West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

West Jaintia Hills District is one of the 11 (eleven) districts of the state of Meghalaya. With the bifurcation of the erstwhile Jaintia Hills District into East and West Jaintia Hills District, West Jaintia Hills District came into existence on 31st July 2012 with its Head Quarter at Jowai.

Jowai is the host of all the heads of important governmental offices and establishments, educational institutions, hospitals, banking institutions, etc.

AREA

The total area of the district is 1693 Sq.kms. The district comprises of 1(one) Civil Sub-Division Viz. Amlarem Civil Sub-Division and 3(three) Community and Rural Development Blocks viz. Amlarem C&RD Block, Laskein C&RD Block and Thadlaskein C&RD Block with the following boundaries:-

- North - Assam
- South - Bangladesh and East Jaintia Hills District
- East - Assam
- West - East Khasi Hills District

POPULATION

The district has a total population of 2,70,352, of which 1,34,406 are males and 1,35,946 are females. The density of Population is 159.69 per sq. km.

The following table shows the Block wise Area and Population of West Jaintia Hills District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Block</th>
<th>Area (Sq. Km)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amlarem</td>
<td>398.00</td>
<td>21750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laskein</td>
<td>390.40</td>
<td>45182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thadlaskein</td>
<td>896.60</td>
<td>53761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jowai (Urban)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>13713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1693.00</td>
<td>134406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data: As per the Provisional Census 2011*
NATURAL FEATURES

West Jaintia Hills District is full of rugged and undulating terrains with the exception of the deep gorges, steep precipice and narrow valleys carved out by the rivers of Umngot, Myntdu, Myntang and a good number of other turbulent streams that drain out all over the district.

The district has good forest cover which is endowed with rich flora and fauna. One of the reasons that the District has a substantial forest cover is the presence of a large number of sacred groves which are maintained by the Raij. These sacred groves are found at Jowai, Raliang, Shangpung, Mukhla, Nongtalang, Chyrmang and other village forest areas. Full of vibrant culture, tradition, great scenic beauty and tranquility, it has great potential as tourist destination, nature’s lover paradise and a source for Education & Research Development.
CLIMATE

The Climate of West Jaintia Hills District is uniquely pleasant and caressing. It is neither too warm in summer nor too cold in winter. The rainfall profile is very high during the south west monsoon, which usually starts from the middle of May and declines towards the last part of September. The intensity of rainfall in the district during the last few years has registered a rising trend, due to the untimely vagary of monsoon coupled by the existence of fogs, mists and nimbus clouds which loom large during the rainy season. The Average Relative Humidity is the highest during the month of July while December records the lowest Relative Humidity.

ADMINISTRATION

The Deputy Commissioner is the head of the District Administration. The Deputy Commissioner is the Executive head as well as judicial head of the district. The Deputy Commissioner is aided by a number of officers like Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Officer of Civil Sub-Division and Extra Assistant Commissioners to assist him in different types of activities. As the executive head, the Deputy Commissioner plays a vital role in coordinating with all developmental heads of the district for all round developmental activities.

Maintenance of law and order is another important aspect of district administration to give proper security and to safeguard the lives and properties of the citizens. In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner acts as the District Magistrate for maintenance of law and order in the district. The District Magistrate is assisted by Additional Deputy Magistrate, Sub-Division Magistrate and other Executive Magistrates and keeps close link with police department for necessity. The Superintendent of Police is the head of the Police Administration.

The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District is located at Iawmusiang, Jowai.

Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Jowai
The district consists of 5(five) Assembly Constituencies, viz. 1-Nartiang(ST), 2-Jowai (ST), 3-Raiang(ST), 4-Mowkaiaaw(ST) and 7-Amlarem(ST). The members of the Legislative Assemblies are elected by Adult suffrage for a term of 5(five) years.

There is one Autonomous District Council, viz. Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council which is headed by the Chief Executive Member, assisted by the Executive Members. The council discharges the functions and duties as assigned to it under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

The functions and duties of the council are discharged through the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary wings. The members of the council are elected by adult suffrage for a term of 5(five) years.

