

a
Research Report
on

20TH CENTURY HERITAGE OF KOLKATA



An ICOMOS India: NSC Research Project 2021

Research Title

Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th century Heritage of Kolkata

Time frame: March 2022- March 2024

Published by:

ICOMOS, India

623 A, Somdutt Chamber 11,

Bhikaji Coma Place, New Delhi-110066

Tel: 011 40047876

icomosindia@gmail.com

www.icomosindia.com

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Prepared by:

NSC 20C Heritage Kolkata Team in association with Om Dayal Group of Institute-College of Architecture,
West Bengal

Edited by:

Indrani Sarkar

Front & Back Cover Design by:

Deblina Banik

Page Layout by:

Deblina Banik

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book could not have been possible without the unstinted support of the former President Sri Navin Piplani, for approving **the theme of “20CHeritage Kolkata”** and the research grant of Rs. 75,000/- from ICOMOS NSC Research Grant. The team is also obliged to the present President and former Vice- President Dr. Rima Hooja being equally supportive to the team to carry out the project further fruitfully for the extended period up to 15 March 2024.

The Executive Committee members of ICOMOS India, i.e., Vice- President Ms. Shalini Dasgupta (former Secretary), Present Secretary Sri Nitin Sinha, Ms. Priyanka Singh (former Treasurer), Present Treasurer Ms. Jana Das Chaudhuri along with the former NSC Counselor Shri Arun Menon, the present NSC Counselor Dr. B. Venugopal, NSC Co Counselor Dr. Mrinalini Atrey, NSC CO-Ordinator Ms. Aanabel Lopez who all supported us for processing the research time to time.

We are also extremely grateful to the Review Committee members, Dr. Kiran Joshi, Dr. Sanghamitra Basu and Ms. Kamalika Bose for guiding us with their valuable suggestions for finalizing the research report at various stages.

We are thankful to Prof Kalyan Mukherjee, Director/HOD of OM Dayal College of Architecture, West Bengal for making their institute as an Associated partner of this project for helping us by providing manpower and financial assistance of 50% research grant of Rs. 75,000/-

Dr. Sukanya Mitra, Coordinator of NSC-SBH along with her team joined hands with 20CHeritage Kolkata Team as Resource partner.

It would have been difficult to process such a large research project other than the co-operation extended by Ms. Ananya Bhattacharya (past Convenor of ICOMOS East Zone) and Sri Bikramjit Chakraborty, Convenor of ICOMOS East Zone in every stage for its successful completion.

We are also indebted to Dr, Reena Bhaduri, the renowned scholar, the Secretary of Asutosh Memorial Research Institute as a mentor cum guide to the team for providing her valuable advice time to time. It is also to be noted that, the officials of many Government and Non-Government organizations, scholars, friends, descendants of the heritage family, institutions, libraries, residents/owners of the heritage buildings provided us enough inputs to make our compilation rich and precise.

Last but not the least we are extremely proud of our team members for their hard work and dedication and passion for conservation of heritage properties as an asset to the society.

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1. The Bibliography and the internet sources are mentioned at the end of each chapter.
2. All photographs are taken by the team members & the students unless specified
3. A Timeline of events and the List of Identified buildings are enclosed separately in this report
4. All the gradation and the year of construction mentioned in the Inventory, based on the latest information provided by Environment & Heritage Unit, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the owners

ICOMOS RESEARCH PROJECT

Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th Century Heritage of Kolkata- a project of National Scientific Counsel - 20th. Century

Undertaken by: -

20C Heritage Kolkata Team Members (ICOMOS-East)

Indrani Sarkar,	Principal Investigator, NSC 20C/ICOMOS(East)
Sohini Pyne,	Co-Principal Investigator, NSC20C/NSC-SBH
Ananya Bhattacharya,	former Convenor, ICOMOS (East)
Dr. Sukanya Mitra,	NSC-SBH- Collaborative Partner
Dr. Mom Mitra De,	ICOMOS (East)
Dr. Sutapa Joti,	ICOMOS (East)
Rajrupa Kundu,	ICOMOS (East)
Adris Naskar,	Non-member

Research Assistants: -

Deblina Banik,	Interns
Prateeti Paul,	Interns
Priyanjana Das	Interns

OM Dayal College of Architecture, West Bengal- Associated Partner

Students participated: -

Debjani Paul, Rishi Pal, Soumili Banerjee, Janhabi Majumder, Srodhha Dutta Banik, Moulima Roy, Moitrayee Patra, Sreeya Ghosh, Shivangi Nirmal, Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar, Oindrilla Chakraborty, Sagar Das, Atrayee Majumder, Anubhav Roy Sarkar, Anusha Pal, Neelanjana Das, Swaroopa Nandi, Suromitra Biswas.

