers engaged in sericulture and silk industry, 98% (Directorate of Sericulture, Malda) belong to minority communities (i.e. Muslim). Women folk of the cultivators' families also play a pivotal role in this industry contributing approximately 60% of the total work force.
- Annual production of commercial cocoon usually exceeds 11,000MT, raw silk production also exceeds 1,200MT; silk waste is above 1,000MT and Matka production is usually above 100MT in Malda district in a

particular year. The face value of the produces is from 110-112 crores of rupees in a year. Generally the annual per capita income ranges from Rs. 18,000/- to Rs.20, 000/-.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

- An Airport can be set up in Malda district as it is located in the heart of West Bengal and may induce industrialists to set up heavy industries and MSMEs.
- Formation of an Education hub is also prospective in Malda area. Setting up private Medical and Engineering colleges, Private training institutes and Consultancy firms is in demand amongst the people of the area.

Policy Recommendations:

- Malda district is relatively backward industrially and has only a few large and medium scale enterprises. For better development of Agri Industries, state of the art technology needs to be adopted.
- Proper flood control measures also have to be implemented to tackle the problems of flash floods.
- The Government promoted world-class packing facilities. Asrina, the most important type of Mango for production of Pickles and Chutneys Rs.300-400 Crore business is generated annually from Malda, where from June to September entire families depend and get involved with the mango production. We suggest specialised Training & Orientation Programme for Mango Growers to enhance techniques of growth shall develop local economy.
- Food Parks are already in action. We suggest Orientation Programme for utilization of the Food Park by the engaged stakeholders in association with proposed food processing industry.
- The burning problem of Malda is the local vehicles commonly known as “Bhut-bhuti”, which is running through the town main road and villages. The fuel is the mixture of kerosene and diesel, which leads to incomplete combustion and release of toxic gases like Co₂, CO, CH₄, So₂, NO₂ etc. Not only by Bhutbhuti, but all types of vehicles are responsible for toxic emission throughout the district.
- Huge amount of fly ash releases from the chimneys of brick-fields here. The ash kills the inflorescence of Mango tree, and hampers the Mango cultivation in Malda.
- The authority requires to take care of the interest of farmers engaged in sericulture by failing to fix the rates of cocoon procurement. There is no common standard of cocoon prices which is regulated in a decent manner.

Chapter 3: **The Economy of Dakshin Dinajpur District**



Introduction:

Dakshin Dinajpur is a district of West Bengal. It was created on 1 April 1992 by the division of the erstwhile West Dinajpur district. It comprises of two subdivisions: Balurghat and Buniadpur. According to the Census 2011, it is the least populous district of West Bengal. Dakshin Dinajpur is predominantly an agricultural district with large areas of land being under cultivation. The district is drained by a number of North-South flowing river like Atreyee, Purnabhaha, Tangon and Brahmani, to give rise to a sizeable but unorganized fishing community. Dakshin Dinajpur is a "Non Industry" district having no large scale industry. The first industry, which is of Medium scale was started in November, 2003. There is one State Highway with 3 kms of National Highway No. 34 falling within the district. A new railway line has been laid between Eklakhi and Balurghat, the district headquarters. Train services were started on 30 December 2004.

In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Dakshin Dinajpur one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the eleven districts in West Bengal currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).

A brief overview of the industrial scenario of the district is given below:-

Industry Profile:

Industry	Existing	Prospective
Agro & Food-based	Rice Mill, Mini Rice Mill, Chira Mill, Husking & Wheat grinding Mills, Noodles & Vermicelli making Mills, Mustard oil Mfg. Mill, Jute made Dhokra	Rice bran Oil, Flour mill, Tomato & Other fruit processing products, Poly-packed Mustard Oil, Jute made soft luggage, Particle board, Jute-cotton fabric, Jute blanket, modernised bakery and confectionary.
Mineral & Forest-based	Chimney bricks, Tiles, Coke briquette, Wooden furniture, RCC Spun Pipe, Cement grill, Pipe, PCC Poll, Sal leaf plate making	Fly-ash bricks, Refractory bricks, Mosaic tiles mfg.
Chemical based	Phenyl, Storage battery, Detergent	HDPE Poly Pipe, Polythene sheet, Plastic products.
Artisan-based	Handicrafts product (Wood / Bamboo / Embroidery / Jute / Sola work)	Qualitative upgradation of present products.

Key statistics:

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	104
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	-
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	-
4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	540
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	6120
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	-
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	327796026
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	-

Source:- District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt. of W.B

List of the units in the district:

Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	Sl.	Name of the Unit
		NIL

	1	Satyam Chawl Udyog Pvt. Ltd.
	2	Marino Gold Ceramics, Balapur
	3	Shiva Loknath Rice Mills Pvt. Ltd. Malkhan
	4	Kalyani Solvex Pvt. Ltd., Phoolbari
	5	Sudha Oil Industries
	6	Sarkar Engg. Works
	7	Anima Ice Factory

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	8	Paul Oil Mill
	9	Prafulla Kr.Saha (Bricks)
	10	Jagat Bandhu Mini Rice Mill
	11	Sarkar Mini Rice Mill
	12	Sarkar Oil Mill,
	13	Daralhat Mini Rice Mill,
	14	Fulu Leather House
	15	Roy Husking Mill
	16	Barman Mechanical Works
	17	National Engg. Works
	18	North Bengal Organic Fertilizers
	19	Maa Annapurna Rice Mill
	20	D/Dinajpur R.C.C. Spun
	21	R. C. C. Spun
22	J. K. Industries,	
23	Indica Oil Mill	

Service Enterprises	1	Karmakar Engg. Works
	2	Maa Laxmi Auto Xerox
	3	Morka Bhadra Rep.

Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

- The area has immense potential for setting up small scale enterprises of Rice-bran oil manufacturing. Rice-bran oil contains low linolenic acid & high tocopherol. Hence, it has distinct advantage over other vegetable oils. Edible oil can be produced by refining and suitable hydrogenation of bran oil. In-fact, there is a vast gap between the potential and actual production of rice bran oil in India. The private rice mill owners may form a co-operative for ensuring raw materials and organizing marketing of the Rice-bran oil to be produced. The major crop in the district is paddy and about 50 rice mills are working here for processing paddy. So, raw material is available here at a much cheaper rate.
- For development of jute diversified products, integrated production and marketing centres can be created. Establishment of common production and marketing centres at Gangarampur and Banshihari can be made. The major categories of jute diversified products that may be considered are Jute bags, Jute mats, footwear, Jute handicrafts of utility, decor & novelty.
- Jute is a major cash crop in this district; hence there would be less transportation cost for the entire process.

- This district is in possession of a number of huge water bodies. Tourism industry, by way of creating resorts for high-end tourists bear a huge potential. Historical relics since the 2nd century AD and several nesting hubs of migratory birds also open up opportunities for investment in tourism related activities.
- Services industry for providing soft skills to the potential entrepreneurs who would provide support and service in the tourism industry is an important area for development. For this purpose a hospitality and catering training institute and hence development of the hospitality sector is a viable option.
- Milk based food processing centre can be developed in the district. A private finished milk product unit with investment to the tune of Rs 1 crore is already under the process of implementation.
- Establishment of common training, production and marketing centres of Tant craftsmen at Gangarampur and Banshihari may be made. Quite a considerable number of families are traditionally involved in these trades. So, availability of skilled hands is an additional advantage for this sector.
- Establishment of Mustard oil mills may be set-up, because huge production of mustard seed in this district would make raw materials available at door step.
- Establishment of fish feed production centre is another important sector for development. Other food processing industries like fruit juice producing and bottling units dealing in water melon juice and papaya juice may also come up in the area, because these crops are also abundantly produced in this district.

Policy Recommendations:

- Much more emphasis is required for Fisheries. Huge water bodies should be utilized properly. Use of new technologies for pisciculture is extremely required. New varieties of fish varieties including hybrid vetki fish need to be introduced. Establishing fish cold storages and processing units are needed for potential supply of fish to Siliguri and North East States. Development of fisheries will decrease influx of supplies from Andhra, and create self sufficiency. Orientation and Training programmes for fisheries development, as well as adopting cooperative models for running the same are also needed.
- Developing new industrial estates in the district is necessary.
- A well knit marketing system needs to be developed coordinating the distant rural areas so that the surplus agricultural produce can reach the market properly.
- Sericulture sector needs further expansion so that it can offer greater employment opportunities, it being a labour intensive industry.

Chapter 4: The Economy of Uttar Dinajpur District



Introduction:

Uttar Dinajpur district is surrounded by Bangladesh on the east, Bihar on the west, Darjeeling district and Jalpaiguri district on the north and Malda district and Dakshin Dinajpur district on the south. Uttar Dinajpur is well connected with the rest of the state through National Highways, State Highways and Railways. NH-31 and NH-34 pass through the heart of the district. The regional topography is generally flat with a gentle southerly slope towards which the main rivers like Kulik, Nagar and Mahananda flows. The District forms a part of the basin lying between Rajmahal hills on the east. Uttar Dinajpur is bestowed with a very fertile soil. The soil is very rich in nature due to the alluvial deposition which helps to grow Paddy, Jute, Mesta and Sugarcane etc. Raiganj on the banks of the River Kulik is the District Headquarter where the "Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary", the second largest bird sanctuary in Asia, is situated. Bengali is the main language but a sizeable number of Urdu, Hindi and Maithili speaking people live in Islampur sub-division of the district.

In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Uttar Dinajpur one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the eleven districts in West Bengal currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). But now Dalkhola the main commercial, business town with well connected railway and roadways, increasing the economy of Dalkhola and Uttar Dinajpur District.

Key Statistics:

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	164
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	NA
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	NA

4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	NA
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	6120
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	NA
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	NA
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	NA

Source: District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt.of W.B

List of the units in the district:

Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	Sl.	Name of the Unit
	1	West Dinalpur Spinning Mills, Raiganj

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	1	Kalyani Soven Pvt. Ltd.
	2	Tantia Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd
	3	Dalkhola flower Mill (P) Ltd.
	4	West Dinajpur Mill (P) Ltd

Service Enterprises	1	Prasadji Himghar Pvt. Ltd. (Nizampur)
	2	Dinajpur Cold storage Pvt. Ltd
	3	Cold Storage & Potato Processing Pvt. Ltd
	4	Prasadji Himghar Pvt. Ltd. (Ramkrishnapur)

Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

- **Paddy & Rice:** This District is well known for its paddy cultivation. Some of its items like Tulaipanji, Jhingasal, Parijat, Alai varieties etc. are being produced in large quantities. The most famous Tulaipanji aromatic rice is being cultivated in the fields of Raiganj, Kaliyaganj, Hemtabad & Itahar and the covered area is near about 4500 hectares. There are many Rice Mills, in Micro & Small Sectors in the District.
- **Maize:** During last few years there was a lot of Maize cultivation which opened a wide scope for new enterprises based on Maize as raw material. Maize is being cultivated in an area of around 6500 hectares in the regions of Karandighi, Raiganj, Hemtabad, Kaliyaganj, Goalpokhar and Chakulia. Seeing the increasing prospects more farmers are gradually being engaged in this cultivation. Hence, the prospect of Maize consuming enterprises may be alighted. Industries related to maize processing, manufacturing of corn-flour, cornflakes, pop-corn, Cattle & Poultry Feed, Baby Food, starch factory and some other confectionary items may be produced.
- **Jute:** Jute is India's third largest cash crop. All the Blocks of this district are engaged in jute cultivation. Majorly Capsularis and Olitorius are the two kinds of jute that are being produced in the district covering 40,000 hectares of land. At this moment there are only two prominent jute based industries in the district and are manufacturing yarn from raw jute and jute rope from yarn.

