

Two Day International Conference

on

'Darjeeling Tea: Leaf, Life, and Legacy:

*A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Place,
People and Possibility'*

organised by

Salesian College (Autonomous)

in collaboration with

Rimpocha and Tea Promoters India

on

27 & 28 March, 2026



INAUGURAL SESSION

Venue: **College Auditorium, Salesian College (Autonomous), Sonada**

Emcee: **Ms. Ragini Chettri & Mr. Manoresh Thapa**

09:30 AM-09:35 AM	Words of Welcome (Fr. Johnny Nedungatt, SDB, Rector, Salesian College (Autonomous), Sonada)
09:35 AM-09:45 AM	Opening Remarks (Fr. (Dr.) Babu Joseph, SDB, Principal, Salesian College (Autonomous), Sonada & Siliguri)
09:45 AM-09:55 AM	Prayer Dance (SCS Students)
09:55 AM-10:00 AM	Lighting of the Lamp (Chant-Asatoma Sat Gamaya)
10:00 AM-10:05 AM	Felicitation of the Guests
10:05 AM-10:25 AM	Presidential Address (Mr. Binod Mohan, Chairman Tea Promoters India & President-Davidson's Inc. US)
10:25 AM-10:35 AM	Guest of Honour's Address (Mr. Satish Mitruka, President CII & MD Nurbong Tea Company)
	Guest of Honour (Mr. Shubodeep Roy, Chairman Asha Tea Company)
10:35 AM-10:45 AM	Guest of Honour's Address (Mr. Shiv Kumar Saria, Managing Director Soongachi Tea Industry)
10:45 AM-10:55 AM	Guest of Honour's Address (Dr. Suborno Bose, Founding Chairman – IIHM (Intl.), Kolkata)
10:55 AM-11:15 AM	Chief Guest's Address (Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Founding Chairman, Bandhan Group)
11:15 AM-11:25 AM	Brothers' Choir
11:25 AM-11:55 PM	Keynote address (Mr. Rajah Banerjee, Rimpocha Tea, Chairman T'Classic, Darjeeling, Pvt Limited)
11:55 AM-12:05 PM	Nepali Song- SCS Students
12:05 PM-12:15 PM	Seminar Logistics (Bro. (Dr.) Jose Puthenpurackel, SDB, Vice Principal Salesian College (Autonomous), Sonada)
12:15 PM-01:30 PM	Lunch

DAY 1 (Friday, 27 March 2026)

TECHNICAL SESSION: I

Theme: Environment and Tea

Venue: Kallingal Hall Level 3 (Parallel session: 1-A)

Chairperson: Mr. Chandra Shekar Ghosh

Emcee: Ashwini Tamang

Time	Paper title	Author
01:30 PM-02:00 PM	Review of Research and Development for Darjeeling Tea Industry: A Sustainable Approach with particular reference to Small Tea Growers (STGs)	Dr. Biswajit Bera
02:00 PM-02:30 PM	Bottom-up Approach to Sustainability – The Case of Rimpocha	Binayak Malla, & Prof. hab. Michał Zdziarski (Online)
02:30 PM-03:00 PM	Alternative Income Generation and Sustainable Livelihood Practices in a Darjeeling Tea Estate: The Makaibari Experience	Yangkee Colitas
03:00 PM-03:30 PM	EU Quality Policy and sustainability standards: Implications for the Darjeeling Tea Industry	Prof. Dr. Alexander Wirsig (Online)
03:30 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: I

Theme: Tea and Tea Communities

Venue: Research Conference Hall Level 5 (Parallel session: 1-B)

Chairperson: Dr. Suborno Bose

Emcee: Dr. Nimkit Lepcha

Time	Paper title	Author
01:30 PM-02:00 PM	Jesuits Among the Tea Garden People of Darjeeling and the Terai: A Transformative Life Journey.	Fr. (Dr.) K.L George, SJ
02:00 PM-02:30 PM	Sustaining Communities Beyond Tea: Education, Health and Livelihood Interventions by Hayden Hall Institute	Akansha Tamang
02:30 PM-03:00 PM	Beyond the Leaf: Salesian College's Holistic Accompaniment of Tea Communities	Bro. (Dr.) Jose Puthenpurackel, SDB
03:00 PM-03:30 PM	Advent of Fr. Luigi Jellici and Impact on the Tea Garden Workers of Balasun Valley, Sonada, Darjeeling	Sushna Subba
03:30 PM-04:00 PM	Elevating Darjeeling Among British Tea Drinkers: <i>Collaboration, Campaigns & Story Telling</i>	Michelle & Rob Comins (Online)
04:00 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: I

