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Country/ entity	India Darjeeling
Region	Asia and Pacific Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Memorandum of Agreement on the Gorkha Territorial Administration
Date	18 Jul 2011
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict (India-Adivasi Conflicts (1955 -) (Northeast India))
Stage	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	India-Darjeeling peace process
Parties	(Dr. G.D. Gautama) Additional Chief Secretary, Home & Hill Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal for and on behalf of the Government of West Bengal; (Shri Rooshan Giri) General Secretary, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, for and on behalf of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha; (Shri K.K. Pathak) Joint Secretary to the Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs, for and on behalf of the Government of India;
Third parties	-
Description	An agreement setting up and delineating the powers of the Gorkha Territorial Administration. Agreement focuses on the political setup, powers, and financing of the new administration, and sets out its relationship with the various other levels of government.

Agreement document [IN_110718_GorkhalandAgreement.pdf](#)  | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/ youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (14) Woman and Child Development and Social Welfare; Page 4, 30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment. Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (40) Sports and Youth Welfare;
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.

Indigenous people	<p>Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical Page 1, Untitled Preamble</p> <p>... Whereas the objective of this Agreement is to establish an autonomous self governing Body to administer the region so that the socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural, and linguistic, development is expedited and the ethnic identity of Gorkhas established, thereby achieving all round development of the people of the region;...</p> <p>Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive Page 2,</p> <p>8) Regarding Tribal status to Gorkhas except the Scheduled Castes, the GJM or any organisation representing the Gorkhas will make an application to the Backward Classes Welfare Department of the State Government, which is the authority to process such claims. The Department, upon receiving such application supported by necessary documents will conduct a study through the Cultural Research Institute, Kolkata. After examination by the Department, the matter will be referred to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The recommendations already submitted to the National Commission will be followed up by the State Government. The Government of India will consider for granting ST status to all the Gorkhas excepting SC.</p> <p>Page 2-3,</p> <p>10) There shall be a GTA Sabha for the GTA. There shall be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman to conduct the business of Council. The GTA Sabha shall consist of forty- five elected members and five members to be nominated by the Governor to give representation to members of SC, ST, women, and minority communities. The M.Ps, M.L.As, and Chairpersons of municipality(s) of the region shall be Ex-officio Members to this GTA Sabha. The term of the GTA shall be five years.</p>
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	<p>Page 2-3, 10) There shall be a GTA Sabha for the GTA. There shall be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman to conduct the business of Council. The GTA Sabha shall consist of forty- five elected members and five members to be nominated by the Governor to give representation to members of SC, ST, women, and minority communities. The M.Ps, M.L.As, and Chairpersons of municipality(s) of the region shall be Ex-officio Members to this GTA Sabha. The term of the GTA shall be five years.</p> <p>Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (14) Woman and Child Development and Social Welfare;</p>
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (16) "Health including Public Health and Family welfare" including hospitals, dispensaries, health centres and sanatoriums, establishing a Nurses Training School;

State definition

Nature of state (general)	<p>Page 1, Untitled Preamble Whereas the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) has been demanding for quite sometime past a separate State of Gorkhaland for the hill areas of Darjeeling district including some areas of Siliguri Terai and Dooars (hereinafter referred to as the Region); and Whereas both the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal have repeatedly emphasized the need for keeping the region as an integral part of the State of West Bengal; and</p>
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)

Page 2-3,

10) There shall be a GTA Sabha for the GTA. There shall be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman to conduct the business of Council. The GTA Sabha shall consist of forty- five elected members and five members to be nominated by the Governor to give representation to members of SC, ST, women, and minority communities. The M.Ps, M.L.As, and Chairpersons of municipality(s) of the region shall be Ex-officio Members to this GTA Sabha. The term of the GTA shall be five years.

Page 3,

11) The Executive Body shall consist of a Chief Executive who will nominate fourteen members out of the elected / nominated members as Executive Member. One of them shall be the Deputy Chief to be nominated by the Chief Executive.

Page 3,

12) Every member of the GTA shall before taking seat make and subscribe before the Governor or one of the elected members appointed in that behalf by him an oath or affirmation. The Chief Executive shall be administered an oath or affirmation by the Governor.