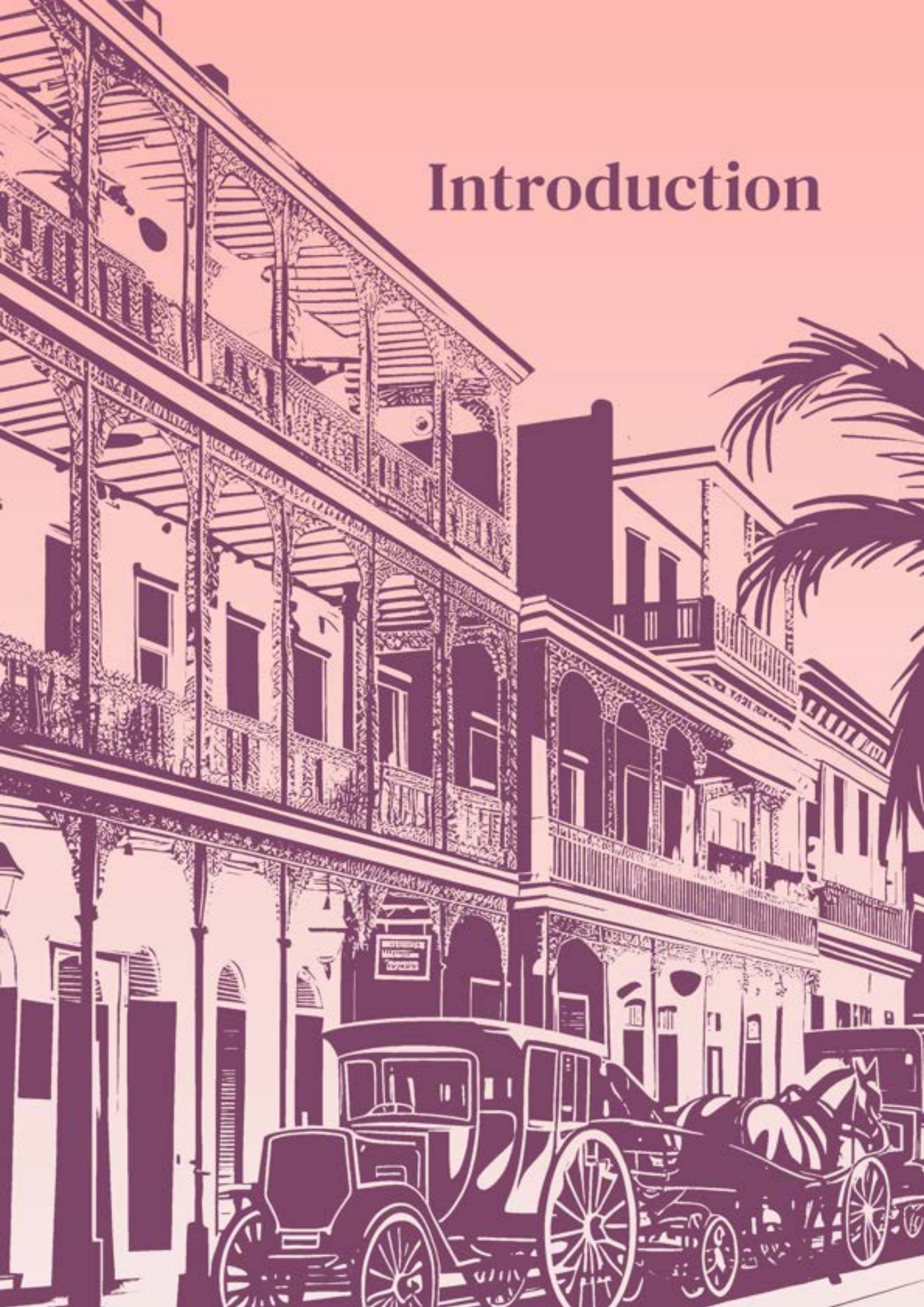
Photography by: -

NSC 20C Heritage Kolkata Team members

Students of OM Dayal College of Architecture, West Bengal

Sri Bikash Mondal

Introduction



INTRODUCTION

The Backdrop

Historically, today's Kolkata originated from three villages: **Sutanuti**, **Govindapore**, and **Kolkata**. In the 16th century, two key maritime trade centers operated in southern Bengal: *Chattagram* (now Chittagong in Bangladesh) and *Saptagram* (in the Bardhaman district of West Bengal). As the port of Saptagram began to decline, four 'Baysack' families and one 'Sett' family from Adi Saptagram moved to the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, becoming the original settlers of what would become Kolkata today. This settlement occurred before Job Charnock of the East India Company arrived in 1690. The area known as '**Sutanuti**', famous for its cotton market (Sutanuti r Haat), is believed to be near present-day Boithakkhana Bazar close to Sealdah. Further down, the Setts established '**Govindapore**', named after their deity Govindji, where Fort William and Calcutta Maidan are now located. Between these settlements lay a smaller village called '**Kolkata**', around the area of Lalbazar.

