



21st

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS FOR
THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

WEST BENGAL & NORTH EAST CHAPTER

HAND BOOK

SILIGURI



History of Siliguri

The city of Siliguri has wielded great strategic significance in West Bengal due to its placement near state and international borders. Connecting three international borders namely China, Bangladesh and Nepal. Siliguri is also joined to Sikkim, Kamlimpong, Darjeeling & Jalpaiguri by road. Situated at the base of the eastern Himalayan ranges and watered by the river Mahananda, Siliguri appeals not only for its natural beauty but also as a significant trading, transportation and educational center. Over the past century, Siliguri has developed from a small agricultural village to a bustling and commercially prosperous city.



The rise of Siliguri from the ancient period to its successful culmination as a trading center is an interesting tale. Siliguri as a city had been ruled by many dynasties like Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas and its immense strategic value realised post the Indian independence.

Sailen Debnath, the eminent scholar on the Terai and Dooars region believes that the term "Siliguri" means heap of pebbles or stones. The region had also been known as Silchaguri till the nineteenth century when it was covered with dense Dolka forest ranges. Originally a small agricultural village, the kingdom of Sikkim ruled over Siliguri till the influence of the Kingdom of Nepal into the region. The rule of Nepal brought settlements of Kirati and Nepali Lepcha people into the region.

Thus the present city of Siliguri stands gloriously from its past status as a village, increasing in area and population ever since it was declared as a sub-division in 1907 by the British administration. It has been growing by leaps and bounds after the independence of India to evolve as one of the most prominent and large cities in North Eastern India.

Siliguri Tourism

Considered the third largest city within the state of West Bengal, Siliguri has manifold attractions for any visitor.

Beyond all these obvious factors, what will strike every visitor is Siliguri's natural beauty and exquisite charm, merging the rustic simplicity of crowded market stalls with a degree of sophistication unmatched of in any other non-metropolitan city.

Situated at the base of the eastern Himalayas, Siliguri will offer the lucky visitor to a distant glimpse of the snow clad Kanchenjunga on a clear day. Forest covered



foothills, the charming sight of the Mahananda River flowing across the city, tea gardens in the south and the myriad flora of the Terai in the north are some of the natural blessings Siliguri is endowed with to fascinate visitors. Siliguri gives plenty of reasons to rejoice in the serenity and quiet beauty of nature and warmth of its friendly people.

Historical Monument in Siliguri

Siliguri is famous for its historical Coronation Bridge which was built in 1930 to celebrate the coronation of King George V. Constructed over the River Teesta at its confluence with the River Rangeet, the Sevoke Coronation Bridge is a strategically important bridge in North east India connecting Japaiguri with Darjeeling. In addition it is also reputed for its marvellous architectural design of British craftsmanship.



Religious Places in Siliguri

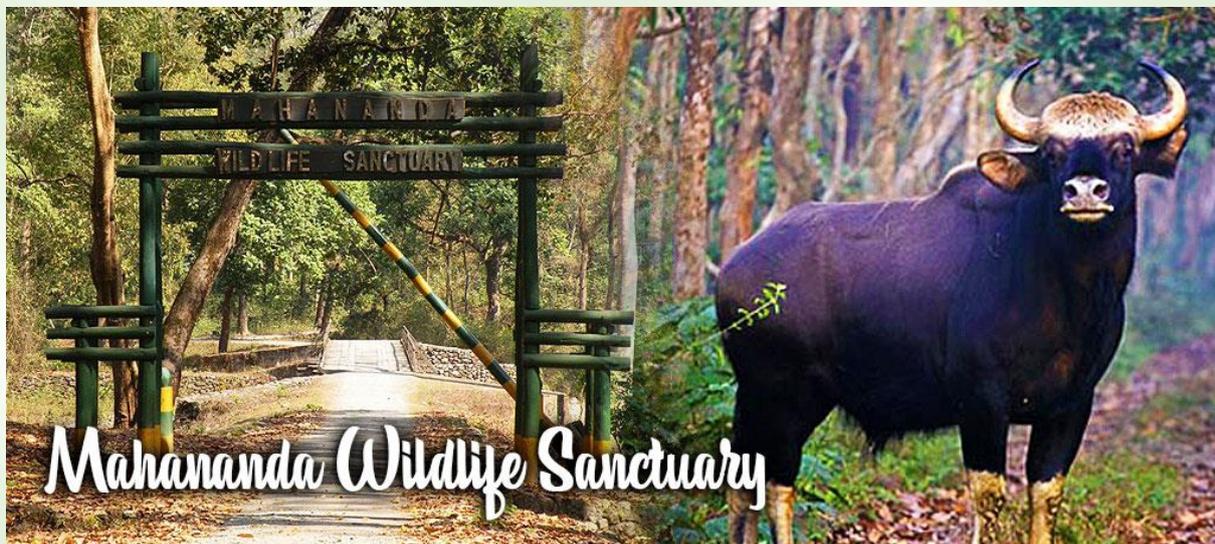
As a place where different religious communities cohabit, Siliguri has a number of places of worship attracting both regular tourists and ardent devotees. Some of them are:

