

Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>

Country/ entity	India Darjeeling
Region	Asia and Pacific Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (Amendment) Act 1994
Date	28 Feb 1994
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict (India-Adivasi Conflicts (1955 -) (Northeast India))
Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	India-Darjeeling peace process
Parties	The Full list parties involves is unclear from the agreement but includes the West Bengal Legislature and, presumably, the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. By order of the Governor, S.K., Phaujdar, Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement provides for a number of amendments to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act (1988) and largely focuses on altering procedural arrangements for the council.

**Agreement
document** [IN_940228_Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Amendment.pdf](#)  | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/ youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive Page 5, Amendment of section 24, 18: In section 24 of the principal Act, ... (e) after clause (xix), the following clauses shall be inserted:- "(xx) sports and youth services;
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (d) for sub-section (3), the following subsection shall be substituted :- "(3) The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors."
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (d) for sub-section (3), the following subsection shall be substituted :- "(3) The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors."
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	No specific mention.

Social class Groups→Social class→Substantive

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (d) for sub-section (3), the following subsection shall be substituted :- "(3) The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors."

Gender

Women, girls and gender

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (d) for sub-section (3), the following subsection shall be substituted :- "(3) The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors."

Men and boys

No specific mention.

LGBTI

No specific mention.

Family

Page 5, Amendment of section 24, 18: In section 24 of the principal Act, (a) in clause (v), after the words "public health and sanitation," the words "family welfare," shall be inserted;

Page 7, Substitution of new section for section 38, 24: For section 38 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:-
... (4) No Executive Councillor shall hold any office of profit for so long as he holds the office of Executive Councillor, and no Executive Councillor or member of his family shall, either directly or indirectly,-
(a) enter into any contract, or
(b) have any dealings or transaction with the Council without the specific and prior approval of the Council."

State definition

Nature of state (general)

No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)
[Summary: The entire agreement provides for the reform of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council].

[Summary: A large number of the provisions in this agreement simply substitute different titles for structures and positions existing under the original act (e.g. Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act,(a) in sub-section (1),-
(i) for the word "members", the word "Councillor" shall be substituted.) Other substitutions include the replacement of the word 'Council' with 'General Council'; the words 'Executive Council' with 'Council'; and the words 'Chairman of the executive council' with 'Chief Executive Councillor'].

Page 1, Amendment of section 2 of West Ben. Act XIII of 1988, 2: In section 2 of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),-

(a) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted:-

(Section 3)

(a) "Council" means the Executive Council;

(b) after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted:-

(b1) : Councillor" means a member of the General Council;

(c) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted:-

(e1) "Executive Councillor" means the person nominated under clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 38, and includes the Chief Executive Councillor or the Vice-Chairman of the General Council-

(d) clause (j) shall be omitted.

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act,

(a) in sub-section (1),-

...(ii) for the words "nominated by the Government," the word "nominated." shall be substituted;

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act,

...(d) for sub-section (3), the following subsection

shall be substituted :-"(3)The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors.

Page 3, Amendment of Section 15, 10: Section 15 of the principal Act, shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section

and,-

(a) in sub-section (l) as so renumbered,-

...(ii) for the words "the General Council shall be deemed", the words "the General Council shall, notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, be deemed" shall be substituted;

Page 3, Amendment of Section 16, 11: In section 16 of the principal Act.-

... (b) after sub-section (l), the following sub-section shall be inserted:-

"(1A) If a member of Parliament or of the State Legislature is elected as a Councillor then, at the expiration of fourteen days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette of the declaration that he has been so elected, the seat of such Councillor in the General Council shall become

Elections Page 3, Amendment of Section 15, 10: Section 15 of the principal Act, shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section and,-
(a) in sub-section (l) as so renumbered,-
(i) the words "or nominated" shall be omitted,
(ii) for the words "the General Council shall be deemed", the words "the General Council shall, notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, be deemed" shall be substituted;
(b) after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted:-
(2) The names of persons nominated to the General Council by the Government or the Chairman of the General Council, as the case may be, shall be published by the Government in the Official Gazette."

[Summary: Section 15 of the principal act referred to in the above provision covers the publication of results of elections].

Page 3, Amendment of Section 16, 11: In section 16 of the principal Act.-
... (b) after sub-section (l), the following sub-section shall be inserted:-
"(1A) If a member of Parliament or of the State Legislature is elected as a Councillor then, at the expiration of fourteen days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette of the declaration that he has been so elected, the seat of such Councillor in the General Council shall become vacant, and he shall be debarred from contesting any election to the General Council for a period of ten years unless he has previously resigned his seat in Parliament or the State Legislature, as the case may be."