The office of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council is located at Iawmuisiang, Jowai.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

West Jaintia Hills District is the home of one of the major tribes of Meghalaya popularly known as the ‘Jaintias’ or the ‘Pnar’ or and other sub tribes like the wars, the ‘Bhois’ and the ‘Biates’. Like the Khasis, the Jaintias are believed to be remnants of the first Mongolian overflow into India. They established themselves in their present homeland in the remote past and owing primarily to their geographical isolation they
succeeded in maintaining their independence until the consolidation of the British administration in this part of India.

Jaintias are a matrilineal society which is a very rare and unique practice where the children take the identity or family title solely from the mother. Women are very lucky in this way, because they are treated with equal rights but the head of the family is always the father. Amongst the Jaintias, it is the youngest daughter who inherits property and has the obligation to take care and look after the family members incase of any financial or health problems.

**LANGUAGE**

The people inhabiting the district are the Pnars, Wars, Bhois (Karbis) and Biates mainly. So it is obvious that not one language is spoken. But the main language widely used by the inhabitants of this district is the Pnar Language which is different in every sense from the Khasi language of the East and West Khasi Hills Districts of this State of Meghalaya. As is known there is no written script for this language and Khasi is used for educative purposes.

English is the only medium of instruction used in some schools e.g. Adventist Training School. Other schools use the vernacular dialect in Roman letter (Khasi Cherra dialect) and English as the medium of instruction. However for high school section, English was adopted as the medium of instruction and Khasi dialect was studied as a vernacular subject. It is known that a few local learned people are trying to devise the alphabets for the Pnar language.

Besides English, Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Assamese, are spoken by outsiders for communication. A lot of outsiders can speak the Local language pretty well, making work and communication easier.

**DANCE AND MUSIC**

Pnars are fond of dance, music, sports and festivals. Mindful of their cultural heritage, these simple folks are jovial and hospitable. Pnars are particularly fond of songs praising nature like lakes, waterfalls, hills etc. and expressing love for their land. They use different types of musical instruments like Duitara, Sarong, (both are stringed instruments), Ka Nakra, Padiah, Katasa (different types of drums), Marynken (harp) Chuwiang, Tangmuri (flutes) etc. Pnars are music lovers and consider 'Ka Duitara' as
the Queen of music. Traditionally ‘Ryndia khyrwang’, ‘Ryndia Saru’, ‘Ryndia Stem’, ‘Ryndia Tlem’ were worn by Jaintia ladies. Men used to wear Sula, Yuslein, Patoi, Dhara etc. Usually women wear gold and silver ornaments like Khaila, Kpien Ksiar, Sahkti, Khadu, Pansngiat (tiara), etc. during Laho dance.

Both males and females perform the Laho dance. Attired in their best finery, usually young men on either side of a woman holding arms together, dance in steps. In place of the usual drum and pipe, a cheerleader, usually a man gifted with the talent of impromptu recitation, recites couplets to the merriment of the audience.

‘Shad Pliang’ or plate dance was performed in the Royal palaces to please royal guests. This dance is performed in fields also.

Chad Sukra: This festival of dances is held annually in Jowai and many villages of West Jaintia Hills District, for a day in the month of April/May before the sowing season.
**Behdeiňkhlam**: This is the most important festival of the Jaintias and is celebrated after the sowing is done. It is celebrated annually at Jowai, Ialong, Mukhla, Thadmuthlong and Chyrmang usually in the month of July-August. It is a popular and colourful festival. Men only, young and old, take part in the dancing to the tune of the drums and flute. Women do not take part in the dancing but have an important role to play at home in offering sacrificial food to the spirit of the ancestors. They invoke their aid and intercession that life here below will be good and worthy for the next one above. Men make a symbolic driving away of the evil spirits which cause sickness and misery, by beating the roof of every house with bamboo poles. This festival is also an invocation to God seeking His blessing for a good harvest.
The original tribal religion of the Jaintias is known as Niamtre. The Jaintia tribals believe that their religion is God-given (not founded by man) and comes to this world by God's decree. The three cardinal principles dictated by God are kamai yei hok, tipbru tipblai and tipkur tipkha. They signify right living and practice based on right livelihood; fulfillment of duties toward fellow men to reach God; and showing respect to the members of one's father's and mother's clans. Therefore Niamtre stresses equal weight to be given to fellow humans to attain God's realisation.