Theme: Tea and Literature

Venue: Lecture Hall 306 Level 3 (Parallel session 1-C)

Chairperson: Mr. Binod Mohan

Emcee: Sharon Lepcha

Time	Paper title	Author
01:30 PM-02:00 PM	From the Womb of Green Tea Leaves Prosperity Flows	Denis Lepcha
02:00 PM-02:30 PM	A Journey beyond the Green Carpet towards Tea Garden Literature and Philosophy	Dr. Terence Mukhia
02:30 PM-03:00 PM	The Politics of the Plantation: Memory, Labour, and Migrant Identity in Indra Bahadur Rai's <i>There Is a Carnival Today</i>	Deepraj Rai
03:00 PM-03:30 PM	Remembered Voices: Storytelling and Cultural Memory in Darjeeling's Tea Gardens	Shenaz Naznin
03:30 PM-04:00 PM	Tea, Toil, and Torment: Feminist Consciousness in Chuden Kabimo's Novel 'Urmaal'	Anupama Pradhan
03:30 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: I

Theme: Gender, Labour, and Tea

Venue: Examination Hall: 504 Level 5 (Parallel session: 1-D)

Chairperson: Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung

Emcee: Ms. Kaushamvi Prajuli

Time	Paper title	Author
01:30 PM-02:00 PM	Financial Sustainability of Darjeeling Tea Estates under Rising Labour Cost	Uday Malla & Sreha Agarwal
02:00 PM-02:30 PM	Migration of Youths from Margret's Hope Tea Estate: A Case Study	Rohini Subba
02:30 PM-03:00 PM	Marginalisation and Agency: A Study on the Socio-Economic and Political Conditions of Women Workers in the Darjeeling Hills	Sumit Lepcha
03:00 PM-03:30 PM	Tea as Competitor and Diplomat: The Geopolitics of Darjeeling Tea in International Markets	Ayush Shankar
03:30 PM	Tea Break	

Special Invited Lecture Session

Venue: Kallingal Hall Level 3

Chairperson: Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung

Emcee: Dr. Anukta Gairola

04:00 PM	Opening Remarks
04:10 PM	Indranil Ghosh, Director Chamong Tea Company Changes in the Pattern of Unionism in Darjeeling Tea Industry
04:30 PM	Gautam Mohan (online), MD, Tea promoters India Mechanization Opportunities in Darjeeling Tea
04:50 PM	Saikat Sarkar, CEO & Co-founder RLab Innovation Ltd., UK Future of Darjeeling Tea – AI Perspective
05:10 PM	Concluding Remarks
05:15 PM	Dispersal

DAY 2 (Saturday, 28 March 2026)

Plenary Session

Venue: Kallingal Hall Level 3

Moderator: Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung

Emcee: Ms. Ashwini Tamang

09:00 AM-09:10 AM	Invocation- Fr. Johny Nedungatt, SDB, Rector, Salesian College (Autonomous), Sonada
09:10 AM-09:20 AM	Opening Remarks for day 2 – Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung
09:20 AM-10:30 AM	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung, Wholetime Director, Tea Promoters India Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Mahendra P Lama, Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, DelhiDr. Eklavya Sharma, Padma Shri Awardee, Strategic Advisor and Senior Fellow, ATREE
10:30 AM	Tea Break

TECHNICAL SESSION: 2

Theme: Media, Innovation, and Tea

Venue: Kallingal Hall Level 3 (Parallel session: 2-A)

Chairperson: Mr. Sujoy Bhattacharyya

Emcee: Ms. Kaushamvi Parajuli

Time	Paper title	Author
11:00 AM-11:30 AM	How BamBhu Innovation can help transform the hills of Darjeeling tea estates?	Mr. Amar Lama (Online)
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Darjeeling at Stake: Structured Communication as a Problem-Solving Tool	Dr. Kathrin Gassert
12:00 PM-12:30 PM	Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Business Models: A Comparative Case Study of A Darjeeling Tea Pioneer and A German Baby Food Producer	Alexander Svanidze(Online)
12:30 PM-01:00 PM	Rainwater Harvesting as a Sustainable Solution to Water Scarcity: The Experience of St. Paul's School, Darjeeling	O. P. Agarwal
01:00 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: 2

Theme: Alternative Livelihood and Tea

Venue: Research Conference Hall Level 5 (Parallel session: 2-B)

