

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



**Submitted by**  
**Export Facilitation Centre, Silpa Sathi**  
**Indian Institute of Foreign Trade**  
**Kolkata Campus**

## About the District:

Cooch-Behar is one of the five districts of Jalpaiguri Division with an irregular triangle shape. The district occupies 12th position in the State in respect of its size. It lies in the south of Jalpaiguri district beyond the hilly terrain of Himalayan belt and geographically forming a part of Himalayan Tarai of West Bengal. Situated in the North-Eastern part of West Bengal, it is bounded by the districts of Alipurduar in the north and Jalpaiguri in the north-west, state of Assam in the east (bounded by the districts of Kokrajhar & Dhubri in Assam) and the International Border in the form of Indo-Bangladesh boundary in the south-west, south and south-east

The name of the district is derived from the name of the Koch Rajbongshi tribe who are the natives of the district. The second part of the name of the district "Behar" is a Sanskrit word means Vihara (to travel). It means Cooch Behar is a place through which the Koch Rajbongshi Kings used to travel. From the period of 12th to 14th Centuries, it remained as a part of Kamarupa Kingdom of Assam. In 12th century, the area was part of Kamata kingdom first ruled by Khens till 1498 CE. Since 16th century the Koch dynasty originated from Mahishya community has ruled the area. In 1772-73, the king of Bhutan occupied Cooch Behar. In order to throw out the Bhutanese, the kingdom of Cooch Behar involved into a defense treaty and signed it with British East India Company on 5th April, 1773. After expelling Bhutanese, it turned into a princely kingdom under the protection of British East India Company. Under an agreement between the king of Cooch Behar and the Indian Government at the end of British rule, Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan transferred full authority, jurisdiction, and power of the state to the Dominion Government of India, effective 12 September 1949.<sup>[8]</sup> Eventually, Cooch Bihar became part of the state of West Bengal on 19 January 1950, with Cooch Behar town as its headquarter

It is believed that Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was the architect of the modern Cooch Behar town. On 19th January, 1950 Cooch Behar was merged with the province of West Bengal. The district came into existence 15th July 1997.

## ARTISAN MAP OF COOCH BEHAR DISTRICT



### Geography & Climate :

The district is in North-Eastern part of West Bengal; bounded by Alipurduar in the north and Jalpaiguri in the north-west, state of Assam in the east (bounded by the districts of Kokrajhar & Dhubri in Assam) and the International Border in the form of Indo-Bangladesh boundary in the south-west, south and south-east. Beside this bounded area there are enclaves (called Chhits) which are outlying and detached tracts of land situated inside Bangladesh. There are 110 such Chhits.

Cooch Behar district lies between 25°57'47" & 26°36'20" North Latitude ; between 88°47'44" & 89°54'35" East Longitude. The District Headquarter lies between 26°19'86"N Latitude and 89°23'53"E Longitude. The Area of the district is 3387 sq. KMs, which contributes 3.82% of the land mass of the State of West Bengal.

Cooch Behar is essentially a flat country with a slight south-eastern slope along which the main rivers of the district flow. Most of the high lands appertain to Sitalkuchi area

and most of the low lands lie in Dinhata area. The soil is alluvial of very recent formation. It is mostly sandy and loose. The surface soil is loam and hardly any good clay is found.

It is essentially a flat land with a slight south-eastern slope along which the six river system namely the Tista system, Jaldhaka system, Torsa, Kaljani, Raidak and Gadadhar system of the district flow. Most of the highlands appear to Sitalkuchi area and most of the lowlands lie in Dinhata area. The soil is alluvial of very recent formation, mostly sandy and loose. The surface soil is loam and hardly any good clay is found.

A highly humid atmosphere and abundant rains characterize the climate of this district, with the temperature being seldom excessive. The Period from June to beginning-of-October is the south-west monsoon season. October to mid-November constitutes the post monsoon season. Cold season being November to February and hot season being March to May .January is the coldest month with temperature varying between 5°C to 28°C, April is the hottest month with mean maximum temperature of 31°C and mean minimum temperature of 20°C (as per 2012 data). The atmosphere is highly humid throughout the year except February to May when relative humidity is as less as 50 to 70%.