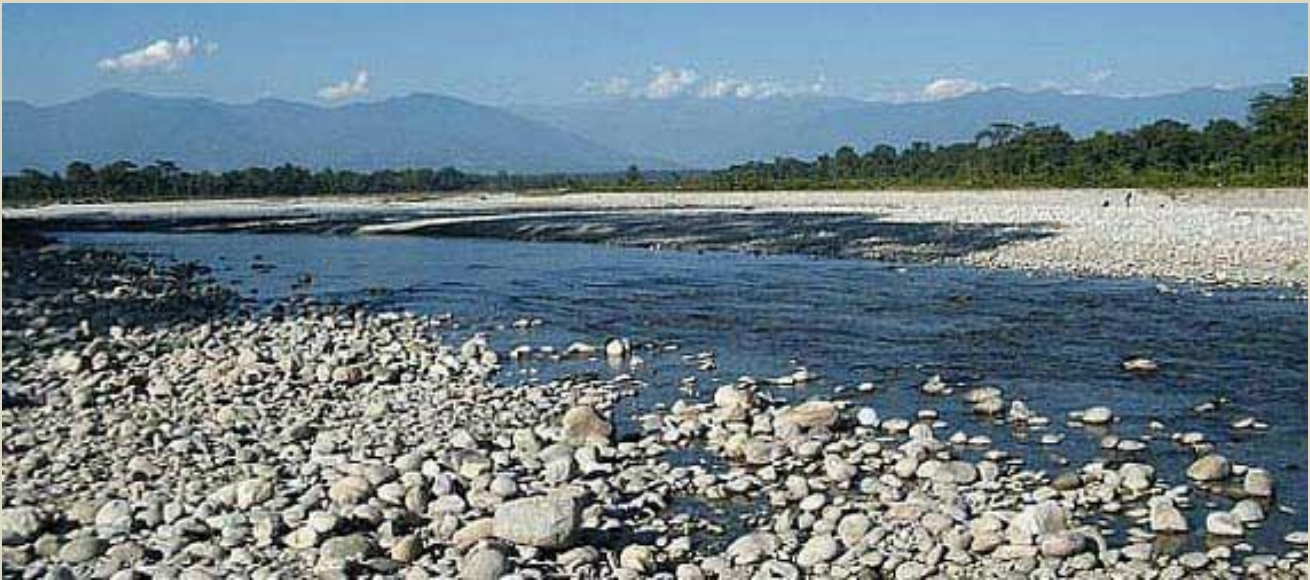
- Other than rice mills there are many items which can be produced in different manufacturing industries here based on paddy/rice as a raw material. These are puffed rice, flattened rice (Poha), Baby Food, etc. Apart from the above, sufficient quantities of Rice Bran are produced as bi-products from rice mills. Hence, a modernized Rice Bran oil manufacturing enterprise may be set up in Raiganj Sub-Division.
- **Jute based industry:** A good numbers of Jute Diversified Enterprises can come up in the Handicrafts Sector where a large number of rural artisans could be engaged.
- **Pineapple:** Since long, northern parts of Uttar Dinajpur are producing good quality pineapple in huge quantities. Around 2900 hectares of land are being used for its plantation. The climate and texture of soil of the area adds a unique natural flavour to this fruit. This is a prospective area as one can set up an enterprise for manufacturing Jam, Jelly, Pickles, Squash and Osmo-dehydrated products. In a way the local pineapple growers can be benefited as well as the entrepreneurs setting up the enterprises.
- **Bought leaf Tea:** Around 73,000 hectares of land are being used by about 22,000 small and large growers of the district. At present, around 18 Bought leaf Tea Factories are in operation in the district in the areas of Chopra & Islampur Block. Accounting to the present production of tea leaf, another 25 to 30 such enterprises can be set up across the district.
- **Spice Grinding, based on Ginger, Turmeric and Red Chilly:** In Uttar Dinajpur, Ginger is being cultivated in around 1.650 hectares of land, producing 1.792 MT of Ginger in a year. Turmeric is being cultivated in around 2413 hectares of land producing 3500 MT of Turmeric in a year, and Red chilly which is cultivated in around around 8500 hectares of land both during Ravi & Kharif seasons produce 7500 MT of Red Chilly in a year. As these goods are largely procured in this area, there lies an ample scope for setting up spice grinding enterprises. Industries manufacturing Ginger oil and oil from Red Chilly which is gaining demand nowadays in the world market can also be set up in this area. The former can be set up in Islampur, Gowalpur-II block and the later in Chopra block and Kaliaganj areas in Uttar Dinajpur.
- **Plastic Based industry:** Owing to the gradually decreasing availability of good quality wood, the trends of using plastic based manufacturing products are increasing. With the help of latest technologies several industries can be developed in this field besides the existing 8 such prominent enterprises in the district.
- **Cold Storage:** Considering the quantity of agricultural/horticultural products, a few Multipurpose 'Mini Himghar' can be set up in Islampur, Chopra Block areas.
- Several other industries like manufacturing Detergent (Cakes and powder), Fly ash bricks and Mustard oil etc can also be set up in the district. Among the service industries, Printing press, photograph development industry, automated garages or automobile service centres, modern spa/beauty care units and catering service units can be set up in the district as these have high demands in the district market at present.

Policy Recommendations:

- Special focus should be given on Maize. New maize processing units is important for helping to establish animal and poultry feed industry, and export of maize to Bangladesh for the same.

