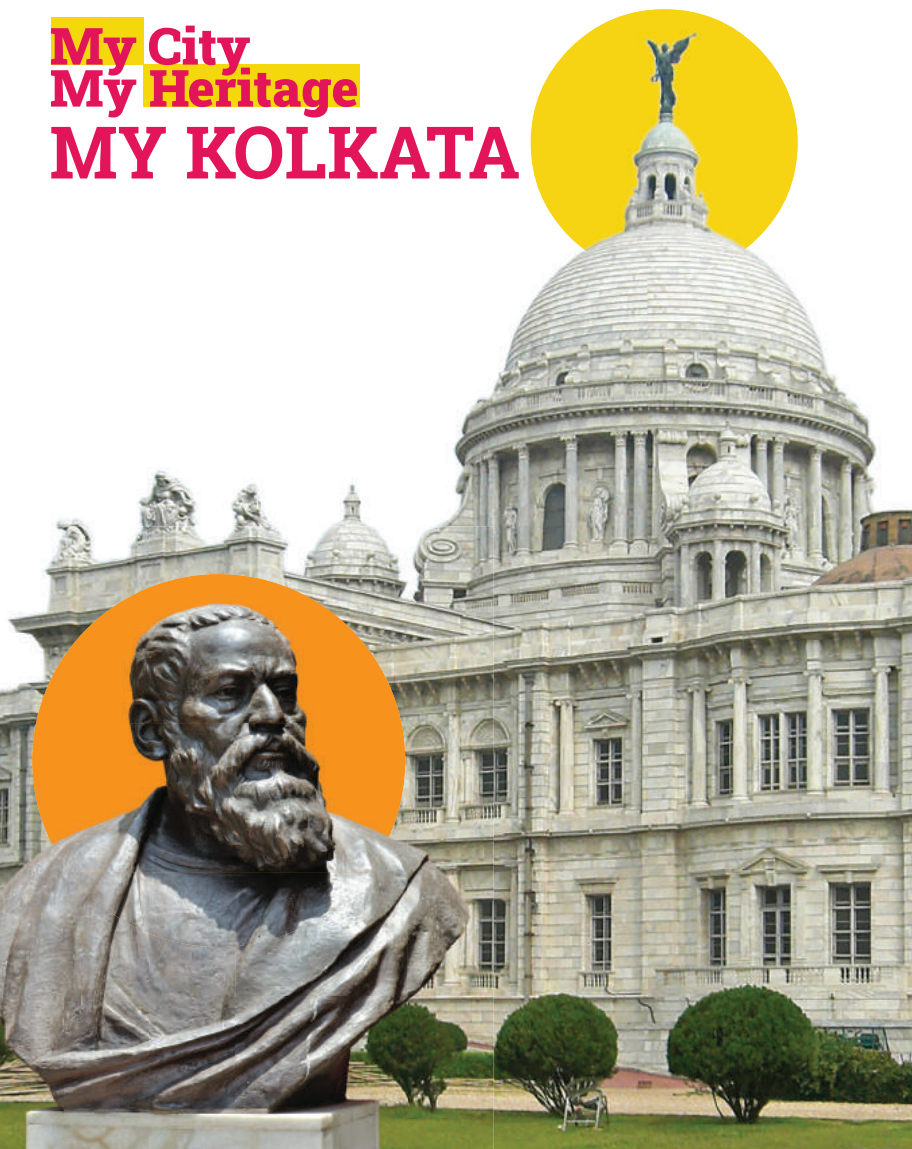


**My City  
My Heritage  
MY KOLKATA**



## **My City My Heritage**

### **MY KOLKATA**

Initiated by Sahapedia in partnership with the InterGlobe Foundation, the 'My City, My Heritage' project is focused on rediscovering the culture and heritage potential of Indian cities. The project entails exploration, documentation and dissemination of varied heritage and cultural aspects of 10 locations in India, including through the publication of these booklets. As a part of the project, a number of heritage walks, museum tours, baithaks and engaging educational activities for school students and general audiences were organised between 2020 and 2022. The locations covered in the first year were Ahmedabad, Indore, Prayagraj, Goa and Shillong and the locations covered in the second year are Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Nashik.

This booklet documents a mix of well-known as well as offbeat subjects from among Kolkata's cultural heritage. We hope you enjoy the articles, self-guided walks, museum listings and listicles within and that they enrich your experience of this remarkable city.

### **More about the project**

The My City, My Heritage project caters to a wide user group, including but not limited to children with disabilities and from financially and socially marginalised backgrounds, culture enthusiasts, scholars, heritage professionals and tourists. The project aims at creating opportunities, building interest and capacity of young local scholars through collaborative research, documentation and mapping. An equally important and compelling goal is to create fresh avenues for residents, local administration and local businesses to re-engage with their cities' living cultural heritage and renew old as well as create new relationships of participation, community and ownership within these places. This booklet is a small step in that direction.

More detailed versions of all pieces covered in this editorial and more information about each city can be found on our website. This specially crafted cultural mapping portal features an interactive map, through which you can explore many other locations and themes documented by Sahapedia over the years. Scan this barcode to visit our portal and get access to our entire encyclopaedia.



# My City My Heritage MY KOLKATA

Project Head and Co-Editor

**Aditi Rakhe**

Project Coordinator and Co-Editor

**Dipti G.**

Research Coordinator and Editor

**Rituparna Pal**

Designers

**Alpana Khare**

**Neeraj Aggarwal**

Contributors

**Adrija Ghosh**

**Ashutosh Sharma**

**Anushka Dasgupta**

**Sunita Singh**

**Karan Tekwani**

City Mentor

**Siddhant Shah**

Photographer

**Sumit Sen**



# FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this compendium of booklets showcasing some of the lesser known and lost treasures of select cities in our country.

InterGlobe Foundation is committed to protecting and restoring the heritage and culture of India. We started this journey about seven years back by supporting the restoration and upkeep of the famous Khan-i-Khanan or Rahim's tomb in New Delhi. Since then, we have taken on a few more large and small restoration projects, which, while directly reviving these monuments, also contribute to the lives of craftspeople and neighbouring communities. Another project we have supported is the documentation and dissemination of a lost dance form.

'My City, My Heritage' is the first large project that we have launched to promote the intangible heritage of our country. We are fortunate to have found an able partner in Sahapedia. As part of My City, My Heritage, we endeavour to curate content and activities around both tangible (like museums) and intangible cultural heritage (like food, music, people, dances, fairs and festivals).

We also hope that in each of the project cities, a group of concerned citizens, institutions and government will come together to carry forward this beautiful curation of their city's history.

The recent disruption of our lives by the COVID pandemic has further brought to light the importance of the outdoors and local economies. This project will ably contribute to both.

We hope these booklets will entice you to discover these cities and their treasures and share it with others. We welcome more organizations, individuals and researchers to build on the repository created here.

I am grateful to Sahapedia and my colleagues at the InterGlobe group of companies for making this project a reality.