Source : <https://www.indiastatdistricts.com/westbengal/coochbehar-district>

## **Demography:**

In the 2011 census, Cooch Behar urban agglomeration had a population of 2,89,434, of which 1,46,626 were males and 1,42,808 were females. The 0–6 years population was 7,910. The effective literacy rate for the urban population was 80.59%. The sex ratio is 972 females per 1,000 males. Commonly spoken languages are Bengali and Hindi.

## **Administrative Subdivision:**

Cooch Behar Sadar subdivision

Cooch Behar: Municipality

Cooch Behar I (Community development block) consists of rural areas with 15 gram panchayats and two census towns: Kharimala Khagrabari and Guriahati. Block headquarter is in Dhaluabari.

Cooch Behar II (Community development block) consists of rural areas with 13 gram panchayats and one census town: Khagrabari. Block headquarter is in Pundibari.

Dinhata subdivision

Dinhata: Municipality

Dinhata I (Community development block) consists of rural areas with 16 Gram Panchayats and one census town: Bhangri Pratham Khanda. Block headquarter is in Dinhata.

Dinhata II (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 12 gram panchayats. Block headquarter is in Sahebganj.

Sitai (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 5 Gram Panchayats. Block headquarter is in Sitai.

Mathabhanga subdivision

Mathabhanga: Municipality

Sitalkuchi (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 8 gram panchayats. Block headquarter is in Sitalkuchi.

Mathabhanga I (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 10 Gram Panchayats. Block headquarter is in Sikarpur.

Mathabhanga II (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 19 Gram Panchayats. Block headquarter is in Mathabhanga.

Mekhliganj subdivision

Mekhliganj: Municipality

Haldibari: Municipality

Mekhliganj (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 8 gram panchayats. Block headquarter is in Changrabandha.

Haldibari (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 6 gram panchayats. Block headquarter is in Haldibari.

Tufanganj subdivision

Tufanganj: Municipality

Tufanganj I (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 14 gram panchayats. Block headquarter is in Tufanganj.

Tufanganj II (Community development block) consists of rural areas only with 11 Gram Panchayats. Block headquarter is in Baxirhat

Source : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooch\\_Behar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooch_Behar)

## **INFRASTRUCTURE -**

Utility services provided in Cooch Behar are considered one of the best government utility services in West Bengal. Cooch Behar is a well-planned town, and the municipality is responsible for providing essential services, such as potable water and

sanitation. The city supplies water using its groundwater resources, and almost all the houses in the municipal area are connected. Solid waste is collected every day by the municipality van from individual homes. The surface drains, mostly cemented, drain into the Torsa River. Electricity is supplied by the West Bengal State Electricity Board, and the West Bengal Fire Service provides emergency services like fire tenders. Most roads are metalled (macadam), and street lighting is available throughout the town. The Public Works Department is responsible for road maintenance and the streets connecting Cooch Behar with other regional cities. Health services in Cooch Behar include a government-owned District Hospital, a Regional Cancer Centre, and private nursing homes .

### **Roads :**

Cooch Behar is very well connected by road with neighboring areas and other cities of West Bengal and the rest of the country. Cooch Behar is a major roadway junction after Siliguri towards Northeast India and Bangladesh. NH-17 crosses through the heart of the city connecting Assam and North Bengal. Apart from this, state highways, including SH-16 and SH-12A, pass through Cooch Behar, connecting different places in West Bengal.

Cooch Behar Airport is a domestic airport located near the city. It handles daily flights from Netaji Subash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The nearest international airport is Bagdogra Airport near Siliguri, about 142 km (88 mi) from Cooch Behar. IndiGo, Vistara and Spice Jet are the major carriers that connect the area to Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangkok, Paro, Bangkok and Chandigarh.

Being a popular tourism hub, Cooch Behar is well connected through railway with almost all parts of the country. Two stations serve the city.

**New Cooch Behar railway station (NCB)**

**Cooch Behar railway station (COB)**

### **Education :**

(a) No. of Primary school - 1830

(b) No. of Middle schools - 297

(c) No. of Secondary & senior secondary schools - 94

(d) No. of Colleges - 15

There are five colleges and a polytechnic in town, including A.B.N. Seal College, Cooch Behar College, University B.T. & Evening College, Thakur Panchanan Mahila

Mahavidyalaya, all of which are affiliated with the Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, which was established in 2013.

Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University is the only single university in Cooch Behar. It is a U.G.C. recognised public university in Cooch Behar, West Bengal, India.

## **Public Health :**

### **A. Hospitals –**

#### **1.Cooch Behar Jail Hospital**

Cooch Behar , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-222206

#### **2.Cooch Behar Police Hospital**

Cooch Behar , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-227648

#### **3.Cooch Behar Rail Hospital**

New Cooch Behar , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-232280

#### **4.Dinhata Sub Divisional Hospital**

Dinhata Main Road, Dinhata, Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736135

**Phone :** 03581-255002

#### **5.Haldibari Gramin Sub. Divisional Hospital**

Haldibari , **Pincode:** 735122

**Phone :** 03584-263246

#### **6.J. D. Hospital Cooch Behar**

Mahishbathan, Cooch Behar

**Phone :** 03582-240440

## **B. Ambulance-**

### **1.Cooch Behar Municipality Ambulance Service**

Sagar Dighi Square, Cooch Behar Town, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-222286

### **2.Cooch Behar Municipality Ambulance Service**

Cooch Behar Town, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582222024

### **3.Cooch Behar Sathkar Samity Ambulance Service**

Hospital chowpathi, Sunity Road, Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-223468

### **4.J. D. Hospital Ambulance Service**

Mahish Bathan, Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736179

**Phone :** 03582-222315

### **5.Jai Laxmi Nursing Home**

ACDC Club, N. N. Road,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736101

**Phone :** 03582-223006

### **6.Jeevandeep Nursing Home**

Magazine Road, Mukuldanga, Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 73610

**Phone :** 03582228720

## **Banks-**

### **1.AXIS BANK – COOCHBEHAR BRANCH**

Sunity Road,Cooch Behar-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736101



**Email :** kochbihar[dot]branchhead[at]axisbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 918001603961

**Website Link :** <https://www.axisbank.com>

## **2.AXIS BANK – DINHATA BRANCH**

Ward-6, Dinhata Road, Godhuli Bazar,Dinahata-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal ,

**Pincode:** 736135

**Email :** dinhata[dot]branchhead[at]axisbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 919832324001

**Website Link :** <https://www.axisbank.com>

## **3.AXIS BANK – MATHABHANGA BRANCH**

Ward-6, Immigration Road,Chowpathy,Mathabhanga-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal ,

**Pincode:** 736146

**Email :** mathabahnga[dot]branchhead[at]axisbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 919735744140

**Website Link :** <https://www.axisbank.com>

## **4.BANDHAN BANK – BANESWAR BRANCH**

Baneswar,Cooch Behar-II Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736133

**Email :** bh[dot]baneswar[at]bandhanbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 919163021141

**Website Link :** <https://bandhanbank.com>

## **5.BANDHAN BANK – BOXIRHAT BRANCH**

Chotolaukuthi , Boxirhat,Tufanganj-II Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736131

**Email :** bh[dot]boxirhat[at]bandhanbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 917044021091

**Website Link :** <https://bandhanbank.com>

## **6.BANDHAN BANK – CHOURANGEE BRANCH (BALARAMPUR)**

Balarampur Chowrangee, Balarampurhat,Tufanganj-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal ,

**Pincode:** 736168

**Email :** bh[dot]chourangeebalarampur[at]bandhanban[dot]com

**Phone :** 917596011191

**Website Link :** <https://bandhanbank.com>

## **7.BANDHAN BANK – GHUGHUMARI BRANCH**

Ghughumari,Cooch Behar-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736170

**Email :** bh[dot]coochbehar[at]bandhanbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 919903420241

**Website Link :** <https://bandhanbank.com>

## **8.BANDHAN BANK – DEWANHAT BRANCH**

Dewanhat,Cooch Behar-I Block,Cooch Behar, West Bengal , **Pincode:** 736134

**Email :** bh[dot]dewanhat[at]bandhanbank[dot]com

**Phone :** 917596012091

**Website Link :** <https://bandhanbank.com>

Source : <https://coochbehar.gov.in/public-utilities/#>

## **Economy of the district :**

Farming is a significant 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, primary agriculture, small shops, and manual labour in construction.