- Training to farmers for optimizing and maximizing better production of Red Chilies are needed. New varieties should be introduced. Warehousing and scientific storing technology for red-chilies and market linkage systems are also suggested.
- Setting up processing & packaging units for Tulaipanji Aromatic Rice under MSME schemes, with focus on export is suggested.
- Uninterrupted power supply is not available in Uttar Dinajpur thus creating hindrance for continuous production process in all the industries of the district. This needs to be addressed.
- Land price is very high for setting up industries in the district. Technically skilled labour is not available in the district. Suggest creating mechanism for combating these areas.
- All the probable industries need some assistance covering substantial infrastructure for development of post harvest storage, common facilities for packing -integrated pack house and improvement of roads etc. Proper vigilance is required for systematic approval of projects from the authorities.
- Shortage of raw materials for Steel industry and Chocolate manufacturing industry exists in the district and the road and railway communication in the district is severely insufficient.
- For creation of new class of entrepreneurs, it is required to create awareness among people about the prospects of setting up an industry by undertaking programmes conducted by experienced and competent trainers/motivators, so that the upcoming entrepreneur may turn into a successful one.

Chapter 5: The Economy of Jalpaiguri District



Introduction

According to some Governmental reports, Jalpaiguri is a non-industry district, though tea industry is the backbone of Jalpaiguri's economy since its advent. The economy of Jalpaiguri is essentially agriculture-based. Moreover, the staple resources of the tea industries are tealeaves, which are also cultivated.

The agricultural area of Jalpaiguri is over 2530.63 square kilometres. The dominant agricultural products of Jalpaiguri district are jute and tobacco. Rice paddy is also grown before and after the rainy season. Common plantation crops are areca nut, coconut and black pepper. Vegetable, mustard plant, and potato cultivation are increasing. In order to support agriculture, special programs have been taken for the production of sunflowers, maize and groundnuts. Revolutionary methods are being used in Boro paddy and potato cultivation. But due to non-adoption of modern technology, a large number of farmers still depend on traditional technology. Only 33% of the potentially cultivable land is developed for irrigation. In Kharif, the area of production of vegetables and other crops is much less. The ovine breed in the region originates from Tibet and was brought to the plains of West Bengal by traders. The trade between Tibetan traders and traders from the plains of Bengal took place from the region. The sheep along with other items of trade were transported to a place known as Bhot Patti (situated in Mainaguri Block of the district). The major trading occurred at a place known as Rangpur, situated now in Bangladesh.

The goods were exchanged and the sheep were also taken to plains of Bengal by the returning traders, the animals were given to the farmers of Sunderban region for rearing and bringing them back to their health. The sheep were used for their meat by the Europeans during the colonial era. They preferred mutton over Chevron so sheep meat was in great demand. Single consignments of the sheep were transported to Australia in the late 18th century when the Australian colony was being settled. The consignment was shipped from the port

of Falta near Kolkata. However, the sheep were not preferred by the settlers as their size was small and wool quality too was inferior. The breed Booroola Merino of Australia are the descendents of the same sheep.

The northern strip of the region is a hilly tract, which is congenial for tea cultivation. Jalpaiguri is the second largest producer of tea in West Bengal. It is the regional topography, which supports the economy greatly. The brand "Jalpaiguri tea" is extremely popular worldwide. The ample production of tea, in the region laid the foundation of the tea industry here. The tea industries constituting the parts like tea processing, tea packaging etc. involves a large-scale employment, thereby supporting the local economy of Jalpaiguri. The tea industries lend a dual support to the economy of Jalpaiguri. The industries fetch a large amount of laborers locally at a low rate and the superior quality of tea are exported to the neighboring region even in abroad.

Again in the present era of industrialization, some policies have been undertaken by the government to ensure the economic prosperity of Jalpaiguri. An Oil refinery in Baranhat is the principal project adopted by the Government. In the adjacent areas of Jalpaiguri, medicine factory, cold storage for fruits and different other factories of electronic goods etc. have grown up, which augment the economic growth. Besides, projects have also been taken up, for the proper utilization and suitable marketing of tea. Recently a Tea- Auction Company has come up in the town. However the policies and plans that are being adopted are instrumental to the economic development of Jalpaiguri.

The physical homogeneity of the central and the southern part of the district is formed of alluvium and the silt carried by the rivers like Teesta, Mahananda, Torsha, etc. All these are originated from the northern glacier-hence perennial; they provide continuous water to the region for the growth of agriculture. The conducive landscape with the continuous supply of water is favourable for the cultivation of rice. Rice is the principal crop of the district, though the major part of its production is meant to serve the domestic requirement. Wheat also shares a position in serving the local economy of Jalpaiguri.

Moreover the cultivation of the horticulture is also promoted thereby serving the district's economy to a large extent. Jute, Tobacco and mustard are the principal products here, much of which is exported. The orchard cultivation of Jalpaiguri is also famous. The superior quality of orchard fruits (mainly pineapple and banana) draws a large quantity of export income. Hence the economy of Jalpaiguri, though agriculture based, it has attained the status of the economically developed district of West Bengal.

Jalpaiguri was bifurcated to create Alipurduar district - the 20th in the state on June 25, 2014.

Key Statistics (undivided district):

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	528
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	NA
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	NA
4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	2923
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	29345
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	5
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	NA
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	NA

Source:- District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt. of W.B

List of the units in the (undivided) district:

	Sl.	Name of the Unit
Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	1	SAI industries Pvt.Ltd.
	2	Tea Gardens-Dooars & Tarai (54 unit)
	3	Hidusthan Lever Ltd.
	4	Kusum Iron & Steel.
	5	Coca – Cola

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	1	HSB Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd
	2	Medow Diary Products Pvt. Ltd.
	3	Mansoravar Tea Pvt.Ltd.
	4	Raichanga Agro Food Proccrsing Industries Pvt. Ltd.(2 units)
	5	Kalabari Food Products Pvt. Ltd
	6	Maa Nandev Papers Pvt. Ltd.
	7	Mahakal Agro Storage 7 Processing Unit Pvt. Ltd
	8	Sarat Tubes Ltd.
	9	Satyadeep Polypipes Ltd.
	10	Kabsons Industries Ltd.
	11	Haldia Precision Engineering Co.
	12	Perfect Air Products.
	13	Changia Food Processing Co.
	14	Sunderban Fertilizer Ltd.
	15	Siliguri Flour Mills Ltd.
	16	Northern Flour Mills Ltd.
	17	Falakata Industries Ltd.
	18	Tista Fruit & Vegetable Processing.
	19	Phyto Chemical Complex