The British paramountcy during the Seventeenth Century brought about the winds of change in many aspects of the Jaintia society, a good percentage of the people started embracing Christianity as their religion. Also with the coming of the Welsh Missionaries, many significant changes took place which had certain effects on the value system, beliefs, speech, etiquettes, food habits, life styles and most importantly in the fields of health, education and economic condition of the people. Traditionally, if anyone died in the village, the whole village would stop their work and gather at the

Jowai Presbyterian Church
deceased person’s house. People still follow the custom inspite of the hectic schedule of everyday modern life.

Apart from Christians, there are other religious groups in the district like the Unitarians, the Hindus, the Muslims etc.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Jaintia people are famous for their weaving skills and creating cane mats, stools and baskets. They are also famous for weaving of carpet and silk and the making of musical instruments, jewellery and pineapple fiber articles. They also weave cloth.

![Basket (Chang Heh)](image1.png)  ![Stool (Mura)](image2.png)

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

![Ramynthien](image3.png)  ![Sitar](image4.png)  ![Dui-Tara](image5.png)
A collection of various types of clothing used by both men and women of this district. They include dresses worn during festivity as well as in their day to day life.

Jaintia people are famous for their pottery skills. They make special kinds of earthen containers (Maloi) used to store food items and others, earthen tea pots (Tipot Khyndew Heh) used for storing the prepared tea for serving purpose or simply for storing water, earthen mugs (Mok Um) used for drinking water.
**Food**

Jaintia people are very fond of Jadoh, a nourishing Biryani clone. It is prepared from pig head. Jadoh is served with Dokhleh (pieced pork). Another important cuisine is Tpuseiñ(a steamed rice bread) which is bland in taste and it is taken with piping hot tea. Jaintias are famous for preparing “Tungtoh” or “Tungrymbai” which is a pungent mix of fermented beans and spices that adds the flavor to the simplest meal or festive spread. Another traditional delicacy of the Jaintias is ‘Kha rang’ (dried fish) which is crispy in taste. ‘Kwai’ which is similar to ‘Tamul-Pan’ in Assam has a special social importance.
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Agriculture is the major occupation in West Jaintia Hills District, in which about 70% of the population depends primarily on agriculture for their livelihood. Rice and maize are the major food crops grown throughout the district with appreciable improvement in yield. Wheat has been introduced recently and the result is quite encouraging. Potato, ginger, garlic and turmeric are some of the important cash crops of the district. The district is the native of the world famous turmeric Lakadong variety.

Lakadong Turmeric

On southern slopes, in warmer areas, particularly in Dawki-Syndai area, plenty of arecanut and betelvines cultivation can be seen.

Areca nut and Betelvines
Special emphasis is presently laid on the non-traditional crops like Oilseeds (Sesamum, Rapeseeds, Mustard seeds, Soyabean), Medicinal plants, orchids and commercial flowers.

The district has a vast potential for developing horticulture due to Agro climatic conditions, which offer much scope for cultivation of temperate, sub tropical and tropical fruits and vegetables. Orange (khasi Mandarin), pine apple, banana, lemon, jackfruit and temperate fruits such as plums, pears and peaches are some of the important horticultural crops grown in the district. Apart from the above crops, the district has achieved good yield in the production of tomato, cabbage and cauliflower.

Sericulture or silkworm rearing is another important occupation of the people, particularly those living near forests.