With best wishes,

**Rohini Bhatia**

Chairperson

InterGlobe Foundation

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Dr Monica Banerjee, The InterGlobe Foundation

To access Sahapedia's cultural mapping portal, visit [map.sahapedia.org/home/](http://map.sahapedia.org/home/)

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# KOLKATA

## কলকাতা



Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, and one of the busiest cities of eastern India, is located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly river. The seventh most populous city in India, it is an important port city which acts as the primary commercial and financial hub of eastern India. Present-day Kolkata emerged from three existing villages—Kalikata, a fishing village, Sutanuti, a riverside weavers' village, and Gobindapur. These villages belonged to the Mughal empire and the estate was held by the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family. The East India Company arrived in the 1690s, and by

1698 the rights of this estate were handed to the Company with the help of Job Charnock. In 1772, Calcutta was announced as the capital of British India.

The etymology of Kolkata might have been derived from *Kalikshetra*, literally translating to “Ground of (the goddess) Kali”. It might also refer to the location of the original settlement next to a canal, *khal* in Bangla. Alternatively, it might refer to lime, *kali* in Bangla, and burnt shell, *kata* in Bangla, since the area was noted for the manufacture of shell lime. In 2001 the Government of West Bengal officially changed the name of the city from Calcutta to Kolkata.

East India Company defeated the Nawabs in the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and by 1793, took complete control over the province. As the city developed, its architecture evolved into a distinctive gothic, Neoclassical façade. At the turn of the century, the city became a hotbed for nationalist aspirations, giving rise to freedom fighters such as Binay, Badal, Dinesh and Netaji Shubhas Chandra Bose. Post-independence, it saw several socio-political upheavals, such as the Partition, student-led





Vidhasagar Setu.

Naxal movement in the 1970s, the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

The public transport system, namely the tram, the subway, and the yellow taxis are integral part of the city's identity. Home to engineering and architectural marvels like Howrah Bridge, Victoria Memorial, Shaheed Minar, Writers Building, Kolkata has been hailed as the 'cultural capital' of India. Several noted artists like Jamini Roy, writers like Mahashweta Devi, Shakti Chattopadhyay, Sunil Gangopadhyay, stellar musicians like Roshan Ara Begum, have emerged from Kolkata. And among this extraordinary bunch of geniuses the most venerated one was Rabindranath Tagore, the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. Film-makers like Ritwik Ghatak, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, worked in this city. Known for its open-air book market, College Street is home to Presidency College (now University), famous for its alumni of Nobel Laureates—Amartya Sen and Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee. The city is noted for its thriving food culture, with the



Victoria Memorial.

famous Kathi Roll, Indian Chinese, Kolkata Biryani, and Mishti Doi originating here. Those with a sweet tooth throng to centuries old sweet shops like K.C. Das.

The city hosts diverse festivals including Durga Puja, Kali Puja, and Christmas. Cultural festivals such as the International Kolkata Book Fair and the Kolkata International Film Festival are organized with much fanfare.

#### ■ RITUPARNA PAL



The city hosts diverse festivals including Durga Puja and Kali Puja.

# Writer's Building

Binoy Badal Dinesh Bag

Established: 1780

Located at BBD Bagh (Dalhousie Square), the Writer's Building was established in 1780 by Thomas Lyon on behalf of *Richard Barwell*. The building was meant to host writers and clerks working for the East India Company. The British had set up Fort William College inside the building to train the writers in Hindi and Persian until 1830. Writer's Building was the focal point of the 'White Town', consisting of Central Kolkata areas such as Chowringhee and Park Street, populated by English merchants, East India Company officers, and traders. *Warren Hastings* turned the centre into an administrative hub, which lasted until 4 October 2013, when the current government announced that the iconic red-brick building would undergo major restoration.



Pre-independence photograph of the Writers' Building.

The 150-metre-long building offers an expansive view of *Lal Dighi* and the grounds, and is built in a Neoclassical architectural style. In 1800, a façade of 32-feet high ionic columns and a 128-feet long veranda was designed to accommodate the Fort William College and the Government Engineering College within its premises. The building consisted of 19 residential living quarters. There is a portico in the central bay and several statues lining the terrace. The building





Cluster of statues atop Writers' Building.

**Writer's Building was the focal point of the 'White Town', consisting of Central Kolkata areas such as Chowringhee and Park Street, populated by English merchants, East India Company officers, and traders.**

also went through a *French Renaissance*-style makeover under British rule.

On 8 December 1930, Benoy Basu, Badal Gupta, and Dinesh Gupta, members of the underground revolutionary group Bengal Volunteers, stormed the Writers' Building in patriotic resistance. Dressed in European attire, they carried loaded revolvers and shot dead the notorious Inspector General of Police, Colonel N.S. Simpson, in revolt of police brutality. Eventually overpowered, Badal took potassium cyanide and died instantly. His comrades shot themselves. Benoy died five days later in hospital, but Dinesh survived to be hanged on 7 July 1931.

Today Dalhousie Square is named after them and is called B.B.D. Bagh. A statue of Benoy, Badal, and Dinesh stands in front of the Writers' Building, showing Benoy, the group leader, leading his comrades. Since India's independence, it used to house the office of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, cabinet ministers, and other senior officials, and now it is being renovated with new vigour and promise.



A statue of Minerva atop Writers' Building.



In memory of martyrdom of Benoy, Badal, Dinesh.

# Mohun Bagan Football Club

Gostho Paul Sarani, Maidan

Established: 1889

The Mohun Bagan Ground is a football stadium located in the *Maidan* region of central Kolkata, just opposite to the *Eden Gardens* stadium. Founded on 15 August 1889, Mohun Bagan Athletic Club is one of the oldest football clubs in Asia. The club's crest is a sailing country boat painted in green and maroon, the official colours of the club.

The club was established by three aristocratic North Kolkata families to contest the European settlers in sports. In 1911, Mohun Bagan created history by becoming the first Indian club to win the IFA Shield, an annual football competition organized by the Indian Football Association in West Bengal, defeating the British Army East Yorkshire Regiment in a 2–1 victory. This landmark victory sparked a sense of patriotism amongst the locals and turned the eleven players into symbols of nationalist resistance.

In 1947, Mohun Bagan was the first Indian club to win the IFA Shield post-Independence. In 1954, they became the first club ever to win both the IFA Shield and the Calcutta Football League. In 1977, Mohun Bagan became the first

Indian football club to win the triple crown (IFA Shield, Durand Cup, and Rovers Cup) in the same year. In 1989, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi attended the club's centenary year celebrations in Kolkata and designated Mohun Bagan Athletic Club as the National Club of India. The same year they became the first club to have stamps issued in its glory.

Mohun Bagan, the club that old inhabitants of Kolkata root for, is known for its rivalry with SC East Bengal, supported mostly by the population that migrated to Kolkata post-Partition. Called the Kolkata *Derby*, matches between them attract close to 100,000 people on a regular basis.

Mohun Bagan A.C. and Atlético de Kolkata merged their respective football divisions in January 2020, allowing Mohun Bagan to play in the Indian Super League—the top professional football championship in India. Later, after the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) acquired the club, it was announced that they would participate in the ISL as ATK Mohun Bagan Football Club.

■ ADRIJA GHOSH AND RITUPARNA PAL



# Mitra Cafe and Kolkata's Cabins

47, Jatindra Mohan Ave, Raja Nabakrishna Street, Shobhabazar

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 3 pm – 10 pm

**Established:** 1910

One of the most iconic cabins of Kolkata, Mitra Café, was established in 1910 by Sushil Roy. Though they have recently started a franchise in different parts of the city and West Bengal, the one located at Shobhabajar has stood the test of time.