Service Enterprises		NA
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Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

- Jalpaiguri is well known for its three T's: Tea, Timber and Tourism. There is potential for diversification and expansion of these existing industries.
- Along with this a concentration on agri-based industries and diversification in this field will tap the upward linkages, and bring in higher scale of business and profitability. Some suggestions based on local study and surveys are listed below:

1. Tourism

- a. Eco –tourism
- b. Adventure tourism: River crossing, rock climbing
- c. Hiking and trekking
- d. Bird Watching

2. Agro-business and food Processing

- a. Fruit and vegetable production
- b. Horticulture: Citrus, pineapple
- c. Floriculture
- d. Spice Culture
- e. Food packaging
- f. Jam, Jelly, Pickles and other processed food

3. Flavoured Tea, Instant Tea

4. Jute and Allied industries

5. Timber: Furniture, plywood etc

6. Handicrafts: Bamboo, Jute, cane, show pieces

7. Handloom: Silk, Tradition Shawls/ chadar etc

8. Plastic and allied Industries

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Jalpaiguri - the narrow stretch of land lying between the Sikkim – Darjeeling Himalayas and Gangetic West Bengal plays a cardinal role in the tourism industry of the state. A major stretch of area is bordered in the north by Bhutan and hence the name - DUARS which mean - ' the Door to Bhutan'.

A tourism park can be set up at Jaigaon in Jalpaiguri taking advantage of its geographic location with modern recreational amenities like rafting, paragliding, aerial survey, ropeway connection and helicopter facilities to the surrounding tourist places. Places like Chapramari Wild Life Sanctuary, Jhalong, Bindu, Samsing, Suntalekhola are the famous tourist spots in Jalpaiguri. Kumlai is a famous picnic spot here. Rajabhatkhawa is another attractive tourist spot here. The main attractions of BTR are Tiger, Leopard (Black Panther), Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Barking Deer, Gaur, Pangolin and Python.

Garumara Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the prime attractions of Jalpaiguri, located further to the north of Jaldapara, has similar fauna, with leopards too. Elephant safaris can be availed here to sight the exceptional wildlife of this region.

ECO TOURISM AND WILD LIFE TOURISM

With the presence of natural resources like Neora Valley, Gorumara National Park, North Bengal has the right atmosphere to promote eco tourism as it is the fastest growing sector in the tourism industry. Several countries like Costa Rica, Australia follow the eco tourism concept.

Jalpaiguri should implement this concept as eco tourism has several pluses which are as follows:

- Contributes to conservation of biodiversity
- Sustains the wellbeing of local people
- Includes a learning experience
- Requires lowest possible consumption of non renewable resources
- Stresses local participation, ownership and business opportunities particularly for rural people

The Government can conduct environmental impact assessments for all new tourism development projects. Strategies can be formulated to work among locals to help them get involved. The focus would be to provide a better eco tourism experience in forest areas for those who really have a concern for nature and are real eco-tourists. This strategy can ensure ecological sustainability of the destination.

Policy Recommendations:

- Facility may be set up for Quality Assessment of Tea.
- Green Chilli-Karachi Market are controlled by Green Chillies from Dhupguri. New processing units, and orientation programmes for better farming techniques, and warehouses are suggested.
- Some blocks can be declared as organic blocks.
- Post harvest management for potato and other vegetables can increase market acceptability.
- The Jalpaiguri district exhibits different pattern of geo-morphological, hydrological and physical set up of the Quaternary terrain comprising the interfluvial area of the Mahananda, Teesta, Torsha, Jaldhaka, Sankosh and other rivers provide evidences of parallel transverse faults.
- The neo-tectonic movement controls the drainage pattern, topography and groundwater. GIS has been utilized in the storage and retrieval of attribute spatial and non-spatial data such as land use, soil, water quality, socio-economic, and health condition of district.

- Natural resource is abundant but it faces the problems created by natural and large scale human induced activity and its consequential hazards such as deforestation, flooding though frequently river shifting, soil erosion and degradation of water resource system due to intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in tea garden belts for increasing production.
- The various chemical parameters of water show abnormality during monsoon which affects the tea garden belts.
- Low literacy, poverty and lack of awareness are indirectly affecting the conditions of tea gardens.
- Need of an integrated thematic map with spatial and non-spatial data that would help the planner and decision maker to take special attention of the areas that are appropriate for setting up adult education centres or Public Health Care Centres in order to increase or improve the literacy rate or health condition and ensure safe drinking water.

Chapter 6: The Economy of Darjeeling District



Introduction:

Darjeeling is a district in North-Bengal which is well known for its scenic beauty all over the world. It is a very popular tourist destination, and is located in the Mahabharata Range at an average elevation of 6,710 ft (2,045.2 m). Darjeeling is widely noted for its tourism and tea industry. It is the headquarters of Darjeeling district. Extensive tea plantation was done in the region, and tea growers developed hybrids of black tea and created new fermentation techniques. A distinctive Darjeeling tea is internationally recognized and ranks among the most popular of the black teas. Darjeeling has several British-style public schools, which attract students from India and neighboring countries. The varied culture of the town reflects its diverse demographic milieu consisting of Nepalese, Tibetan, Bengali and other ethno-linguistic groups. The town's fragile ecology has been threatened by a rising demand for environmental resources, stemming from growing tourist traffic and poorly planned urbanization.

Darjeeling acts as a crucible of visions of snow peaks, serenity of vibrant green hills steeped in splendor, a land of serene beauty crowned by the majestic Himalayas. Darjeeling is one of the most magnificent hill resorts in the world. This heavenly retreat is bathed in hues of every shade. Flaming red rhododendrons, sparkling white magnolias, miles of undulating hillsides covered with emerald green tea bushes, the exotic forests of silver fir all under the blanket of a brilliant azure sky dappled with specks of clouds, compellingly confounds Darjeeling as the QUEEN OF HILL STATIONS. The crest of Kanchenjunga shining in the first dawn light truly supports the title. The traveler, whether a tourist or a trekker, an ornithologist or a photographer, a botanist or an artist will find in Darjeeling an experience which will remain etched in ones memory forever.