**MARKETS**

Iawmusiang is the biggest market in the district located at the heart of Jowai town. In this market, most of the shopkeepers are women. All kinds of articles, food items, clothing, hardware, electrical goods, medicines, agricultural implements, handicrafts, audio-video equipments etc. are available.
### List of Important Markets in the District: Block wise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.no</th>
<th>Name of Markets</th>
<th>Distance from Block HQ (in Kms)</th>
<th>Distance from District HQ (in Kms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ummulong</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nartiang</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khanduli</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mookaiaw</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raliang</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shangpung</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jarain</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muktapur</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dawki</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FOREST

West Jaintia Hills District is rich in forest. The heavy and long monsoon supports the luxuriant forest of pines over the district. The principal forest produces are timber, bamboo, medicinal herbs and plants. Orchids of different species like Blue Vanda (Vanda coerula), ladies slipper (Paphiopedilum insigne), Golden shower (Cymbidium elegans), Dendrobium chrysanthum, Anoectochilus sikkimensis, Liparis pulchella are found in the forests of the district. Pitcher plants or Nepenthes Khasiana Hk, the insect eating plants of Botanical wonder are found in plenty in and around Jarain area.

*Blue Vanda (Vanda coerula)*
West Jaintia Hills District has a high biodiversity of Wildlife. Different species of birds, mammals which includes Bats, Carnivores and rodents are found in the district. Some noteworthy **Mammals** species including Golden Cat (*F. temmincki*), Leopard Cat (*F. bengalensis* Kerr), Clouded Leopard (*N. nebulosa*), Leopard (*P. pardus*), Tiger (*P. tigris*), Hog Deer (*A. porcinus*), Malayan Giant Squirrel (*R. bicolor*), Common Giant Flying squirrel *Petaurista*, Crestless Himalayan or Chinese Porcupine *Hystrix brachyuran* (syn. *H. hodgsonii*) can be found in the district.
**Birds.** A rich and diverse birdlife exists in the district. Among the noteworthy species recorded so far includes Parrots, Eagles, Owls, Crows, Pigeons, Jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus Linnaeus*), Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*, Giant or Great Pied Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*.

**Reptiles.** The diversity of reptiles could not be assessed fully, however, a few notable species were recorded in the district.

This includes The Asian leaf turtle *Cylcenus dentate*, The Common Varanus *bengalensis* and Water monitors *V. salvator* y. Among the snakes, Common cobra *Naja naja*, Banded krait *Bungarus fasciatus*, Common krait *B. caeruleus*, Striped keelback *Amphiesma stolata*, Common vine snake *Ahaetulla nasutus* and Green pit viper *Trimeresurus albolabris* have been recorded.

**INDUSTRY**

The pace of industrialization in the district is still slow. However, there has been a steady increase in the number of registered small scale units which are mostly in the tiny sector covering Servicing Industries, Bakeries, Furniture making, Iron and Steel fabrication, Tailoring, Knitting, Leather work, Shoe making, Handicrafts, Tin-trunk making, Stone crusher, Betelnut Preservation, Turmeric Processing, Fish Fermentation, Honey Processing, Auto Servicing, Car Washing Centre, Electronic Repairing, Cartridge Manufacturing and Refilling Centre.
**EDUCATION**

As per 2011 census the Literacy rate of the district is 63.23%, male is 59.75% and female is 66.71%.

In the last few years of the implementation of Sarva Shikshya Abhiyan (SSA) in the district, a lot of progress has been made in providing access to schooling facilities both at the Lower and Upper Primary stages. Development of infrastructural activities also has been taken in the district mainly through SSA program.

Focusing on improvement of quality of education by improving the quality of teachers has also been successful to a great extent.

There are 718 L.P. Schools and 186 U.P. schools in West Jaintia Hills District (Government, Government aided, SSA) with an enrolment of 33089 and 7146 respectively.

In respect with Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools, there are 3 Government, 7 Deficit, 66 Permitted Secondary and 3 Government, 2 Deficit, 7 Adhoc, 6 Permitted and 2 private Higher Secondary Schools.

RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan) Scheme has also been implemented in the district in 2010-2011. As of now, only Government Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools are covered.

Mid-day Meal scheme is also implemented in Government, Government aided and SSA Schools. The benefits of the scheme are construction of kitchen shed, appointment of cook, provision of free food grains and cooking cost. The District has four Degree Level Colleges, namely, Kiang Nangbah Government College, Nongtalang College, Thomas Jones Synod College and Shangpung College. There is one Law College in the district, namely, Khat-ar-Doloi Law College, Jowai.
Jowai Polytechnic is a technical institute which provides facilities for study in Diploma Courses in Engineering, Architecture and Fashion Designing.

Bosco Pnar Multipurpose Vocational Institute, Jowai provides vocational training in General Welding, Stabilized earth blocks, Knitting & Tailoring, Plumbing, Driving School, Animal Husbandry, Typing, Horticulture, General Carpentry, House Wiring, Computer and Mechanic (MMV).

Private University like Martin Luther Christian University, Sikkim Manipal University, CMJ University have also been set up in the district.

The District also has Computer institutes like Indian Institute of Professional Studies (IIPS) Jowai, Rynjah Institute of Information Technology (RIIT) Jowai.
HEALTH FACILITIES

There are at present one Government Hospital and one Private Hospital, 3 Community Health Centers, 12 Primary Health Centers, 43 Sub centers and 1 Dispensary.

List of District Hospitals(DH)/Community Health Centers(CHC)/Public Health Centers(PHC) along with Sub Centers(SC) : West Jaintia Hills District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>DH/CHC/PHC</th>
<th>SC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amlarem Block (9 SC, 3 PHC, 1 CHC, 1 DISPY)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarain PHC</td>
<td>Mupyut SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongtalang CHC</td>
<td>Sohkha SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lamin SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pdengshakap PHC</td>
<td>Syndai SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarangblang SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawki PHC(24x7)</td>
<td>Darang SC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muktapur SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pyrsadwar SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padu ST DISPY</td>
<td>Nongbareh SC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ummulong CHC</td>
<td>Wahiajer SC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyrshang SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moodymmai SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nongkhroh SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sohphoh SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bamkamar SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thadlaskein Block (20 SC, 4 PHC, 1 CHC, 2 DH)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Namdong PHC</td>
<td>Moobakhon SC</td>
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<td>Saitsama SC</td>
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<td>Khanduli SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sanaro SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khliehtyrshi PHC</td>
<td>Mustem SC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sohmynting SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nangbah PHC</td>
<td>Mihmyntdu Sc</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mupliang Sc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nartiang PHC (24x7)</td>
<td>Nongjingi SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Mynkrem SC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mynsngat SC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## MINERALS

The major mineral resources of West Jaintia Hills District are Coal, Limestone, Shale and sandstone. The district is enormously endowed with coal deposits particularly in Chyrmaing, Looksi, Byrwai, Jarain areas etc. The district is also endowed with rich limestone deposits in Syndai and Nongtalgam areas which call for the generation of the export promotion schemes. Besides these, the district is also known for fireclay at Larnai. The fireclay is of good quality and is suitable for fire bricks.

| Laskein Block (14 SC, 5 PHC, 1 CHC) | Nonglatem SC  
|                                      | Thadbammon SC  
|                                      | Rakabah SC  
| Jowai Civil Hospital                 |  
| Norman Tunnel Hospital (Private)     |  
| Laskein CHC                           | Mookaiaw SC  
|                                        | Motyrshiah SC  
|                                        | Raliang SC  
| Shangpung PHC (24x7)                 | Khliehrangnah SC  
|                                        | Mynska SC  
| Mynso PHC                             | Pammanik SC  
|                                        | Phramer SC  
|                                        | Kyndongtuber SC  
| Iooksi PHC                            | Saphai SC  
|                                        | Nongryngkoh SC  
| Barato PHC                            | Mukroh SC  
|                                        | Shilliang myntang SC  
| Sahsniang PHC                         | Thangrain SC  
|                                        | Psiar SC  

[Coal deposit]
HYDRO ELECTRICITY POWER

West Jaintia Hills District has also a very good potential on useable water resources for Hydro electric projects. The Myntdu-Leshka Hydro Electric Project-I has already been in service and Stage II and III are in the commissioning stages. The Kupli-Hydro Electric Project situated in the border of West Jaintia Hills District with the North Cachar Hills District of Assam has already been completed.