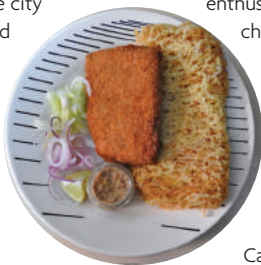
Mostly clustered in the northern part of the city, cabins are budget-friendly eating joints with cloistered dining spaces separated by plywood and curtains. These cabins housed the *bangali-bhadrolak* and his *adda*—a seemingly endless, agenda-less conversations over tea/coffee or snacks. The privacy of these cabins also made it easier for women to partake in public dining in the first half of the 20th century.

Popular snacks served at the cabins like *Dim'er Devil* inspired by Scotch Eggs, the

cutlets of French origin, the Portuguese-inspired *kobiraji*, the battered and deep-fried 'fish fry' exemplify a hybrid 'tea' culture that Kolkata adopted from the European settlers. A favourite with celebrities and the local crowd, Mitra Cafe has been serving the city's food

enthusiasts its mutton kabiraji, brain chop, fish diamond fry, fish kobiraji, and mutton cutlet for more than a century. Notwithstanding the handful of seats and the wooden furniture, customers wait diligently outside the cafe for their turn.

Besides Mitra Cafe, Dilkhusa Cabin, Favourite Cabin, Allan's Kitchen, Anadi Cabin are a few of the century-old cabin restaurants that continue to satisfy the city's taste buds. Today many of these restaurants have done away with the partitions, but the name sticks and the cuisine draws the customers.



■ ADRIJA GHOSH AND RITUPARNA PAL



Mitra Cafe has been serving the city for more than a century.

Photo by Sumit Sen.

Photo by Sumit Sen.

# Park Street and Kolkata's Nightlife

## Park Street, Kolkata

Located at a walking distance from New Market, Park Street is lined with a number of restaurants and shops which attract a lot of crowd owing to the music and bustle from these establishments at night.

The origins of Park Street can be traced back to the residence of Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at *Fort William*, Calcutta (Kolkata) in Bengal. The grounds of his three-storey colonial mansion at Middleton Row included large parks, and thus the area adjacent to it came to be known as 'Park Street'. An area thus developed with an array of architectural specimens such as the *Freemason's Hall*, *St. Xavier's College*, the *Asiatic Society of Bengal*. Since then, Park Street has evolved from housing Company officials to witnessing Calcutta's prolific night life in the 1960s at iconic venues like Trinca's, Firpo's, Peter Cat, Oly Pub, Blue Fox, Mocambo, and Moulin Rouge.

The main attractions in Park Street in the 1960s were the restaurants with live music and the *cabaret* dance bars such as the Lido Room at Firpo's Hotel and Blue Fox. The dance floor at Firpo's was the only sprung floor in

**The origins of Park Street can be traced back to the residence of Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William, Calcutta.**

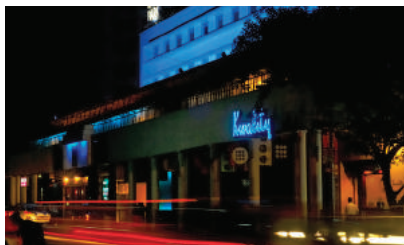


Photo by Sumit Sen.

The main attractions in Park Street in the 1960s were the restaurants with live music and the cabaret dance bars.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

Iconic venues at Park Street include Trinca's, and Moulin Rouge.

India. Miss Shefali, famous for being the first Bengali cabaret dancer, performed in the Lido Room at the Firpo's Hotel. A refugee from East Pakistan, she mastered the Cha Cha Cha, Samba, Charleston, Can Can, Arabian Belly, Oriental, Rumba, and Hawaiian to become the 'Queen of Cabaret'. Firpo's closed their

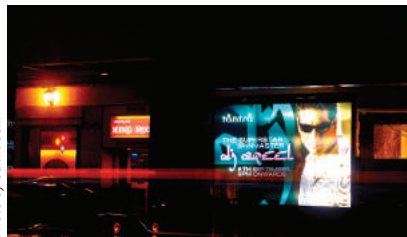


Photo by Sumit Sen.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

Trinca's is an iconic venue at Park Street.

business in the late 1970s. Blue Fox was equally famous for its live performances of *cabaret*, *foxtrot*, and the *cha cha cha* as it was for its *lobster thermidor*. The charismatic *Pam Crain* performed here with the *Banks Brotherhood* in the 60s and 70s. Blue Fox also shut down in 2005.

Today Trincas is the only remaining one among the older restaurants that continues musical performances, occasionally helmed by the voice of Usha Uthup, who began her musical journey there in 1969. Established by a Swiss man, Mr Trinca in 1939 as a tea-room and bakery, Trincas is perhaps the only symbol of erstwhile Calcutta's glittering night life which was fueled by jazz, *cabaret*, and *blues*. Park Street has been renamed Mother Teresa Sarani and accommodates a flurry of fast-food and beverage chains alongside some yesteryear restaurants, and a Hard Rock Café which promises live music for newer generations. Christmas and New Year's Eve decorations here attract a lot of people from different corners of Bengal.



Park Street is lined with a number of restaurants and shops.

■ ADRIJA GHOSH AND RITUPARNA PAL



Queen's Mansion at Park Street.

Photo by Tonystarcreeations, via Wikimedia Commons.

Photo by Christopher J. Lynn, via Wikimedia Commons.



College street is a 900-metre-long street in Central Kolkata.

## Calcutta's *Boi Para* College Street

College Street, an open-air book market, is a 900-metre-long street in Central Kolkata stretching from B.B. Ganguly Street, Bowbazar to MG Road, touching the Surya Sen Street crossing. Fondly known as *Boi para* or the neighborhood of books, College Street has been a thrumming intellectual center for several decades owing to the multifarious academic institutes it accommodates.

Located at the center of College Street is College Square, flanked by academic institutions on all sides. The Hindu School, established in 1817, is famous as Asia's foremost 'modern' educational institute. Located closely, is the Sanskrit College, established in 1824, which rose to prominence under *Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar* in 1851, the social reformer who made admission possible for students across all castes. Calcutta University, established in 1857, was the first university in India to have a multidisciplinary approach to course modules. It had the first medical school in Asia, the first Indian science college, the first college for women in India, along with the first Indian female graduates. Presidency University, formerly known as Hindu College, began to go by Presidency College from 1855. It gained autonomy in 2010, and is famous for its alumni—Nobel Laureates Amartya Sen and Abhijit Binayak Banerjee (both in Economics) and Academy Award winner Satyajit Ray, to name a few.

Home to multiple publishers such as the Ananda Publishers, Dey's Publishing, Rupa & Co., along with several other small independent prints, College Street is mostly famous amongst students for the numerous second-hand book stalls, and the stalls selling study material and affordable paperbacks since time immemorial.

The famous Indian Coffee House is located on this street. Its history can be traced back to the establishment of Albert Hall in 1876, with the joint itself coming into existence in 1942. It has been a meeting place for poets, artists, and has seen the likes of Satyajit Ray, Amartya Sen, *Mrinal Sen*, *Ritwik Ghatak* as its regular patrons.

College Street, with its students, book sellers, and its Indian Coffee House continues to attract regulars and freshers alike for a healthy dose of *jukti-tarko-golpo* (discourse—debate—dialogue) over a cup of coffee. It is still a symbol of Calcutta's persistent liberal, progressive, and intellectual battlefield.