Page 3,

13) There shall be a Principal Secretary of the GTA, who shall be of the rank of the Principal Secretary/Secretary to the State Government and who shall be selected by the Chief Executive from the panel sent by the State Government and shall be paid from the GTA Fund such salaries and allowances as may be fixed by the State Government. The Principal Secretary once deputed to the GTA shall not be transferred for a period of at least two years without the consent of the GTA.

Page 3,

20) The GTA will have the power of creating Group B, C and D posts with the approval of Governor. The recruitment to Group B, C and D posts will be through a Subordinate Service Selection Board to be set up for this purpose.

Page 3,

21) The State Public Service Commission shall be consulted for the recruitment of Group 'A' officers.

Page 3,

22) The State Government will set-up a separate School Service Commission, College Service Commission; open an office of the Regional Pension and Provident Directorate; and set up an office for Registration of land, building etc., marriage, society etc. in the GTA area, subject to extant rules and regulations.

Page 4,

27) Since the formation of new authority will take some time and since the developmental works in the hills, which have already suffered badly, cannot be allowed to suffer further, there will be a Board of Administrators in DGHC which would be fully empowered to exercise all the powers and functions of the Chief Executive Council under the DGHC Act, 1988 and to decide on the developmental works in the hills. The Board of Administrators

Elections	<p>Page 1, 1) An autonomous Body, which shall be called the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), will be formed through direct election. A Bill for this purpose will be introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly;</p> <p>Page 4, 26) A three-tier Panchayat will be constituted by elections in the GTA region, subject to the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India. Notwithstanding anything contained in the West Bengal Panchayat Act 1973, or the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, the GTA shall exercise general powers of supervision over the Panchayats and the Municipalities.</p>
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.

Public administration Page 2,
9) In regard to regularization of all ad-hoc, casual, daily wage workers of DGHC, regularization by way of outright absorption is not feasible due to the current legal position as enunciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, those employees who have put in 10 years of continuous service would be guided by the Finance Department's order of 23rd April, 2010. Those outside this ambit would be extended an enhancement in wages. This would be equivalent to 75% of the remuneration admissible under the order of the Finance Department subject to a minimum of 5,000/- per month for those who have not completed 10 years of continuous service. As and when they complete 10 years of continuous service, they will be eligible for the full benefit in terms of the order of 23rd April, 2010. The employees will, however, have the liberty to apply for normal recruitment to any other posts of State Government. It was also agreed that the State Government will make necessary financial provisions for bearing the additional non-plan expenditure for this purpose.

Page 3,
22) The State Government will set-up a separate School Service Commission, College Service Commission; open an office of the Regional Pension and Provident Directorate; and set up an office for Registration of land, building etc., marriage, society etc. in the GTA area, subject to extant rules and regulations.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial
power
sharing

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Autonomous regions
Page 1, Untitled Preamble

... Whereas after several rounds of tripartite meetings at the ministerial and at the official levels, the GJM, while not dropping their demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland, has agreed to the setting up of an autonomous Body (hereinafter referred to as the new Body) empowered with administrative, financial and executive powers in regard to various subjects to be transferred to the said Body for the development of the region and restoration of peace and normalcy there at; and

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

... Whereas the objective of this Agreement is to establish an autonomous self governing Body to administer the region so that the socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural, and linguistic, development is expedited and the ethnic identity of Gorkhas established, thereby achieving all round development of the people of the region; and

Page 1,

1) An autonomous Body, which shall be called the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), will be formed through direct election. A Bill for this purpose will be introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly;

Page 1,

2) While under the provisions of the Constitution transfer of legislative powers to the new Body is not possible, the power to frame rules / regulations under the State Acts to control, regulate and administer the departments / offices and subjects transferred to the new Body will be conferred upon the new Body;

Page 1,

3) The administrative, executive and financial powers in respect of the subjects transferred will be vested in such a way that the new Body may function in an autonomous and effective way;

Page 1,

4) The subjects alongwith all Departments / Offices to be transferred to the new Body is appended as Annexure – 'A'.

Page 4,

23) The Governor of West Bengal shall obtain a report on the functioning of the GTA and cause that report to be laid on the table of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly annually.

Page 4,

25) The GTA, once established, will separately take up the issues relating to grant of incentives, subsidies, waiver of taxes and tariff and other benefits as appropriate to the region's backwardness, with the Central and State Governments.

