

# Darjeeling Hills Set to Come Alive with Melo-Tea Festival

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The picturesque hills of Darjeeling in West Bengal are all set to host the first edition of the [Melo-Tea Festival](#), a cultural extravaganza aimed at boosting tourism and fostering community spirit. Organized by the Darjeeling police, the festival promises to be a unique and vibrant event that showcases the rich cultural heritage and musical talent of the region.

The festival will kick off on December 22 and continue till December 24, taking place at the famous Mall in Darjeeling. The highlight of the event is a rock band competition, which has attracted an overwhelming response from music bands across the country and even from Nepal. The police had the challenging task of shortlisting 12 bands out of a list of about 75 applicants. The selection process involved reviewing short videos of performances, and the final lineup promises to be a treat for music enthusiasts.

The youth of [Darjeeling](#), known for their passion for rock

music, are eagerly looking forward to the festival. Music has always been a powerful tool for community development, and the Melo-Tea Festival aims to harness this energy to bring people together. The festival also offers a substantial prize money of Rs 5 lakh for the winning band, with the first and second runners-up receiving Rs 3 lakh and Rs 2 lakh respectively. This generous prize money makes the Melo-Tea Festival one of the most highly anticipated rock competitions in India.

Beyond the music, the festival celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Darjeeling. The Mamata Banerjee government has set up 16 cultural boards for the development of the hill tribes, and they will be showcasing their indigenous food, attire, and heritage during the event. Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience the world-famous Darjeeling tea, with stalls set up by renowned tea gardens offering tea tasting sessions and awareness sessions on the different varieties of tea.

In addition to the music and cultural displays, the festival will also feature an orange and orchid festival, adding a touch of natural beauty to the event. On the final day, the Darjeeling Hill Marathon will take place, with seven racing events organized, including an exclusive race for police personnel. This diverse range of activities ensures that there is something for everyone at the Melo-Tea Festival.

The festival holds special significance for the band Parikrama, one of Asia's most popular rock bands. This will be their first performance in the hills of Darjeeling, and they are thrilled to be a part of the Melo-Tea Festival. Performing in Darjeeling is particularly meaningful for them as one of their late band members, Sonam Sherpa, hailed from the neighboring district of Kalimpong. Sherpa had always dreamed of performing near or in his hometown, and this festival gives Parikrama the opportunity to honor his memory.

The Melo-Tea Festival is not just about entertainment; it also

carries a message. This year's theme revolves around the crusade against drugs, aiming to engage the youth and local community in a positive way and steer them away from destructive paths. By organizing this festival, the Darjeeling police hope to foster a sense of belonging and unity among the residents and visitors alike.

The Melo-Tea Festival promises to be a grand celebration of music, culture, and community. With its stunning location, rich heritage, and talented musicians, Darjeeling is all set to come alive with the vibrant energy of the festival. Whether you are a music lover, a food enthusiast, or a nature enthusiast, this festival offers a unique experience that should not be missed. So mark your calendars and get ready to immerse yourself in the magic of the Melo-Tea Festival in the enchanting hills of Darjeeling.