### ■ ADRIJA GHOSH



Fondly known as *Boi para*, College Street has been a thrumming intellectual center for decades.

# Hogg Market and Sudder Street

Lindsay Street, Esplanade

**Opening Hours:** Monday to Saturday |  
10:30 am–8:30 pm

**Established:** 1874



Photo by Sumit Sen.

New Market spills onto the streets surrounding it, expanding towards Sudder Street.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

The market came into existence as the European population in the city demanded a shopping venue.

Situated on Lindsay Street, Sir Stuart Hogg Market was opened in 1874, under the guidance of architect Richard Roskell Bayne and the developer Mackintosh Burn & Co. Calcutta's (Kolkata) glory as the capital of British India at the time attracted many Europeans to the city. The market came into existence as this ever-expanding European population of the *presidency* demanded a separate shopping venue. Led by Sir Stuart Hogg, the chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, the old Fenwick

Bazar at the location was razed to pave way for the 'New Market'. Bayne, an East Indian Railway Company architect, laid the plans for a sprawling Victorian Gothic shopping complex with red-wall, white arched windows, and a gorgeous clock tower which arrived from Huddersfield in the 1930s.

The Market boasted high-street brands of dressmakers (such as Ranken and Co.), shoe merchants (such as Cuthbertson and Harper), stationery masters (such as Thacker, Spink and Co.) along with several other vendors who dealt with everything from cured meat, cheese, exotic flowers, to exotic pets. Well until the 1970s, exotic pets from all over the world would be sold, traded, and purchased in New Market. The beloved fruit cake at the Jewish bakery Nahoums', the '*Bandel*' cheese cultivated at the Portuguese colonies around Kolkata—some odd 2000 stalls in New Market hark back to the diverse nature of consumers and sellers.

New Market spills outside the Gothic building and onto the streets surrounding it, expanding towards *Jadughar* (*Indian Museum*) on Sudder Street. The road is famous for its affordable hotels, currency-exchange stalls, vendors selling everything from shoes, clothes, to chai. It is also known for being a venue peddling all things illegal, which can be traced back to the 1960s when hippies visited the city and brought with them a culture of psychedelic experimentation. The same street hosts the Fairlawn Hotel (now acquired by the Elgin group), a colonial bungalow built in the 1780s by Englishman William Ford.

An important guest of Sudder Street was Rabindranath Tagore, one of whose family homes was at 10 Sudder Street. Today a budget hotel stands on that spot, one among the many on the street.

**An important guest of Sudder Street was Rabindranath Tagore, one of whose family homes was at 10 Sudder Street.**

# Rani Rashmoni & Dakshineswar Kali Temple

## Dakshineswar

**Opening Hours:** Daily | 6 am – 12 pm,  
3 pm – 8.30 pm

**Established:** 1855

Located about 20 km north of central Kolkata (Calcutta), alongside the Vivekananda Bridge, on the eastern bank of River Hooghly, the Dakshineswar Kali Temple was founded by Rani Rashmoni, in 1855.

Rani Rashmoni was born in a *Chasi-Kaibartta* family of *Shudra* origin, lying on the lowest rung of the traditional Hindu *caste system*. As a widow of Babu Rajachandra Das (Marh) of Janbazar, Kolkata, she managed the family's estate and was known as a philanthropist and dissenter against both the Brahmanical and British forces dominant in the city. The establishment of the temple by a widow belonging to the lower castes was a radical act that irked many *Brahmins* and upper-caste landowners. Due to their opposition, Rani built her temple on the eastern bank of the river, instead of her original plan of having it on the western bank. While the priests of Kolkata refused to work at the temple, she employed Ramkumar Chattopadhyay of Kamarpukur, Hooghly district, as the resident priest of the temple. His young brother, Gadadhar, known as *Ramkrishna* in his later life by his many followers, developed his syncretic spiritual philosophy under Rashmoni's influence.

Built over an area of 25 acres, it is one of the biggest and most attended temples in Kolkata. The south-facing, three-storey main temple is structured in a '*navaratna*' (nine eaves) style and placed on a high platform, where a narrow verandah lets devotees glimpse the idol inside the *garbha griha* (sanctum sanctorum). The

**Rani built her temple on the eastern bank of the river, instead of her original plan of having it on the western bank.**



Rani Rashmoni was born in a Chasi-Kaibartta family of Shudra origin.

presiding deity of the temple is Bhavatarini, an avatar of the goddess *Kali*. The premise also includes a *natmandir* (hall) and twelve identical temples dedicated to *Shiva*, on the bank of Ganga. At the north-east of the complex lies the *Radha-Krishna* temple.

Rashmoni led several progressive changes in colonial Calcutta, like blocking the imperial shipping traffic to protest taxes levied on fishermen functioning in the Ganges, construction of a road for pilgrims visiting *Puri*, and funding the construction of *Babughat*,



Rashmoni aided funding for the construction of Babughat, Ahiritola Ghat, and Nimtala Ghat.



Photo by Sumit Sen

The three-storey main temple is structured in a 'navaratna' style.

Ahiritola Ghat, and Nimtala Ghat for the citizens. She took steps to eliminate *indigo* plantations in her *zamindari*, an exploitative practice by British planters who coerced

farmers to grow indigo instead of food crop by ensnaring them in loans and debts.

# The Howrah Bridge

Howrah

Established: 1941

Howrah Bridge, the giant steel bridge over the Hooghly river connecting Kolkata with Howrah, was built in 1941 by the Braithwaite, Burn & Jessop Construction Co. With a daily traffic of over 100,000 vehicles and over 150,000 pedestrians, it is the busiest and sixth longest *cantilever* bridge in the world.

With the onslaught of traders and merchants from all over the world, the mercantile community gradually developed in Kolkata, the capital of the East Indian Company. It transformed into a modern metropolitan city while Howrah became its auxiliary, industrial satellite city and the storage of raw materials that were constantly being imported and exported out of the commercial hub. In 1862, George Turnbull, chief engineer of the East Indian Railway Company was commissioned to envision a bridge on the Hooghly river, which resulted in Sir Bradford Leslie building a *pontoon bridge*. However, the bridge could not bear the rapidly increasing load or the

rough weather originating in the Bay of Bengal. This led the Port Commissioners to plan for a new, improved, sturdy bridge in 1905.

By the end of 1940, the erection of the cantilevered arms was commenced and was completed in mid-summer of 1941. The Bridge was built with a piece of metal connecting two or more inserted plates and is thus, one of the oldest hanging bridges in the world. A balanced cantilever bridge, it is a remarkable specimen of architecture that is 705 meters long and 97 feet wide. It was built from 26,500 tons of *high-tensile steel*, supported by two *piers*, each pier measuring about 90 meters above the road. It also famously does not contain any nuts and bolts.

The bridge has at one of its ends, the country's oldest railway station—the Howrah Junction Railway Station. The Calcutta end is littered with bathing *ghats* that include the Mallick Ghat and its adjacent flower market, as well as the Ramchandra Goenka Zenana Ghat, which was a bathing ghat meant only for women. The bridge was renamed as 'Rabindra Setu' in 1965 after the Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, the first Indian and Asian Nobel laureate. The bridge has featured in several films like Richard Attenborough's 1982 Academy Award winning film *Gandhi*,



Photo by Sumit Sen.