- **Sevoke Kali Mandir**
- **Salugara Monastery**
- **ISKON Temple**
- **Kalchakra Monastery**



Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary

Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is a reserved forest area that initially started as a game sanctuary where children took rides. The entrance to the sanctuary is located in Sukna.



The sanctuary is spread over varying elevations and across 158 sq. km of forest area. The altitude varies from 500ft. at the southern area near Sukna and rising up to 4,300ft towards the northern area near a place called Latpanchar. On the east the sanctuary is bounded by the river Teesta and on the west by the Mahanadi River and Hill Cart Road.

Parks and Gardens in Siliguri

Siliguri is also known for its natural scenic beauty and lush green parks and gardens which are also great picnic spots. Some of them include:



- **Madhuban Natural Park**
- **Surya Sen Park**
- **Shorea Forest Recreation Center**

Shopping in Siliguri

Siliguri is rightly known as a shopper's paradise. The very mention of the city brings in mind its innumerable shopping markets and malls packed with varied merchandise and bustling with customers. The most important centres of shopping are concentrated in two areas; Hilcart Road which sells items in traditional stores and Sevoke Road for its upscale shopping malls like **Cosmos Mall, Orbit Mall, City Mall** and **City Centre** giving an international shopping experience.



Some of the street markets in Siliguri are **Hong Kong Market** in Hill Cart Road which specializes in selling mostly imported goods from China as well as Thailand, Nepal and other Asian countries. Do not forget to pack some excellent varieties of Darjeeling or Dooars tea from Siliguri, which is the nucleus of a tea producing area in eastern India.

Food in Siliguri

Like everything else about this multi-cultural city, the local food in Siliguri shows traces of its diverse population with individual eating habits and preferences. Siliguri



has been a focal transit point for all tourists travelling to the hill stations of the north-east. A large number of multicuisine restaurants cater to this daily influx of tourists for their appetite needs with great efficiency. Besides, the street food, Siliguri is a foodie's delight. It advertises delicacies of the local culture like the signature momos or dumplings indulgently heaped with sauces to your

satisfaction.

Siliguri lies in the foothills of the Himalayan ranges and skirted by the Gangetic plains. Thus its food has imbibed a variety from authentic Bengali cuisines to traditional meals of Sikkim, Darjeeling and the north-east hilly regions. Being a cosmopolitan city, Siliguri will also offer the tourist and the general population cuisines from other parts of India, like North Indian snacks and inimitable Chinese food which comes next to Bengali cuisine in terms of popularity.



Siliguri has numerous good quality vegetarian and non-vegetarian restaurants and eating joints to cater to tourists and all food lovers. Some of the fine dining restaurants are **Bhojohori Manna, Kalpataru, Kalpana, Taiwah, Indian Pagoda, Yue Fung Chinese Restaurant, & Amrapali.**