Siliguri is the administrative headquarters of Siliguri subdivision, a part of the Darjeeling district. It is a principal commercial, tourism, transportation, and educational center in the northern part of West Bengal. It is also the transit point for air, road and railway traffic to the northeast states and the neighboring countries of Nepal and Bhutan. Siliguri has been witnessing an economic boom in the organized retail, hospitality and real estate industries due to its strategic geographical location and subsequent growth of population.

The two most significant contributors to Darjeeling's economy are tourism and the tea industry. Darjeeling tea, due to the unique agro-climatic conditions of Darjeeling, has a distinctive natural flavour, is internationally reputed and recognised as a geographical indicator. Darjeeling produces 7% of India's tea output, approximately 9,000,000 kilograms (20,000,000 lb) every year. The tea industry has faced competition in recent years from tea produced in other parts of India as well as other countries like Nepal. Widespread concerns about labour disputes, worker layoffs and closing of estates have affected investment and production. Several tea estates are being run on a workers' cooperative model, while others are being planned for conversion into tourist resorts. More than 60% of workers in the tea gardens are women. Besides tea, the most widely cultivated crops include maize, millets, paddy, cardamom, potato and ginger.

Darjeeling had become an important tourist destination as early as 1860. It is reported to be the only location in eastern India that witnesses large numbers of foreign tourists. It is also a popular filming destination for Bollywood and Bengali cinema. Satyajit Ray shot his film Kanchenjunga (1962) here, and his Feluda series story, Darjeeling Jomjomaat was also set in the town. Bollywood movies Aradhana (1969), Main Hoon Na (2004), and more recently Barfi (2012) have been filmed here. Tourist inflow into Darjeeling had been affected by the political instability in the region, and agitations in the 1980s and 2000s hit the tourism industry hard. However, post 2012, Darjeeling has once again witnessed a steady inflow of both domestic and international tourists. Presently, around 50,000 foreign and 5 lakh domestic tourists visit Darjeeling each year, and its repute as the 'Queen of the Hills' remains unaltered. According to an India Today survey published on December 23, 2015, Darjeeling is the third most googled travel destination among all the tourist spots in India.

Key Statistics:

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	302
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	NA
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	NA
4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	208
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	14,965
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	NA
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	1,04,000
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	NA

Source:- District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt. of W.B

List of the units in the district:

Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	Sl.	Name of the Unit
	1	Tea Industry

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	1	Lumtex Agri Udyog Ltd.
	2	M/s Merigold Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Service Enterprises	1	Khorabari Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.
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Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

- Pineapple is widely grown in different areas of Darjeeling district. Bidhannagar area, 40 km away from the Siliguri town is the heart of pineapple growing area of West Bengal and people may call it as the “Capital of Pineapple”. Almost 13000 farmers are associated with production, marketing and value addition of pineapple. About 4 lacs 9 thousand metric tonnes of pineapple was produced in 2010 with the transaction value of Rs. 410 crore. Industries manufacturing Jam, Jelly, Pickles, Squash and Osmo-dehydrated product etc from Pineapple can be readily set up in this area. With that, the local pineapple growers can be benefited because a well defined market would get created, as well as the entrepreneurs setting up the enterprises.
- There are about 85 Tea Gardens in Darjeeling Hills. There is a total production of 9797 tonnes of tea in the year 2011. India has exported about 222019 tonnes of tea in the year 2011. Thus tea is a major industry in Darjeeling. Further industries related to tea, that can grow up here are tea packaging and tea processing industry. Tea machineries manufacturing industry would also have a very good prospect here.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

- Darjeeling could easily be called a perfect vacation land. With its luxurious weekend gateways, natural spots, sparkling lakes, lush green tea gardens, wildlife sanctuary, adventure sports and places of pilgrimage as well as hill retreats. Making tourism a blooming industry needs a more focused approach. The tourism development of Darjeeling requires formulation of an appropriate strategy to market it properly and requires development of alternative tourism projects such as Golf tourism and Tea tourism.

DEVELOPING VARIETIES OF TOURISM PRODUCT

- Given Darjeeling’s strategic importance, Siliguri is emerging as a hotbed for industrial development – MICE tourism holds great prospects. The government can play the role of a facilitator by building strong infrastructure and things needed to promote MICE tourism.

GOLF TOURISM

- Darjeeling has immense potential to promote golf tourism. Particularly, the region that covers Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts has the potential to offer truly amazing golf courses with world-class ambience and facilities. West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation, which is focusing on golf tourism to attract.
- High-end travelers, both from India and abroad, is planning to develop a golf course here. The aim is to attract those who like to mix business with pleasure. The most attracting destination is the Senchal golf course which consists of 9 holes and is one of the highest courses in the world (altitude 8,150 ft) located at Tiger Hill in Darjeeling.
- Lebung is another golf course, located in Darjeeling and is as one of the smallest and highest racecourses in the world. Since golf is seen as an integral part of tourism and has great potential to attract high-end travelers, North Bengal can become a perfect destination both for travellers and golfers.

TEA TOURISM

- Darjeeling has quite a number of tea tourism destinations which offers some of the most scenic accommodations in some of the best tea gardens anywhere in the world. The undulating beauty of the Tea Gardens is the primary attraction of tea tourism. The scenic beauty of these gardens is also mesmerizing and the gardens even provide excellent view of the mountains like Kanchenjunga range of mountains. These places are perfect to attract tourists. If vine –yards in European countries can be a major tourist destination definitely the tea gardens of Darjeeling can be a major tourist destination.
- The famous Makaibari Tea Estate which is located 3 km away from Kurseong, and 32 km from Darjeeling, has a beautiful ambience, and is surrounded by picturesque lush green tea plantations, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga. The private sector enterprises must also get into joint ventures with the owners of tea gardens to arrange for suitable accommodation facilities at the gardens. In these places, tourist has the thrill and chance to pluck tea leaves, go on nature walks, trekking and rafting, and even can play golf at the links.