, and more recently in Mani Ratnam's *Yuva* (2004), Mira Nair's *The Namesake* (2006), and in Garth Davis' Academy Award-nominated *Lion* (2016).

In January 2020, an interactive light and sound show of the bridge was inaugurated, which includes 650 power-efficient LEDs and spotlight fittings for programmable multi-colour lighting, and a music-syncing show, to emphasize its importance as a cultural monument in India.

■ ADRIJA GHOSH



Hoogly Bridge with Howrah Station

The Calcutta end is littered with bathing ghats that include the Mallick Ghat and its adjacent flower market, as well as the Ramchandra Goenka Zenana Ghat, which was a bathing ghat meant only for women.



A bathing ghat at the Kolkata end.



Mallick Ghat is adjacent to a popular flower Market.

Photo by Sumit Sen.

Photo by Sumit Sen.

Photo: Biswarup Ganguly, via Wikimedia Commons.



Supported by the celebration of Durga Puja the potters of Kumortuli developed a thriving business in Kolkata.

## Kumortuli

Kumortuli, Shobhabajar

Established: 17th Century

Situated between Ahiritola and Shobhabajar, nestling the banks of River Hoogly in Kolkata, every lane in Kumortuli is a living workshop of idol-makers, potters, and artisans. 'Kumor' is the Bengali word for potters. This potters' settlement in the city is over 300 years old and dates back to the 17th century when potters migrated from Krishnanagar to this rapidly prospering neighbourhood. The East India company had segregated neighbourhoods in Calcutta (Kolkata) according to vocation and the potter's quarters could be found in the northern parts of the city. Supported by the zamindars who celebrated Durga Puja in all its grandeur, these potters developed their business in the city which continues to thrive till date.

The history of these potters goes back to the rule of Maharaja Krishnachandra in Nadia who started celebrating Durga Puja back in 1606. In 1757, Raja Nabakrishna Deb of Shobhabajar Rajbari began the tradition of Durga Puja at his mansion. This patronage brought skilled *kumors* from Nadia, and a potter's colony was born.

A special kind of clay is still acquired from the nearby place *Uluberia*, right outside

of Kolkata for its low sand percentage and glutinous property. This clay is transported by boats across the river. Local *entel mati* (sticky clay) and *bele mati* (crisp clay) are used to sculpt idols which are built from bamboo and clay. Throughout the year a team of different kinds of workers get involved in bringing an idol into life. Over 4000 Durga idols are made in these workshops which number to a rough 450 stations and employ over thousands of members, who work from transportation, to ornament and dress-making to colouring the idols. Durga Puja, which has recently been accorded the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' tag by UNESCO, is the biggest festival in the state.

Erstwhile a predominantly male workplace, women have now entered the market and excelled at their commissions. China Pal, who followed her father's *gharana* of making *ek chala* pandals is famous for her rendition of the *ardhnanarishwar* idol of Shiva and Durga in 2015, which was commissioned by the city's foremost transgender Durga Puja pandal. She has been awarded the Rajyapal Puraskar and continues to craft idols. Her colleague, Mala Pal, who took over the business in 1985 after her father passed away, has won several awards, and specializes in miniature, 'foldable' Durga idols that are exported to Europe, Australia, and Canada, where pujas are organized by the diaspora.

■ ADRIJA GHOSH

# Nabin Chandra Das & Sweet Shops of Kolkata

11A & B, Esplanade East

Established: 1864

Nabin Chandra Das not only introduced the *rosogolla*, but a variety of delectable sweets to Bengali gastronomy, through the establishment of his sweet shop in 1864 at the Baghbazar–Shobhabazar area. Since then his descendants have taken the business to national and international markets, with their canned *rosogolla*, labelled K.C Das Rosogolla, after Nabin Chandra's son Krishna Chandra, breaking geographical barriers. Today, the main outlet of K.C Das stands at Esplanade.

Initially, Bengali sweets such as *batasa*, *naru*, or *mowa* were made from coconut, jaggery, and sugar but with the arrival of the Europeans, cheese was introduced to the fold and ever since, *chhana* (cottage cheese) has been an inextricable part of Bengali desserts. While *sandesh* (a dry sweet made of *chhana*) was commonplace during Nabin Chandra's time, his desire was to make a new kind of sweet.

After several years of experimenting, he found the technique to produce *Rosogolla*, a dumpling of delicate cottage cheese, cooked in light sugar syrup. It is said that Rabindranath Tagore was an admirer of Nabin Chandra's *Rosogolla*. Apart from *Rosogolla*, Nabin Chandra also introduced *Abar Khabo*, *Dedo*, fruit pulp infused *sondes*, *Baiku*, *Bhog*, and his son Krishna Chandra introduced their customers to the *Rosomalai*. He started selling canned *Rosogolla* in 1930. They were also one of the first in India to set up mechanised production lines for local sweets. They have had a dedicated research and development



Nabin Chandra Das.



Chhana has been an inextricable part of Bengali desserts like sandesh and rosogolla.

unit since 1947. 'Banglar Rosogolla' was granted the *GI* tag in 2017.

Apart from K.C Das and Nabin Chandra Das, Kolkata has no dearth of sweet shops; the oldest possibly being *Adi Haridas Modak Mistanna Bhandar*, located at *Shyambazar*, established around 1780.

Some other illustrious shops in the city include *Girish Chandra Dey* and *Nakur*

*Chandra Nandy* (*Nakur*), *Balaram Mullick & Radharaman Mullick Sweets*, *Bhim Chandra Nag*, *Putiram*, *Jadab Chandra Das*, and the 180-year-old *Naba Krishna Guin*.

In 2018, the *Mishti Hub* was inaugurated at *New Town* near the airport—a venture of the *Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO)* to bring the favourite sweet shops of the city under one umbrella.



The Jorasanko Thakur Bari was the ancestral residence of the Tagore family.

# Jorasanko Thakur Bari

267, Rabindra Sarani, Singhi Bagan, Jorasanko

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday–Sunday | 10:30 am–5 pm

**Established:** 1961

**Entry Fee:** Indian students: Rs 10,  
Indian Adults: Rs 20. Free entry for disabled  
visitors, underprivileged children, students  
up to 5th grade.

**SAARC countries' students:** Rs 20,

**SAARC countries' adults:** Rs 30

**International students:** Rs 100,

**International Adults:** Rs 150

**Facilities and Services:** Photography,  
Drinking water, Washroom.

The Jorasanko Thakur Bari was the ancestral residence of the Tagore family who were an important household in the socio-cultural map of Bengal. The family was well associated with business and commerce, as well as with the *Brahmo Samaj*, the '*Bengal Renaissance*', and the *Bengal School of Art*.

Located in the northern part of the city, it was built in the 18th century. The palatial red brick mansion is spread over 35,000 square meters. This is where polymath Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore was born, spent most of his childhood, and passed away. In 1961, the Rabindra Bharati Museum was established to preserve personalia and artworks from the family.

The main building named Maharshi Bhavan, after Rabindranath's father Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, houses the museum. It has a collection of 2071 books, 770 journals, 16 paintings, 3297 photographs, 27 crafts and sculptures, 208 personalia, and 3 pieces of furniture. Forty original paintings by Tagore and his notebooks are on display, which were acquired by the West Bengal Government from the Tagore family.