The East India Company purchased the three villages from the Baysacks and Setts for a nominal price and began developing the area into a town, marking the beginning of Kolkata's journey as a city. They constructed *Fort William* along the Hooghly River in the Dalhousie area (from Fairlie Place to the GPO), known as Old Fort William. *Siraj-ud-Daulah*, the then *Nawab of Bengal*, opposed the British fortification within his domain. He marched from his capital, Murshidabad, with his army and captured the British fort, prompting the British to flee by ship.

Siraj-ud-Daulah renamed Kolkata as '*Alinagar*' after his victory. However, the East India Company sent Robert Clive from Madras to reclaim the area. Clive declared war on Siraj-ud-Daulah, defeating him at the *Battle of Plassey*. Following the victory, Clive cleared the jungle area of Chowringhee to construct '*New Fort William*' at its present location with '*Calcutta Maidan*' as a defensive measure. This '**New Fort William**' became **the epicenter** of modern Kolkata's development as a metropolis.

Thereafter, the British ruled India for approximately 300 years, with Kolkata serving as the capital until 1911. The area around Fort William, Dalhousie Square, Lal bazar, Esplanade, and Chowringhee, was designated for European settlement, known as '**White Town.**' The original Bengali settlers were pushed to the northern side, referred to as '**Native**' or '**Black Town.**' Between these areas was 'Grey Town', around Park Street and Theatre Road, which was actually the home for other ethnic communities such as Armenians, Jews, and Parsis, etc.

The '**Bengal Renaissance**' emerged in the early 18th century, marked by intellectual awakening and social consciousness spearheaded by figures like *Raja Rammohun Roy*, *Prince Dwarkanath Tagore*, *H.L.V. Derozio*, *Rani Rashmoni*, *Iswarchandra Vidyasagar*, and *Radhakanta Deb* of Shobhabazar. It reached its peak from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, with luminaries such as *Thakur Sri Ramakrishna*, *Swami Vivekananda*, *Sister Nivedita*, *Rabindranath Tagore*, *Sir JC Bose*, *Acharya P.C. Roy*, *Deshbondhu Chittaranjan Das*, *Sri Aurobindo*, *Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose*, and others emerging as '**the changemakers**' across various aspects of social life. This era culminated in India's independence from British rule, achieved through the supreme sacrifices of many freedom fighters.

In the 20th century, the society tackled significant issues such as religious reform, women's empowerment, educational reform, nationalism, the freedom struggle, modernization, and political reform. Kolkata played a pivotal role in India's freedom movement and celebrated jubilantly on August 15th, 1947. The journey started from a village and transformed into a metropolis due to rapid

urbanization. **A new era dawned for Independent India**, aspiring to achieve global recognition across all spheres of life

However, Kolkata faced setbacks twice due to the **political upheavals** in the country. The first was during the '*Partition of Bengal*' around Independence (1947-50), and the second during the '*Bangladesh War*' in 1970, which strained the city's infrastructure due to a large influx of refugees. Twice, communal harmony was disrupted: first during the Hindu-Muslim riots in 1946, known as the '*Calcutta Killing*', and later during '*Hindu-Sikh riots*' following Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984. However, both instances were effectively managed by the administration of the time, restoring peace thereafter

In the **Socio-economic** scenario, Kolkata also faced a setback, when the British shifted Capital from Kolkata to Delhi in 1911. The other issues were, when many multinationals of foreign origin went back to their countries after Independence. The abolition of the Zamindari system, the Urban Ceiling Act, etc. affected the economic condition of the affluent class of the Bengali community as well. The middle class faced unemployment due to the wrong policy of industrialization by the Government led by the Marxists. The political clash between Naxalites and Marxists also created trouble in life. The result is- the creme of the young generation drifted away either to foreign countries or other parts of India in search of jobs and education and Kolkata suffered a 'Brain-drain.'

In the 20th century, Kolkata's architecture evolved significantly. Initially dominated by Neo-Classical styles reflecting Imperial power, the city saw the rise of '*Baroque*' style typically to suite the Bengali lifestyle, thus the word coined as '**Bengal Baroque**'—a fusion of European exteriors with Indian interiors, featuring elements like courtyards, thakurdalan and wooden screens to maintain privacy for ladies, specifically designed for residential buildings. Kolkata's **distinctive red buildings**, often adorned with ornamental Cast Iron grills, also emerged during this period. The nationalist movement prompted a '**Revivalist**' style that integrated Indian motifs and elements from places like Rajasthan /Ajanta/Sanchi, etc. Post-1960, '**Art Deco**' became popular, offering a more economical and modern alternative to the elaborate Bengal Baroque mansions. By the late 20th century, Kolkata embraced '**Modernism**' and '**Post-Modernism**,' reflecting a shift away from colonial influences and incorporating new technologies and materials.

