Industrial Heritage: A forgotten past or a vibrant future: A Case of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, India

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The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is Asia’s first industrial site on the World Heritage Site list. An engineering marvel, it was the primary freight corridor for the tea gardens as well as sustaining local communities employed in running the railway until 1990s. With the loss of commercial activity, the 88 kms long State owned DHR has been running as a tourist railway since inscription. Currently in the process of privatisation, in the absence of a well-defined framework for the management of the industrial landscape, questions of commodification, Disneyfication and loss of heritage value are pertinent. How can industrial heritage serve the local community?