Inside Maharshi Bhavan, there are three galleries displaying photographs, portraits, and items used by various members of the family. The first gallery charts the life of Rabindranath and his work, while the other two focus on other members like *Prince Dwarakanath*, *Debendranath*, *Abanindranath*, *Gaganendranath Tagore*. Portraits of the family members and paintings from the Bengal School of Art heralded by Abanindranath are displayed



Inside Maharshi Bhavan, items used by the Tagore family are on display.

at the two galleries on art. Rabindranath's room, where he stayed during his Kolkata visits and where he breathed his last, has been preserved the way it was on his last day. Another attraction is Rabindranath's Humber Car parked in the backyard of the mansion.

The museum organizes a cultural program on 25th Baisakh, the poet's birthday and on 22nd Shraavan, his death anniversary. A light and sound show at Jorasanko Thakur Bari depicting the life of Rabindranath Tagore is conducted in Bengali and English every day except for Mondays and Thursdays.

■ ADRIJA GHOSH AND RITUPARNA PAL



The palatial mansion is spread over 35,000 sq m.

Photo by Biswarup Ganguly, via Wikimedia Commons.

Photo by Mark Kobayashi-Hillary, via Wikimedia Commons.

# DIY Heritage Trail

## through the Ghats of Kolkata

The ghats on the bank of the Hooghly river form one of the busiest waterways in India. Out of the 44 ghats in between the Chitpur canal on the north and the new Hooghly bridge in the South, we have curated a list of five iconic ones.

### Starting Location:

Prinsep Ghat

### Ending Location:

Mullick Ghat

Distance: 4.3km

Time taken: 2 hours

Walk requirements:

Please bring  
comfortable shoes  
and water

Zenana Ghat

Mallick Ghat

### Mallick Ghat

1, Strand Bank Road,  
Fairley Place, B.B.D. Bagh  
Built in 1855 by Ram Mohun  
Mallick, Mallick Ghat is famous  
for its view of the Howrah  
Bridge and its 130-year-old  
flower market. This flower  
market, possibly the largest  
in the country, sits exactly  
beneath the Howrah Bridge.



Prinsep Ghat.

Babu  
Ghat

### Zenana Ghat

P-210, Strand Bank Road,  
Fairley Place, B.B.D. Bagh,  
Built in the late 19th century, also  
known as the Ramchandra Goenka  
Ghat after its founder, it was once  
solely used by women for bathing  
(hence the name 'zenana'). The  
ghat resembles a mosque in its  
structure.

### Babu Ghat

Strand Rd, B.B.D. Bagh  
Built in 1830, Babu Ghat boasts  
of a massive pavilion with  
huge pillars—a remnant of  
colonial architecture. Built by  
Rani Rasmoni in memory of her  
zamindar husband, Babu Raj  
Chandra Das, this is one of the  
oldest ghats in the city.

### Prinsep Ghat

Strand Rd, Maidan, Fort  
William, Hastings  
Built in 1843, in memory of James  
Prinsep, an Anglo-Indian scholar  
and antiquary, Prinsep Ghat  
attracts a daily crowd that come  
to enjoy the picturesque sunsets.



Sahapedia's award winning  
program, India Heritage walks,  
offers guided walks across India.  
Visit [www.indiaheritagewalks.org](http://www.indiaheritagewalks.org)  
for more.

# DIY Food Trail

**Starting Location:** Royal India Hotel

**Ending Location:** Hajji Allauddin Sweets

**Distance:** 800–900 m

**Time taken:** 1 hour

**Walk requirements:** Comfortable shoes and water.

## Royal India Hotel

147, Rabindra Sarani, Bortola, Barabazar Market

Timing: Daily | 10am to 11.30pm

This age-old restaurant remains a firm favourite amongst biryani connoisseurs. Famous for its mutton chaap, shahi tukda, and phirni, Royal continues to serve a fast-paced, customer-friendly service. It is a two-storey building and has multiple types of sitting arrangements.

## Sutali Kebab at Adams

Phears Ln, Colootola St, Tiretti

Timing: Daily | 12pm to 10pm

Adams is arguably the most famous kebab shop in the area. The place serves boti kebab and sutali kebab, which is essentially minced meat that is grilled and held together by a thread, famous for instantly melting in your mouth. It is one of the best dishes on the entire Street.

## at Zakaria Street

The largest mosque of East India, Nakhoda Masjid, is located in Zakaria Street. One of the oldest neighbourhoods of Calcutta, it is situated near Burrabazar, and is a nostalgic throwback to the legacy of the exiled Nawab of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah, from whose kitchen the famous Calcutta Biryani was invented. Zakaria Street has some of the best places in the city for kebabs and Mughlai cuisine.

## Sufia

Shop No.2, Zakaria St, Kolutolla, Ward Number 43

Timing: Daily 6am to 11pm

Sufia is famous for its iftar spread, and especially its haleem. The haleem is made of wheat, lentils, meat, and is cooked in a bed of ghee. Sufia traditionally serves it with koftas, but the very crispy, poppy-seed dusted baqar khani also makes an excellent company.

## Taskeen

Sufia

Taskeen

16, Zakaria St, Kolutolla

Timing: Daily | 10am to 4pm

Taskeen is synonymous with their delectable serving of the very spicy chicken changezi. The dish was named after the ferocious Mongol invader Chengiz Khan, and contains over 50 different spices to bring out the flavour of the recipe. Taskeen is also one of the best places to have faluda in the city and is quite popular for their chai.

## Hajji Allauddin Sweets

56, Phears Lane, Colootola St

Timings: Daily | 7am to 11pm

Hajji Allauddin Sweets has been serving delectable gulab jamuns, and their famous battisa halwa, containing 32 ingredients, has been a treat to Calcutta citizens for over 100 years. They are also famous for their khoya, malai, and mawa laddoos that are cooked in pure ghee. Their fried khajla, a deep fried bread eaten in crumbs with hot milk during sehri, is out of this world.

Hajji Allauddin Sweets

Adam's Kabab

# 5

## Popular Durga Puja Pandals in Kolkata

In December of 2021, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Some of the famous Kolkata Durga Puja Pandals and their nearest metro stations, area-wise, are as follows:

### The Sobhabajar Rajbari

36, Raja Naba Krishna St, Shobhabajar

The Sobhabajar Rajbari has been hosting a 'shabeki' durga puja for the last 250 years, and was started by Raja Nabakrishna Deb in 1757. The members of the family have maintained the 'bonedi' pomp and usually allow outsiders to visit the puja dalan. Visitors are usually treated to extravagant performances of dhaakis in the premises.

### Bagbajar Sarbojanin

7, Bagbazar St

Bagbajar Sarbojanin is another old puja in the city, known for the traditional visage of the goddess. The 'sindoor khela' ritual before 'bishorjon' is renowned, and makes it the most lively pandal to visit on Bijaya Dashami, right before the immersion on the last day of the puja.

### College Square

150, College St, College Square

College Square is famous for its lighting arrangements, which look extravagant because of the waterbody they are installed in. It is also famous for its 'jharbati' as a chandelier looms over visitors and reflects the various lights within the pandal.