![Myntdu-Leshka Hydro Electric Project](image)

TOURIST SPOTS

West Jaintia Hills District is dotted with a number of lovely tourist spots, where nature unveils herself in all her glory. Full of vibrant culture, tradition, great scenic beauty and tranquility are some of the attractions of the district that can pull any tourist in. The Major tourist spots of the district are as follows:-

1. **Syntu ksiar**- Located 2 kms from Jowai town, the site is easily reachable from Jowai main market. In a field known as ‘Madiah Kmai Blai’ stands the Memorial Monument of ‘U Kiang Nangbah’, the Jaintia Freedom Fighter. The place is an ideal picnic and angling spot.
2. **Tyrchi Falls** - Located at about 4 kms from Jowai, one needs to trek for about a kilometer on a bridle path to reach to the falls.

3. **Thadlaskein Lake** - Located about 8 kms from Jowai off National Highway 44, this placid lake is a popular weekend hangout. According to tradition, the lake was dug by the followers of Jaintia Chieftain, U Sajar Nangli. The lake is revered by the people of the area who continue to offer sacrifice near the lake. A comfortable tourist Inn is located close to the lake.

4. **Nartiang** - Located about 24 Kms from Jowai, the village being the summer capital of erstwhile Jaintiapur king is famous for cluster of monoliths, the largest in the state and the ancient Hindu Temples, Durga and Shiv. It is the only village in the state where people are following Hindu Religion and Durga Puja is celebrated every year.
5. **Ialong** - Located about 8 kms from Jowai on the Jowai-Silchar Road, National Highway 44, the village has a Rural Tourism Project and is known as the Tourist village of the District. The village has a Sacred Grove with a park overlooking a panoramic view of the paddy fields on the bank of River Myntdu. Eco Lodges for tourists are available near the Sacred Grove.

6. **Thlumuwi** - Located 16 kms off the Jowai-Dawki road is Thlumuwi, a place famous for the historical stone bridge built over the Muwi stream by warriors of Jaintia Hills. The Bridge was built under the order of the Jaintia kings as it was...
the route of Jaintiapur kings whenever they visited the Summer Capital at Nartiang from Sylhet (now in Bangladesh). The bank of Thlumuwi stream with the cascading Muwi Falls which overlook the stone bridge presents a memorable scenic view to every visitor.

![Stone Bridge at Thlumuwi](image)

7. **Jarain Pitcher Plant** - Located in Jarain Village of Amlarem Civil Sub-Division, the Lake is about 19 kms from Jowai. It is centred around Pitcher Plant theme to attract attention of visitors to the Pitcher Plant which is not only unique to the area but also unique for its carnivorous qualities.

![Pitcher Plant Lake at Jarain](image)
8. **Umiaknieh Stone Bridge and Krangsuri Falls**: Located at about a kilometer from the Amlarem C&RD Block Office is the stone Bridge at Umiaknieh Stream. Near the stream is an enchanting waterfall with water that is crystal clear and turquoise in colour. The fall is known as Krangsuri Falls.

![Krangsuri Falls](image)

8. **Syndai**: Located at about 50 kms from Jowai, the village is famous for the Caves system, some of which are tourist friendly. On the Syndai-Muktapur-Dawki road is a bathing pool known as Rupasor Bathing Ghat. Traditions had it that this pool was hewn out of rock by Jaintia warriors for Jaintiapur princesses to bathe and swim.