Coochbehar, though an agricultural based district houses several clusters in the district. The rich culture of the district has developed the district in production of some handcrafted items like Jute crafted décor items, handcrafted dress materials, hand crafted home decors, home furnishings like bedsheets, curtains, mats, carpets, door mats, etc.It has been studied that Coochbehar has developed 17 clusters which gives livelihood to more than fifteen thousand persons housing around 2500 units across different sectors. The major clusters of the district are oil, sitalpati (carpets and mats) , mekhla (handcrafted dress materials), steel furniture, readymade garments, handmade home textiles, etc.The clusters of jute home textiles and handcrafted textiles has an

annual turnover of around Rs. 350 million in each sector. While the other clusters generate an annual turnover of around Rs. 264 million.

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 12 nos. of Cold Storage (potato); 1. Hence food processing industries like manufacturing of chips, sauce, jam, jelly etc. have a very good potential. 2. Surplus production 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. There is huge production of jute. 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 more multi-purpose cold storage for storing surplus production. 5. There is ample demand for plastic products like PVC casing, plastic sheets, plastic toys, PVC pipes, moulded plastic items, etc. So plastic based manufacturing units have ample opportunities in this area.

### **Industrial scenario of the Coochbehar district :**

Cooch Behar has witnessed radical changes and rapid development in segments like industry, real estate, information technology firms, and education since the advent of the twenty-first century. The changes concern infrastructure and industrial growth for steel (direct reduced iron), metal, cement, and knowledge-based industries. Many engineering, technology, management, and professional study colleges have opened at Cooch Behar. Housing co-operatives, flats, shopping malls, hotels, and stadiums have also emerged.

Chakchaka Growth Centre is the heart of the industrial activities in the district. As many as 70 MSMEs have been set up in this Centre. Most of them are manufacturing units. A few of them are not only first of their type in North Bengal but the first in Eastern India. The units are manufacturing Jute products, Steel Fabrication products, Plastic products, Food Products, Mustard oil, Flour and allied products, Biscuits and Bakery products, HDPE pipes, LDPEP sheets, potable water, Paper products, etc. Beside, some servicing units like Cold Storage, repairing and servicing of transformers, etc. have been established. Amongst the units, two units are medium enterprises and the remaining are MSEs.

Apart from the MSMEs in the above Growth Centres, others are mainly traditional and micro enterprises. They are spread throughout the district. Sital Pati making is the main traditional activity in the district. The activity is concentrated in Cooch-Behar-I and Tufangunj-I blocks. About 1000 families are engaged in the activities. The product is sold in local markets, Assam and neighboring districts. Due to stagnation in raw material production, the possibility of further expansion of Sital Pati activities is very lean. Forest based units like Saw mills, wooden furniture, Plywood, etc. are functioning. Bamboo products are found in Cooch-Behar and Kaljani in Dinhata block. About 100 or more families engaged in these activities. The other MSEs in the district are steel fabrication,

ice slab, readymade garments, wheat grinding, paddy husking, mustared oil, cane furniture, cement products, nylon mosquito net, agarbati, jute twine, plastic products, bread and biscuits, ice-candy, tea chest baton, exercise book, etc. Servicing activities like cycle rickshaw and cycle repairing, TV and PC repairing, automobile repairing and servicing, photocopy, data processing, etc. are found in every block of the district. There are 12 Cold Storages have been set up in the district

### **Export from the district :**

The major exportable items from the district are Natural honey, woven fabric of cotton ,woolen carpet , wholly milled rice and pulses and processed food. Principal cereals like pulses and processed food are mainly exported to neighbouring countries

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

### **DIC office:**

Name of the G.M - Jb. Khursid Alam

Contact no. - 03582-222428/ 2226 , 7908596782

Email id - gmcoch[dot]msse-wb[at]nic[dot]in

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

### **Training institutions :**

#### **Government Industrial Training Institute, Cooch Behar**

The Institute was established on 1st September, 1959 with an aim to impart professional skill in training to the district youth. Presently the Institute is running with 375 trainees in **Electrician, Fitter, Turner, Wireman, Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Surveyor, Sheet Metal Worker, Carpenter, Draughtsman Mechanical** course.

Contact no. - 03582295315

Email id - priniticooch@gmail.com