### Maddox Square

Pankaj Mullick Sarani, Garcha, Ballygunge

Maddox Square is one of the oldest open grounds in Calcutta. It is organized by the Ballygunge Durga Puja Samity, and is over 85 years old. The usual pandal size is over 8,000 sq ft and is famous for its simplicity. Maddox is known mostly as a space to congregate and indulge in the particular 'adda' sub-culture of the city.

### Mudiali

37, SR Das Rd, Mudiali, Kalighat

Mudiali is famous for winning the 'Asian Paints Sharad Samman Best Puja' award multiple times. The puja maintains its status as one of the most glamorous exhibits in the city by incorporating a traditional rendition of the goddess in an otherwise creative pandal championing social causes, current affairs, or mythology.

# 4

## Iconic Bengali Poets Based out of Calcutta

### Henry Louis Vivian Derozio

18 April 1809–26 December 1831

Henry Louis Vivian Derozio is known for his poems 'The Harp of India' (1827) and 'To India My Native' (1828). A precursor to the 19th century 'Bengal Renaissance',

Derozio's radicalism led to the development of the 'Young Bengal' movement. This was led by a group of free-thinkers, nicknamed 'Derozians', that were under his tutelage.

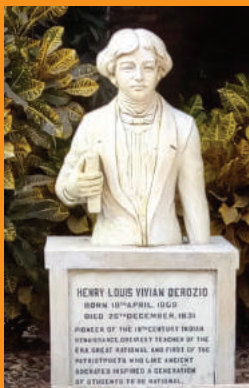


Photo by Souvik pal, via Wikimedia Commons.

### Michael Madhusudan Dutta

25 January 1824–29 June 1873

Michael Madhusudan Dutta is famous for introducing two new directions in Bengali poetry—the blank verse and the sonnet. Born to an upper-middle class Hindu family, Dutta converted to Christianity in 1843. Dutta's magnum opus, Meghnad Badh Kavya, a retelling of the Ramayana from the perspective of valorizing Meghnad, was written in 1861.



Photo by Jayanthar, via Wikimedia Commons.

### Rabindranath Tagore

7 May 1861–7 August 1941

The first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, Rabindranath Tagore is a Bengali polymath who ushered in Modernism in both Bengali and Indian literature, music, and art. Most of Tagore's poetry is spiritual and evocative of nature. His most famous collection of poetry is Gitanjali (1912) which brought him international recognition.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

### Jibanananda Das

17 February 1899–22 October 1954

One of the most important poets of post-modern Bengal, Das represents the uncertainty of a nation torn by civil war, partition, and the Second World War. Das usually evokes nature in his poetry and juxtaposes it with the urban loneliness that his protagonists find themselves in. Some of his works include, 'Banalata Sen', 'Akashleena', 'Ruposhi Bangla', 'Ghora', 'Mahaprithibi' along with his volumes, Sat'ti Tarar Timir and Ruposhi Bangla.

# CALENDAR

## Festivals and Cultural Events

### DOVER LANE MUSIC CONFERENCE

A Indian classical music conference that takes place in the month of January, the Dover Lane Music Conference began in 1952 under the patronage of Late Narendra Singh Singhi. Currently the conference is held at Nazrul Mancha, Southern Avenue.

### BHASHA DIBAS

UNESCO declared 21 February as the International Mother Language Day to celebrate the ethno-linguistic rights of people all around the world. It is celebrated in West Bengal to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Bengali Language Movement in Bangladesh (1952).

### KOLKATA BOOK FAIR

The first Kolkata 'Boi Mela' was organized on March 5 1976 beside Victoria Memorial in front of Academy of Fine Arts. A 10-day long annual event, this winter fair went on to become the world's third largest, Asia's largest and most attended book fair.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

### KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (KIFF)

Conceived in 1995, the Calcutta Film Festival is the oldest annual international film festival in India, and also the largest one. It usually is celebrated in winter and is based out of Nandan and Netaji Indoor Stadium. Various regional movies as well as selected international movies are showcased in several theatres across the city.

### SARASWATI PUJA

It happens on the 5th day of Magh (January/February) and is thus alternatively also known as Basanta Panchami. In Bengal, the festival is dedicated to the Goddess of learning, education, and wisdom. It also denotes the beginning of spring.

### POILA BAISAKH

Poila Baisakh is the first day of the year in the Bengali calendar and occurs in April. This day usually entails the opening of a new financial year in businesses as a "haal khata" ( new accounting book) is opened to welcome the new year.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

Photo by Jonellkobangali, via Wikimedia Commons.

## RABINDRA JAYANTI

The 25th day of Baisakh (7th or 8th May) celebrates the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. This day is observed by academic institutions as well as cultural organisations.

## EID-UL-FITR

Eid-Ul-Fitr is celebrated after the auspicious month of Ramzan. The holiday celebrates the conclusion of the dawn-to-sunset fasting and depends on the sighting of the moon.

MAY

OCT

NOV

DEC

## DURGA PUJA

Durga Puja, dedicated to Goddess Durga, is a four-day-long festival usually celebrated between September–October. In December 2021, Durga Puja was included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Photo by Sumit Sen.

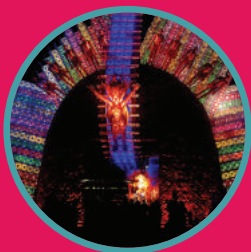


Photo by Sumit Sen.

## CHRISTMAS

One of the most popular festivals in Calcutta, Christmas makes Park Street home to carol singers, night-long musicals, and thousands of fairy lights which wrap the city in Christmas spirit.



Photo by Sumit Sen.

## KALI PUJO

Celebrated in late October–November, it coincides with Diwali and is dedicated to Goddess Kali, a form of Shakti that slays evil. Often big gorgeous pandals are seen in the central and northern part of Kolkata.

# Glossary of Terms

## INTRODUCTION

**Hooghly river:** Hooghly, or Bhagirathi-Hooghly, is a distributary of Ganges.

**Mughal Empire:** A dynasty of Turk-Mongol origin that reigned over most of North India from the early 16th to the mid-18th century.

**Sabarna Roy Choudhury family:** An aristocratic land-owning family since the days of the Mughals.

**East India Company:** The British East India Company was formed to carry out trade in Asia. The Company was granted the Royal Charter in 1600 and was in charge of administration of India as well on behalf of the British Imperialist power from the 18th century to mid-19th century.

**Job Charnock:** An East India Company administrator who established the trading post in Kolkata.

**Shell lime:** Lime obtained by burning the shells of oysters, clams and mussels

**Battle of Plassey:** The battle fought between the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, and the East India Company at Palashi or Plassey in Murshidabad, the erstwhile capital of Bengal, on 23rd June, 1757. The Company's victory was a decisive one for British rule in India, which continued till 1947.

**Gothic, Neoclassical:** Neoclassical: Dominant architectural trends from mid-18th to the end of 19th century in Britain, the first movement saw revival of mediaeval forms while neoclassical revived features of classical antiquity.

**Partition:** The partition of 1947 that formed the two nations- India and Pakistan, was one of the most violent

partition affected the states of Bengal and Punjab the most.

**Naxal Movement:** Named after Naxalbari/Nakshalbari in North Bengal, the peasant and students' socialist militant movement against landholders originated there in the mid 1960s

**Mukti Juddho:** The freedom struggle of Bangladesh against Pakistan.

## WRITER'S BUILDING

**Richard Barwell:** A trader of East India Company, 1741-1804.

**Warren Hastings:** First governor general of India.

**Lal Dighi:** Spanning across 25 acres of land, the Lal Dighi or red pond, was the site of a battle between Bengal's Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah and the East India Company in 1756.