Page 4,

26) A three-tier Panchayat will be constituted by elections in the GTA region, subject to the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the West Bengal Panchayat Act 1973, or the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, the GTA shall exercise general powers of administration of the Department of the Municipalities.

Economic power sharing	<p>Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Sharing of resources</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>14) The Government of India and the Government of West Bengal will provide all possible assistance to the GTA for the overall development of the region. The Government of India will provide financial assistance of Rs. 200 crore (Rupees Two Hundred Crore) per annum for 3 years for projects to develop the socio-economic infrastructure in GTA over and above the normal plan assistance to the State of West Bengal. A list of projects which may be considered to be taken up by the GTA is at Annexure 'B1'. List of projects to be separately taken up by the GTA with the State/Central Government is at 'B2'.</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>15) The Government of India/ State Government will provide one time financial assistance required for development of administrative infrastructure viz., GTA Sabha House, Secretariat Complex and the residential quarters for the elected members of GTA and the senior officers.</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>16) The allocation sanctioned in the budget of GTA and all funds sanctioned by the State or the Union Government which remain unspent at the close of the financial year shall be taken into account for the purpose of providing additional resources in the Budget of the following year or years and the fund requirements will be met on a yearly basis.</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>17) The Government of West Bengal shall provide formula based plan fund with 60 per cent weightage on population and the balance weightage on area backwardness, hill areas and border areas in two equal installments every year for executing development works.</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>18) The Government of West Bengal shall provide Non-plan grant including provisions for bearing the additional Non-plan expenditure for existing employees payable in two installments in respect of the offices / departments transferred to GTA.</p> <p>Page 3,</p> <p>19) The fund received from the Government of India shall not be diverted and the State Government shall release the fund in time.</p>
Military power sharing	<p>Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality</p> <p>Page 4,</p> <p>30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment.</p>

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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other
Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA
(24) Theatre, dramatic performances and cinemas (subject to the provisions of the Entry 60 of List I of the Seventh Schedule); Sports; entertainment and amusements;
(33) Publicity and Public Relations including Regulation of Media – both Print and Electronic media;

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (1) Agriculture, including agricultural education and research protecting against pest and prevention of plants diseases; Horticulture, Floriculture and Food processing; (2) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, that is to say preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practices, cattle pounds; Dairy development; (9) Irrigation, drainage and embankments, floods and landslide protection;
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 No specific mention.
Laws

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 3,
15) The Government of India/ State Government will provide one time financial assistance required for development of administrative infrastructure viz., GTA Sabha House, Secretariat Complex and the residential quarters for the elected members of GTA and the senior officers.

Page 3,
17) The Government of West Bengal shall provide formula based plan fund with 60 per cent weightage on population and the balance weightage on area backwardness, hill areas and border areas in two equal installments every year for executing development works.

Page 7-8, Annexure 'B1': LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GTA TO DEVELOP THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE GTA AREA IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION

1. Comprehensive water supply system in the new body area;
2. Multi-super specialty Medical College and Hospital;
3. Establishment of Hospitality and Tourism Management Institute;
4. Establishment of a College of Nursing;
5. Establishment of a Gorkha House at New Delhi;
6. Establishment of an Institute for Research and Development of the Nepali Language;
7. Establishment of a Cultural Institute to preserve, promote and develop culture, tradition, heritage of the people of the region;
8. Establishment of Research and Development Institute for Tea and Cinchona;
9. Research and Development Institute for Horticulture, Floriculture;
10. Balasan Drinking Water Project to be taken up by the Union Government and be declared as a National Project;
11. Sidrabong Hydro Project has been declared a National Heritage but neglected. Funds for its maintenance and upkeep;
12. Food processing, agro-processing complex and cold storage;
13. Creation and development of the IT industry in this region;
14. A new bridge connecting Dooars to be constructed over the Teesta River as the only Coronation Bridge has become very old and it may collapse any time;
15. Mini and Micro Hydro Projects in GTA;
16. Establishment of Eight Multi disciplinary College different areas of the Region;
17. Establishment of Veterinary Hospitals;
18. High School/Higher Secondary School for every twenty-five villages;
19. Processing plants for Cinchona at Mungpoo;
20. Establishment of Polytechnics for all subdivisions;
21. 2 ITIs / Vocational Institutes in each subdivision;
22. Construction of Multi storied Car Parking at Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong;
23. Construction of Circular Road connecting Darjeeling Town-Lebong-Pandam- Jorebunglow-Darjeeling Town;
24. Construction of Rope way at Kalimpong(Delo – Relly), at Darjeeling (Tukvar-Singla) and (Batasia-Roack Garden), at Mirik (Mirik – Kurseong), at Kurseong (Giddeypa Page 6 of 21);
25. Special Fund for the construction of Super-speciality Hospitals in every Sub Division;