Policy Recommendations:

- Various states have to be involved in marketing of tourism in an expansive and this has actually yielded substantial results. Tourism ministries in Rajasthan, Kerala and Gujarat have been engaged in aggressive promotional activities. The marketing of tourism must be a sustained exercise — something that has largely contributed to the success and development of tourism in these states. The West Bengal government has to follow a strategy of comprehensive marketing as evident in the models of the other states and try and bring the basis in place. Private companies should be encouraged to promote tourism venture in the region.
- Transport service of the Darjeeling region could be improved.

- UNESCO has declared the Siliguri-Darjeeling toy train a Heritage train. Joint efforts by the tourism department and railways should be made to attract tourists to utilize one of the oldest wonders. State and local Governments have to make more budgetary allocations for the tourism sector.
- The Government has to explore ways for more joint ventures with the private entrepreneurs in tourism development.
- Tea tourism promotional activities should be supported by promotional venture of potential tourism products like plucking tea leaves, go on nature walks, etc. Tea festival of Darjeeling should be promoted aggressively throughout the country to attract both national and international tourists which would have commercial values for the traders and tea producers and educational value to the young entrepreneurs, students and local residents. During the tea festival customized tours can be arranged through various tea gardens which would fetch revenues from the tourists, and by conducting frequent tea tasting sessions in various tourism-related fairs.
- Processing and packaging units for Mandarine and other types of oranges are suggested. Training and orientation programmes for the same are suggested. Employability and revenue generation opportunities for Mandarine and orange growers to be supported.
- Potato seed production units are suggested - State and Central Governments need to support the same.
- Kalimpong is famous for Orchids. Export of Orchids can be enhanced with use of Cold Storage adjoining Bagdogra Airport that can be used as transit point for orchid storage for exporters.

Chapter 7: The Economy of Coochbehar District



Introduction

Cooch Behar, an Industrially Backward District, has undergone a tremendous growth in Industrial Development in last few years. A sizable number of Industries have been set up in the District which is not only quantitative but definitely qualitative. In fact the District has shown the highest growth amongst the Districts of North Bengal. A few units which are set up in the District are not only first of their type in North Bengal but some are of the first in the Eastern India. We have the most sophisticated Haldia down Stream Projects in Cooch Behar. Units for Unconventional and Industrially used products are now being set up in the District. Cold Drawing Steel Plant, Casting Units, Modern Jute Mills are in operation / implementation in the District. As regards food processing units we have set up 3 mechanized Bread units and the biggest Fruit Processing unit have been commissioned in the District. Out of the 5 existing cold storages the capacity of two are being augmented and four unit cold storage are being implemented working on day-night basis to catch the ensuing harvesting season. Also, Cooch Behar will be the first District to set up a few ultra modern Multi-purpose cold storages to be operative in near future.

The central and state governments are the largest employers in Cooch Behar town. Cooch Behar is home to a number of district-level and divisional-level offices and has a large government-employee workforce. Business is mainly centered on retail goods; the main centres lie on B.S. Road, Rupnarayan Road, Keshab Road and at Bhawaniganj Bazar.

An industrial park has been built at Chakchaka, 4 km from town, on the route to Tufanganj. A number of small companies such as Poddar Food Products Pvt., Ltd and Deepa Casing Pvt., Ltd have set up industries there.

Farming is a major source of livelihood for the nearby rural populace, and it supplies the town with fruits and vegetables. Poorer sections of this semi-rural society are involved in transport, basic agriculture, small shops and manual labour in construction.

As the town is near the international border, the Border Security Force (BSF) maintains a large presence in the vicinity. This gives rise to a large population of semi-permanent residents, who bring revenue to the economy. The state government is trying to promote Cooch Behar as a tourist destination, though income from tourism is low.

Key Statistics

Sl	Head	Unit	Particulars
1.	REGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	43
2.	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	NO.	NA
3.	REGISTERED MEDIUM & LARGE UNIT	NO.	892
4.	ESTIMATED AVG. NO. OF DAILY WORKER EMPLOYED IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES	NO.	2624
5.	EMPLOYMENT IN LARGE AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES	NO.	NA
6.	NO. OF INDUSTRIAL AREA	NO.	1
7.	TURNOVER OF SMALL SCALE IND.	IN LACS	116,121,154
8.	TURNOVER OF MEDIUM & LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES	IN LACS	NA

Source:- District Statistical Handbook of BAES & Economic Review, 2011-12, Govt. of W.B

List of the units in the district

Large Scale Industries / Public Sector Undertakings	Sl.	Name of the Unit
		NA

Small & Medium Scale Enterprises	1	Subline Agro Ltd.
	2	Bhoraject Agro Pvt. Ltd., Sikharpur
	3	T. B. Company Agro Pvt. Ltd., Jamalda
	4	ESESEM Jute Twines,
	5	Kamakashi Jute Industries,
	6	ESS Plywood,
	7	Deepa Castings Pvt. Ltd.
	8	Poddar Food Products Pvt. Ltd.
	9	S.A Plywood industry
	10	Tirupati Plywood Industry

Service Enterprises	1	Sri Mahamaya Agro Industry (P) Ltd., Dinhata.
	2	Sree Madan Mohan Cold Storage (P) Ltd., Sonary
	3	Mathabhanga Agri Storage, Ghoksadanga
	4	Tufangunj Samabay Himghar Samity, Tufangunj
	5	Sree Rameswar Himghar (P) Ltd., Chamta, Tufangunj
	6	Manasi Agro Industries(P) Ltd., Sitkibari, Nisigunj
	7	Sonali Agrotech (P) Ltd., Dewanhat

	8	Mahima Cold Storage (P) Ltd., Chakchaka.
	9	Kaljani Himghar Kholta
	10	Goswami Agro Storage (P) Ltd., Bairagirhat
	11	Joy Taramaa Cold Storage(P) Ltd., Patlakhawa
	12	Cooch-Behar Samabay Himghar Samity Ltd., Cooch-Behar

Industrial Scenario & Possibility of New Industry in the district:

Being the Agri. based district, Cooch Behar produces a good quality of potato, jute, tomato, chilly, carrot, cabbage, peas, pineapple, etc. Presently we are having 10 nos. of Cold Storage (potato); 1 multi-purpose cold storage has also started its operation recently. The total rated capacity of those potato stores is 123017 MT.