![Rupasor Bathing Ghat, Syndai](image)
9. **Dawki** - Located about 54 kms from Jowai and 91 kms from Shillong, it is famous for the Umngot River and the heritage Dawki Bridge built by the British connecting East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills District. Dawki, stands on the International Borderline of India and Bangladesh.

![Dawki Bridge](image)

9. **Shnongpdeng** : Located in the War Jaintia area of the District, about 54 kilometers from Jowai, Shnongpdeng, a village on the bank of the river Umngot is an ideal village for those interested in adventurous water tourism. Far from the din and bustle of city life, it provides a refreshing and idyllic moment for those who want a soothing, calm experience.
Sports

Sports like Football, Athletics, Basketball, Badminton, Cricket etc. are popular in the district. People are also very fond of traditional sports like Archery and Angling. The important rivers for angling are Myntdu, Myntang, Umiurem, Umngot where different species of fishes are found in abundance. Recently, water sports like Scuba Diving, Snorkeling, Rafting on the river Umngot have been introduced.

Angling at Umngot River in Shnongpdeng village

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Jowai, the Head quarter of the district is connected with Shillong and Silchar by NH 44. All 3 Block Head Quarters in the district have also been connected by roads. Important places connected by metalled roads are Khanduli, Garampani and Dawki.
Recently Jowai-Amlarem-Dawki Road has been declared as National Highway NH 40(E).

![Jowai-Dawki Road NH 40(E)](image_url)

Jowai-Dawki Road NH 40(E)

One can reach Jowai (HQ) by Sumos, Indicas, buses that ply on the road starting from Jowai stand, Shillong (near Anjali Cinema Hall).

Jowai town is well connected with the rest of the country by the STD and Internet facilities availed by the Telecom Company, BSNL and many mobile services companies.

Road Distances from the District Hq, Jowai to... (in Kms)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guwahati</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Tura</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Laskein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shillong</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Williamnagar</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>Thadlaskein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongstoin</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>Baghmara(via Tura)</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>Saipung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongpoh</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Amlarem</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Dawki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherrapunjee</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Khliehriat</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>New Garampani</td>
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</tbody>
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**RADIO AND TELEVISION**

West Jaintia Hills District is served by a 100 KW Radio Transmitter located at Ladthadlaboh, Dongmihsngi, Jowai.

As regard television coverage, 6KW DDK Relay centre is located at the premises of all India Radio, Jowai.
SOME BASIC DATA OF WEST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT, MEGHALAYA.

A. The Land (Provisional Data of 2011 Census):
   - Area – 1693 sq. kms
   - Civil Sub-Divisions – Amlarem Civil Sub-Division
   - Community and Rural Development Blocks – Laskein C&R.D Block,
   - Number of Towns – 1(one) Jowai Town
   - Number of Villages – 293
   - Number of Households – 34401
   - Number of Assembly Constituencies – 5

B. The People (Provisional Data of 2011 Census):
   - Total Population – 2,70,352
   - Urban Population – 28,420
   - Density – 159.69 per sq. km
   - Literacy Rate – 63.23%

C. Other Important Data:
   - Number of Lower Primary Schools – 718
   - Number of Upper Primary Schools – 186
   - Number of Secondary Schools – Government 3, Deficit 7, Permitted
     Secondary Schools 66.
   - Number of Higher Secondary Schools–Government 3, Deficit 2, Adhoc 7,
     Permitted Higher Secondary Schools 6, Private Higher Secondary Schools 2
   - Number of Colleges –Government 1, Private 3
   - Number of Hospitals –Government 1, Private 1
   - Number of Community Health Centers – 3
   - Number of Primary Health Centers – 12
   - Number of Sub-Centers – 43
   - Number of Dispensaries – 1
   - Number of Police Stations – 3
   - Number of Beat House – 1
   - Number of Outposts – 5
   - Number of Traffic Branches – 2
   - Number of Fair Price Shops – 277
   - Number of Post Office – 1
   - Number of Vehicles Registered (2011-2012) – 2898

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