National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	<p>Page 2, 7) In regard to transfer of all forests including reserved forest, it was agreed that the State Government will make a reference to the Central Government on the issue of reserved forest as the power delegated to the State Government under the Central statute cannot be delegated to any other authority straightaway. However, all offices catering to the unreserved forests under the jurisdiction of GTA would also be transferred to GTA.</p> <p>Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (8) Fisheries; (11) Management of any forest, not being Reserved Forest; [Explanation – 'Reserved Forest' shall mean a reserved forest as constituted under Indian Forest Act 1927 (16 of 1927)];</p>
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	<p>Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (1) Agriculture, including agricultural education and research protecting against pest and prevention of plants diseases; Horticulture, Floriculture and Food processing; (2) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, that is to say preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practices, cattle pounds; Dairy development; (12) Cottage & Small Scale Industries including sericulture, handloom and textiles; handicrafts and Khadi and Village industries;</p> <p>Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (36) Sericulture; (37) Small, cottage and rural industry subject to the provisions of Entries 7 and 52 of List I of the Seventh Schedule;</p>
Taxation	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Power to tax Page 4, 25) The GTA, once established, will separately take up the issues relating to grant of incentives, subsidies, waiver of taxes and tariff and other benefits as appropriate to the region's backwardness, with the Central and State Governments.</p>
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/ rights	<p>Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management</p> <p>Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA</p> <p>(13) Cinchona plantation and settlement of land in possession of the plantation inhabitants: management of lease of cinchona lands etc. under it.</p> <p>Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA</p> <p>(21) Land & Land Revenue including allotment, occupation or use, setting apart of land other than land with reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes to promote interest of the people;</p>
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	<p>No specific mention.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible</p> <p>Page 8, Annexure 'B1': LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GTA TO DEVELOP THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE GTA AREA IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION</p> <p>6. Establishment of an Institute for Research and Development of the Nepali Language;</p> <p>7. Establishment of a Cultural Institute to preserve, promote and develop culture, tradition, heritage of the people of the region;</p>
Environment	<p>Page 2,</p> <p>7) In regard to transfer of all forests including reserved forest, it was agreed that the State Government will make a reference to the Central Government on the issue of reserved forest as the power delegated to the State Government under the Central statute cannot be delegated to any other authority straightaway. However, all offices catering to the unreserved forests under the jurisdiction of GTA would also be transferred to GTA.</p> <p>Page 5, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA</p> <p>(8) Fisheries;</p> <p>(11) Management of any forest, not being Reserved Forest; [Explanation – 'Reserved Forest' shall mean a reserved forest as constituted under Indian Forest Act 1927 (16 of 1927)];</p> <p>Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA</p> <p>(39) Soil conservation;</p>

Water or riparian rights or access	Page 6, Annexure 'A': List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA (19) Water Resources Investigation and Minor Irrigation; Page 7, Annexure 'B1': LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GTA TO DEVELOP THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE GTA AREA IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION 1. Comprehensive water supply system in the new body area;
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Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	Page 4, 30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment.
Armed forces	Page 4, 30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/ rebel and opposition group forces	Page 4, 30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.

Crime/
organised
crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional
justice
general No specific mention.

Amnesty/
pardon Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 4,
29) A review will be done by the State Government of all the cases registered under various laws against persons involved in the GJM agitation. Steps will be taken in the light of the review, not to proceed with prosecution in all cases except those charged with murder. Release of persons in custody will follow the withdrawal of cases.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner
release Page 4,
29) A review will be done by the State Government of all the cases registered under various laws against persons involved in the GJM agitation. Steps will be taken in the light of the review, not to proceed with prosecution in all cases except those charged with murder. Release of persons in custody will follow the withdrawal of cases.

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 Page 4,
31) The implementation of the provision of the Memorandum of Agreement shall be periodically reviewed by a committee representing the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and GJM.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source <http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/GorkhalandAgreement.pdf>