Chairperson: Mr. Indranil Ghosh

Emcee: Mr. Manoresh Thapa

Time	Paper title	Author
11:00 AM-11:30 AM	Jari Buti: Empowering Tea Estate Women with Health and Wealth – A Case Study	Dilliram Sharma
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	From Forest Roots to Global Cups: Indigenous Tribal Teas of India & the World.	Biswanath Ganguly
12:00 PM-12:30 PM	Challenges in implementation of CSR activities within the Darjeeling Tea Industry	Sulochana Thapa
12:30 PM-01:00 PM	Brewing Resilience: Integrating Alternative Livelihoods to Strengthen Darjeeling's Tea Communities	Golam Mustafa
01:00 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: 2

Theme: Life in Tea Gardens

Venue: Lecture Hall 306 Level 3 (Parallel session 2-C)

Chairperson: Mr. A. Nandakolayar

Emcee: Ms. Sharon Lepcha

Time	Paper title	Author
11:00 AM-11:30 AM	Darjeeling Plantation & Water Management	Rati Kanta Ghosh
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	The Darjeeling Revival Project: Alt Carbon's Enhanced Rock Weathering Model for Climate-Resilient Tea Landscapes	Ananya Iyer
12:00 PM-12:30 PM	Health Care Services: Current Status, Challenges and the Way Forward in the Tea Industry in The Darjeeling Hills	Dr. Puran Kumar Sharma
12:30 PM-01:00 PM	Socio-Economic Status of Tea Garden Workers: A Case Study of Lingia Tea Garden in Darjeeling District	Sradha Pradhan
01:00 PM	Tea Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION: 2

Theme: Multidisciplinary Dimension on Tea

Venue: Examination Hall: 504 Level 5 (Parallel session: 2-D)

Chairperson: Dr. Biswajit Bera

Emcee: Dr. Nimkit Lepcha

Time	Paper title	Author
11:00 AM-11:30 AM	Miniaturization of Tea machinery & Production of Speciality Teas	Shiv K. Saria
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	From Leaf to Legacy: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Darjeeling Tea's History, Identity and Challenges	Soumyajyoti Saha
12:00 PM-12:30 PM	Exploring the Multifaceted Potential of <i>Camelia sinensis</i>: Development of Value-Added Cosmeceutical and Nutraceutical Products from Tea	Sumitra Pal Karmakar
12:30 PM-01:00 PM	From Labourers to Catalyst of Change: Empowering Tea Garden Communities through Collective Action	Ratan Lama
01:00 PM	Tea Break	

Special Panel Discussion

Venue: **Kallingal Hall, Level 3**
Moderator: **Mr. Rajah Banerjee**
Emcee: **Ms. Ragini Chettri**

Moderator:

- Mr. Rajah Banerjee

Panellists:

- A. Nandakolayar, Director, Paramount Tea company
- Dr. Kathrin Gassert, Director, Teekampagne/Projektwerkstatt
- Sudhanshu Saha, Director, Giddhapahar Tea Estate
- Saunak Bose, Darjeeling Auctioneer, J.Thomas & Co.
- Parvez Hussain, Tea Sommelier, Makaibari Luxmi Tea
- Yangkee Colitas, Independent Researcher
- Sujoy Bhattacharyya (Pen name: SB Veda), Independent Writer, Contributing Editor-The Global Calcuttan and Contributor-World Tea News
- Dr. Abhijit Chakroborty, Assistant Professor and HoD Commerce, Salesian College (Autonomous), Siliguri

02:00 PM- 03:00 PM

Valedictory Session

Venue: **Kallingal Hall, Level 3**
Emcee: **Dr. Terence Mukhia**

03:05 PM-03:10 PM	Welcome Note
03:10 PM-03:40 PM	Valedictory Address (Mr. Jeewan Prakash Gurung, Wholetime Director, Tea Promoters India)
03:40 PM-03:50 PM	Conference Report
3:50 PM- 4:10 PM	Memento and Certificate Distribution
04:10 PM-04:25 PM	Vote of Thanks (Prof. Fr. (Dr.) Tomy Augustine, SDB, Rector, Salesian College (Autonomous), Siliguri)
04:25 PM	Tea and Dispersal

**VENUE: KALLINGAL AV
HALL - 301 (LEVEL 3)**



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MEETING ID: 867 3937 3956
PASS CODE: 236745

**VENUE: RESEARCH
CONFERENCE HALL (LEVEL 5)**



<https://l1nq.com/zzL60>

MEETING ID: 815 6863 1604
PASS CODE: 151856