Page 3, Amendment of Section 17, 12: In section 17 of the principal Act:
...(c) for sub-section (2), the following subsection shall be substituted,-
"(2) An elected Councillor, other than the Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the General Council, shall cease to hold office if-
(a) he ceases to be a Councillor, or
(b) he resigns his office in writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman of the General Council, in which case the resignation shall take effect from the date of its acceptance by the General Council.
(3) A nominated Councillor shall hold office until-
(a) he resigns his office in writing under his hand addressed to the Government, if he is nominated by the Government, or to the Chairman of the General Council, if he is nominated by him, and, in each such cases, the resignation shall take effect from the date of its acceptance by the Government or the Chairman of the General Council, as the case may be, or
(b) his nomination is cancelled by the Government, if he is nominated by the Government, or by the Chairman of the General Council, if he is nominated by him, or
(Sections 13-15)
(c) a fresh nomination is made in his place by the Government, if he is nominated by the Government, or by the Chairman of the General Council, if he is nominated by him, or
(d) a new General Council is constituted after a General Election held under sub-section (1) of section 13."

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration [Summary: A large number of the provisions in this agreement simply substitute different titles for structures and positions existing under the original act e.g. Page 8, Amendment of Section 48, 34: In section 48 of the principal Act,
...(f) in sub-section (5),-
...(ii) for the words "Chief Executive Officer" in the two places where they occur, the words "Principal Secretary" shall be substituted,].

Page 8, Amendment of Section 48, 34: In section 48 of the principal Act,
(a) for the marginal note, the following marginal note shall be substituted: -
"Principal Secretary to Council."
(b) for sub-section (1), the following subsection shall be substituted:-
"(1) There shall be a Principal Secretary to the Council (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Secretary) appointed by the Government in consultation with the Chief Executive Councillor."
(c) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted:-
"(2) The Principal Secretary shall be paid out of the Council Fund such salaries and allowances as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Government."
...(e) for sub-section (4), the following subsection shall be substituted:-
"(4)(a) The Principal Secretary shall act under the direction of the Chief Executive Councillor.
(b) The Principal Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of the records of the Council."
(f) in sub-section (5),-
...(iv) for the proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted:-
"Provided that the Government may, at any time, withdraw the Principal Secretary appointed under subsection (1)."

Page 9, Substitution of new section for section 49, 35: For section 49 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:-
"Appointment of Secretary. 49. The Government may place at the disposal of the Council the services of such officers of the Government for appointment as Secretary to the Council as the Government may think fit."

Page 9, Amendment of Section 51, 37: Section 51 of the principal Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section and-
(a) in sub-section (1) as so renumbered-
...(iii) for the second proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted:-
"Provided further that where any disciplinary or other action is required to be taken against any such employee, the Council shall have the power to initiate such disciplinary or other action against such employee whereupon the Council shall report the same forthwith to the Government may think fit."
(b) after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted:-
"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section 91, the Council may, without the approval of the Government, make appoint of persons to such categories of sanctioned posts as are equivalent to Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts under the Government after making regulations relating to conditions of service of such persons with the approval of the Government."

Page 10, Amendment of Section 57, 39: In sub-section (2) of section 57 of the principal Act, for the words "be deemed to be employed by the General

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political
power
sharing

The Government may provide for due representation of minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, while nominating the remaining Councillors

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
Sub-state level

Summary: Agreement provides for sub-state power sharing at the level of Darjeeling, see below.

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
Sub-state level

Page 7, Substitution of new section for section 38, 24: For section 38 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:-

"Executive Council. 38. (1) There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Chief Executive Councillor, the Vice-Chairman of the General Council and fifteen other Councillors of whom-

(a) thirteen shall be nominated by the Chief Executive Councillor from amongst the elected Councillors, and

(b) two shall be nominated by the Government from amongst the nominated Councillors:

Provided that non nominated Councillor, who is in Government service, shall be eligible to be nominated as an Executive Councillor.

(2) The manner of transaction of business of the Council shall be such as may be determined by the Council by regulations with the approval of the Government.

(Sections 25)

(3) The Council shall be responsible to the General Council.

(4) No Executive Councillor shall hold any office of profit for so long as he holds the office of Executive Councillor, and no Executive Councillor or member of his family shall, either directly or indirectly,-

(a) enter into any contract, or

(b) have any dealings or transaction with the Council without the specific and prior approval of the Council."

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Proportionality in legislature
Sub-state level

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (b) after sub-section (1), the following subsection shall be inserted:-

"(1) Of the nominated Councillors, eleven shall be nominated by the Government and three shall be nominated by the Chairman of the General Council."