**French Renaissance:** The style of architecture that appeared in France at the very end of the 15th century and flourished until the end of the 16th century.

## MOHUN BAGAN FOOTBALL CLUB

**Maidan:** The city's largest urban park.

**Eden Gardens:** Established in 1864, it is the largest cricket stadium in India and the second largest in the world.

**Derby:** A face-off between two teams from the same area.

## MITRA CAFE AND KOLKATA'S CABINS

**Bangali-bhadrolok:** The bourgeois genteel section of urban Bengali society.

**Dim'er Devil:** Boiled eggs, encased in a spicy keema mixture and fried.

**Kobiraji:** Cutlets covered with egg chiffonade.

## **PARK STREET AND KOLKATA'S NIGHTLIFE**

**Fort William:** East India Company's main trading station and fort in Bengal.

**Freemason's Hall:** An international secret secular fraternity, the Kolkata chapter of it started in 1728.

**St.Xaviers College:** A Jesuit college established in 1860.

**Asiatic Society of Bengal:** Scholarly society founded in 1784 by British Lawyer and indologist William Jones.

**Cabaret:** A restaurant that serves liquor and offers musical entertainment.

**Foxtrot:** A formal ballroom dance.

**Lobster Thermidor:** Lobster meat gently cooked in wine sauce and presented in the shell.

**Pam Crain:** Iconic jazz singer from Calcutta.

**Louis Banks:** Pioneer of Jazz music in India.

**Blues:** Folk music created by African American musicians in the early 20th century.

## **CALCUTTA'S BOI PARA**

**Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:** Educationist and social reformer from 19th century Bengal.

**Mrinal Sen:** Luminary of the film world, started the new cinema movement in Bengal.

**Ritwik Ghatak:** Revolutionary filmmaker from Bengal, started the parallel cinema movement in India.

## **HOGG MARKET AND SUDDER STREET**

**Presidency:** Administrative divisions of British India, with Kolkata, Madras and Bombay being the earliest ones.

**Bandel Cheese:** A type of cheese introduced by the Portuguese in their former colony of Bandel, located 50 kilometres North from Kolkata.

**Indian Museum:** Established in 1814, it is The largest and oldest museum in India.

## **RANI RASHMONI AND DAKSHINESWAR KALI TEMPLE**

**Chasi-Kaibartta:** Traditionally farmers, this caste of West Bengal belongs to the Other Backward Class category

**Shudra:** The last of the four varnas, according to the traditional Hindu caste system.

**Caste System:** A divisive hierarchical social system practised in Hinduism.

**Brahmins:** The first and most privileged caste in the caste hierarchy.

**Ramkrishna:** A prominent spiritual figure of 19th century Bengal. Though an ardent devotee of Kali, he explored and respected different religions.

**Kali:** A goddess worshipped in Hinduism.

**Shiva:** One of the main deities in the Hindu pantheon, believed to be the consort of Kali.

**Radha-Krishna:** Worshipped together, Radha is believed to be the eternal lover of Krishna, the cow-herd god and a form of Vishnu.

**Puri:** An important pilgrim site in Odisha.

**Ahiritola Ghat:** Located near Shobhabajar, this ghat on the bank of Hooghly is a popular site for immersion of Durga idols after Durga Puja.

**Nimtala Ghat:** Also known as Burning Ghat, one of the oldest and largest crematoriums in India is situated here.

**Indigo:** Cultivation of indigo plant was encouraged by colonisers due to its high demand in the European market as a natural dye.

## **THE HOWRAH BRIDGE**

**Cantilever Bridge:** Bridges constructed using cantilevers, structures that extend horizontally into space with one end firmly rooted to the base.

**Pontoon Bridge:** A floating bridge held up with large hollow containers called pontoons.

**High-tensile steel:** Steel mixed

with other metals like Chromium, Molybdenum, Manganese, Nickel, Silicon and Vanadium, making it sturdier and tension resistant.

**Pier:** Pillars supporting the bridge.

## **KUMORTULI**

**Krishnanagar:** Headquarter of the Nadia district, Krishnanagar is 110 kilometres north of Kolkata famous for its clay craft.

**Maharaja Krishnachandra:** Landlord of Nadia, Maharaja Krishnachandra Roy (1710-1783) was a patron of literature and art.

**Shobabajar Rajbari:** The palatial mansion in the Shobabajar area of North Kolkata was built in 1700 by Raja Nabakrishna Deb.

**Uluberia:** A town in Howrah district, on the west bank of Hooghly river.

**Gharana:** School/Style.

**Ek Chala:** Idols of Durga and her children- Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganesh and Kartik in one frame.

**Ardhanarishwar:** A form of Durga and Shiva, where they share one body.

## **NABIN CHANDRA DAS AND SWEET SHOPS OF CALCUTTA**

**Batasa:** Crystallised sugar or jaggery candies.

**Naru:** Sweets made of roasted coconut with sugar or jaggery.

**Moa:** Sweets made of roasted puffed rice with jaggery.

**Chhana:** Cottage cheese made from curdling the milk.

**GI Tag:** A geographical indication is a sign used on products from a specific geographical region and possess qualities attributed to that particular region.

## **JORASANKO TAGORE HOUSE**

**Brahmo Samaj:** A monotheistic sect of Hinduism, the Brahmo Samaj was established in Kolkata in 1828 by men

from aristocratic families.

**Bengal Renaissance:** Centred in Kolkata, the 19th century renaissance of Bengal saw dynamic cultural changes in the traditional Bengali society due to the introduction of the English education system.

**Bengal School of Art:** Begun in the early 20th century, this art movement aimed to establish Indian art devoid of European influences. Major figures in this movement were Abanindranath Tagore, Gaganendranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Sunayani Debi, Ganesh Pyne etc.

**Prince Dwarkanath:** Rabindranath's grandfather.

**Abanindranath:** Rabindranth's nephew, one of the leading figures of Bengal Art School.

**Gaganendranath:** Rabindranth's nephew, elder sibling of Abanindranath, one of the leading figures of Bengal Art School.

# **Bibliography**

To get access to bibliography for all the pieces in this booklet visit [map.sahapedia.org/inkolkata/100007](http://map.sahapedia.org/inkolkata/100007) or alternatively, scan this (QR Code)



# About Us

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InterGlobe Foundation (IGF) - [www.interglobe.com/foundation](http://www.interglobe.com/foundation) is the CSR arm of the InterGlobe Group of companies.


The key focus areas of IGF include Heritage Conservation, Promotion of Livelihoods and Environment Conservation including Waste Management. The Heritage projects cover both the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage. The environment projects support development and protection of Natural Resources thereby increasing the green cover and ground water recharge. It also includes work on Waste Management. The livelihood projects support income enhancement of marginalized groups, especially women through environment friendly projects. By partnering with leading NGOs of the country, IGF has been able to impact more than 600,000 lives.

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This booklet documents various well-known and offbeat treasures of Kolkata's living heritage and culture. Designed as a guide to navigate the city's better kept secrets, the publication spans themes such as built heritage, people and communities, institutions of cultural importance, and literature and the arts.

Other editions include: Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Hyderabad, Indore, Prayagra, Nashik, Shillong



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