1. Food processing industries like manufacturing of chips, sauce, jam, jelly etc. have a very good potential.
2. The annual production of potato of this district is near about 55,000 MT and the production of chilly is about 52,000 MT annually. These surplus productions are exported to outside the state upto U.P. & Delhi. Food processing units preparing tomato & chilly based products like sauce, peuri, paste, pickles and dust can be set up here.
3. District production of jute is about 5, 17,000 bales. At present only two manufacturing units are operating and producing various jute based products. Since the availability of raw materials are there, many other manufacturing units can thus be set up for jute yarn dyeing & bleaching, jute mat, other jute diversified products, jute particle board etc.
4. The annual production of tobacco and potato are very high compared to the demand of the district. Hence there is scope for setting up of more multi-purpose cold storage for storing of surplus production.
5. There is ample demand for plastic products like PVC casing, plastic sheets, plastic toys, PVC pipes, moulded plastic items, etc. The plastic based manufacturing units have ample opportunities in this area.
6. Scope for Biodiesel: One unit namely M/s. Titagarh Biotec (P) Ltd., Kolkata has applied for 24 acres of land on long term settlement basis for starting a nursery for Jatropha plants. This plant is used for the manufacture of Biodiesel besides other things. It requires barren land and climatic environment for which this region suits best for its growth.

Policy Recommendations:

- The district is basically agrarian but modern agricultural techniques have not been adopted on a large scale. Hence, this sphere needs special attention.

- Cooch Bihar is gateway to the North East. Vegetable and potato production should be increased in Cooch Bihar. Potato processing unit are suggested for Cooch Bihar. Tomatoes production in Haldibari is to be developed further.
- Agricultural marketing also needs to be improved with proper development of rail, road, cold storage, markets, etc. Keeping in mind the surplus horticultural produce of the district, activities like fruit and vegetable preservation need to be popularized.
- Although the district has a well knit banking network with all major commercial banks operating in the district, credit facilities are not smoothly available to the MSE sector.

Chapter 8: The Overview of Alipurduar District



Alipurduar is the newly created District of West Bengal. It became 20th district of West Bengal on 25th June, 2014. Alipurduar the 2nd largest Sub-Division was created on 7th July 1876. There are five Legislative Assembly Constituencies under this district i.e. (1) Kumargram (ST), (2) Kalchini (ST), (3) Alipurduar, (5) Falakata (SC), (6) Madarihat (ST) and one Parliamentary Constituency (ST). The Late Colonel Hedayet Ali Khan was the first Assistant Commissioner of Alipurduar and it was named after him. Alipurduar District is famous for Three "T" (Tea, Tree, & Tiger).

The Climate of this district is warm and humid. In the summers the temperature runs 25°C to 37°C and in winters temperature runs 18°C to 6°C. Maximum rainfall of West Bengal is found in Buxa Fort. This district consists of six blocks namely 1) Kumargram, 2) Kalchini, 3) Alipurduar I, 4) Alipurduar II, 5) Falakata, 6) Madarihat-Birpara and one Municipality i.e. Alipurduar Municipality covering 2566.85 Square Kilometer area and its population is more than 70 lakh. Alipurduar is a Multi-lingual district of West Bengal where Bengali, Hindi, English, Sadri, Oraon, Munda, Kharia, Boro Santal language are spoken and different communities of Tribes are found here. The tribe TOTO is found only in this district and it is significant that this Human species is getting abolished gradually.

Tea, Tree and Dolomite are the main resources of this district. Torsha, Holong, Mujnai, Rydak, Kaljani, Sankosh are the main river of this district. Tea Plantation and processing is the only Industry covering 52,566.4 Hectare of land and famous dooars Tea is also produced here. There is a huge possibility of development Tourism as Industry in the Tea Gardens, Dense Evergreen Forest with Wild Life and Hill with flowing river. Jaldapara sanctuary and Buxa Tiger Reserve, Buxa Fort, are also in this district. The most of the people of this district depends on agriculture and harvest Rice, Jute, Potato etc. Besides agriculture, the people of this district earn their livelihood from the sources of Tourism, Fishing, wood and cane based furniture. This district is well

connected with National Highways and Indian Railways. Nearest Airport is Coochbehar Airport and Bagdogra Airport in Siliguri.

This district is covered with forest of 73,439.6 Hecto of land. Evergreen Trees, valuable Timber and any important medicinal plants are also found in the forest of this district. This district is connected with the different doors of Bhutan. Dense green forest with Wild Life, Flowing river from Bhutan, footsteps of hill, Tea Garden etc. added the beautification of Dooars and made this district significant.

The Jaldapara Sanctuary covering 216 sq km, is a mosaic of woods, grasslands, perennial streams, sandy river banks and extensive belts of tall grass established in 1941 for the protection of the Indian one-horned rhino. Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in Alipurduar Sub-Division of Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal, is home to a wide variety of wildlife, particularly the Great Indian One Horned Rhinos.

Policy Recommendations:

- Emphasis is needed for black pepper firming, food-processing industry, and packaging units.

Note:

Relevant statistical data of this new district is grossly inadequate from various sources. However, the data given in this report for undivided Jalpaiguri may be considered for this purpose. Policy recommendations are also similar to that of Jalpaiguri.