... (c) for sub-section (2), the following subsection shall be substituted:-

"(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1A), the Councillors to be nominated by the Government may include -

(a) all or any of the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of West Bengal elected from the constituencies of Darjeeling Kurseong and Kalimpong.

(Sections 4- 7)

(b) the member elected to the House of the People from the Darjeeling Parliamentary constituency, or

(c) all or any of the Chairman of the Municipalities within the Hill Areas.";

Territorial
power
sharing

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Federal or similar sub-divided government

Page 2, Amendment of section 5, 3: In section 5 of the principal Act, ... (b) after sub-section (1), the following subsection shall be inserted:-
"(1) Of the nominated Councillors, eleven shall be nominated by the Government and three shall be nominated by the Chairman of the General Council."

... (c) for sub-section (2), the following subsection shall be substituted:-
"(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1A), the Councillors to be nominated

by the Government may include -

(a) all or any of the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of West Bengal elected from the constituencies of Darjeeling Kurseong and Kalimpong.

(Sections 4- 7)

(b) the member elected to the House of the People from the Darjeeling Parliamentary constituency, or

(c) all or any of the Chairman of the Municipalities within the Hill Areas.";

Page 5, Amendment of section 24, 18: In section 24 of the principal Act, (a) in clause (v), after the words "public health and sanitation," the words "family

welfare," shall be inserted;

(b) for clause (viii), the following clause shall be substituted:-
(viii) public works;"

(c) for clause (ix), the following clause shall be substituted:-
"(ix) roads except national highways and State highways;"

(Sections 19-20)

(d) in clause (xviii), after the words "higher secondary", the words "including social,

adult and mass education and nonformal education" shall be inserted;

(e) after clause (xix), the following clauses shall be inserted:-

"(xx) sports and youth services;

(xxi) such other matters as the Government may, be notification in the Official Gazette, place under the control and administration of the General Council."

Page 7, Substitution of new section for section 38, 24: For section 38 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:-

"Executive Council. 38. (1) There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Chief Executive Councillor, the Vice-Chairman of the General Council and fifteen other Councillors of whom-

(a) thirteen shall be nominated by the Chief Executive Councillor from amongst the elected Councillors, and

(b) two shall be nominated by the Government from amongst the nominated Councillors:

Provided that non nominated Councillor, who is in Government service, shall be eligible to be nominated as an Executive Councillor.

(2) The manner of transaction of business of the Council shall be such as may be determined by the Council by regulations with the approval of the Government.

(Sections 25)

(3) The Council shall be responsible to the General Council.

(4) No Executive Councillor shall hold any office of profit for so long as he holds the office of Executive Councillor, and no Executive Councillor or

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 5, Amendment of section 24, 18: In section 24 of the principal Act,
(a) in clause (v), after the words "public health and sanitation," the words "family welfare," shall be inserted;
(b) for clause (viii), the following clause shall be substituted:-
(viii) public works;" ;
(c) for clause (ix), the following clause shall be substituted:-
"(ix) roads except national highways and State highways;" ;
(Sections 19-20)
(d) in clause (xviii), after the words "higher secondary", the words "including social, adult and mass education and nonformal education" shall be inserted;
(e) after clause (xix), the following clauses shall be inserted:-
"(xx) sports and youth services;

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/ rights	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management Page 5, Amendment of Section 26, 19: In section 26 of the principal Act, after the words "in all cases of acquisition or disposal of immovable property," the words "the value of which exceeds rupees one crore or which is outside the hill areas," shall be inserted.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.
Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.

Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/ rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	<p>Page 7, Substitution of new section for section 38, 24: For section 38 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:- ... (4) No Executive Councillor shall hold any office of profit for so long as he holds the office of Executive Councillor, and no Executive Councillor or member of his family shall, either directly or indirectly,- (a) enter into any contract, or (b) have any dealings or transaction with the Council without the specific and prior approval of the Council."</p> <p>Page 10, Substitution of new section for section 56, 38: For section 56 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:- "Inspection of accounts etc. 56. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, the Government may,- (a) if it is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, cause an inspection to be made of the accounts of the Council from time to time and may, for the conduct of such inspection, appoint in consultation with the Council such officer or officers as the Government may think fit, and (b) advise the Council on the account of the Council."</p>
Crime/ organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Originally sourced from P.S. Datta (1995) Ethnic Peace Accords in India, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd. Currently also available from the Government of India, SARTHAC Systemized Administration & Regulation of Tendering and Handling All Court Cases: https://sarthac.gov.in/view-act-file?file_id=1464