By 1920, Kolkata had undergone **significant infrastructure and civic improvements** as a former British capital. Key developments included the construction of the **Howrah Bridge**, which connected both banks of the Hooghly River, and the expansion of the railway network via **Howrah Station** to facilitate communication and goods transportation across the subcontinent. Additionally, the city saw the **introduction of electricity** for homes and street lighting, along with advancements in **radio and telephone services**. Enhancements in **roads, sewage, and drainage** further contributed to Kolkata's transformation from a small town in the 19th century into a bustling metropolis. In the post-Independence era, Kolkata also continues its achievements in many sectors, such as underground **Metro Rail network, television and Satellite communication**.

The 20th century in Kolkata exhibits remarkable eventful transformation. Thereby, it is really justified and interesting that ICOMOS, India has taken up the project to do an in-depth study on the subject. This research aims to explore the importance of Kolkata's 20th-century value-based and unprotected built heritage, highlighting the uniqueness of the society during that era. Kolkata, as a cultural hub and a key player in India's freedom movement, reflects its quest for a distinct identity across various domains and has garnered global recognition. The city takes pride in its distinguished figures such as Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Acharya J.C. Bose, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and many other luminaries whose contributions have left an enduring legacy.

Annexure-1



623 A, Somduft Chamber II,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
Tel: 011 40047876
icomosindia@gmail.com
www.icomosindia.com
f t i @icomosindia

ICOMOS India: NSC Research Project 2021

Terms of Reference

For the Research Project: Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th Century Heritage of Kolkata

To be undertaken by:

National Scientific Committee (NSC) on 20th Century Heritage (NSC 20C) represented
by Principal Investigator,

Ms. Indrani Sarkar (*herein to be referred to as the PI, or the partner*)

ADDRESS: 171/2B, Rashbehari Avenue,
Kolkata-700019, West Bengal

PREAMBLE

The research project 'Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th Century Heritage of Kolkata' has been selected as a recipient of ICOMOS India's Annual NSC Research Project 2021. As a beneficiary of the program, the project shall be monitored, evaluated and supported through its duration by the expert professional peer network- comprising of members of ICOMOS India's Board, as representatives of the Executive Committee, and the Steering Committee of the Scientific Council.

The PI hereby agrees to the following terms:

Article 1. SCOPE OF RESEARCH PROJECT

Through this ToR, the above stated National Scientific Committee, represented by the PI, commits to realization of the research project (*herein to be referred to as 'the project'*) as per the objectives, project cost, stages of progress described hereafter and the detailed research proposal attached in Annexure 1.

Project Description

The 20th Century Thematic Historic framework of Kolkata will be developed as a mechanism for Assessing Built Heritage from Colonial-era of Pre-Independence time to Modern age of post-Independence time. The aim is to narrate the socio-cultural, socio-political, and socio-economical scenario of Kolkata's growth as an important historic city of India. during 20th Century. It is also to be developed for understanding the various values/significance of 20C heritage which many a time ignored/ unrepresented, not being an "architectural splendour". Thereby, an approach can be build-up for the identification of 'value-based heritage assets', and its related process for conservation. Many of those built-heritage have historical significance in association with the Luminaries of India as well. Such assets contribute to the cultural identity of the city. of Kolkata.

Research Objectives and Outcomes

The objectives of developing a 'Thematic Historic Framework' for the study of 20 C heritage in respect of Kolkata are as follows: -

Indrani Sarkar

Narain Piplani

- Understanding the historical significance of the city that has an immense value of National importance in various aspects.
- Initiate the identification of the undocumented legacy of the 20 C, in Kolkata. The Aim of the identification (sample study) is mainly to develop the strategy, how and under what parameters, a particular building can be declared as Heritage/potential for heritage. In this case, both Listed and unlisted categories are to be taken into account, if they are closely related to the 20th Century history of Kolkata.
- Similarly, Post-Independence Modern Architecture will also be identified, if it has certain significance to the cultural history or growth of the city as a metropolis.
- Facilitate the contextualization of the sites concerning the history of the city.

Finally, it is hoped, that it will add/modify the various themes identified at the global level and, thereby can play a significant role, in the global discourse.

The identification of 20C Heritage buildings of Kolkata will commence with a brief understanding and representation of the **societal process of 19th- 20th. century history of the city** and how it was reflected in the evolution of architectural style over some time to create a unique and unparallel style mingled with the lifestyle of the then society.

These historical or **socio-cultural processes will be considered as 'themes'**, which will also have various categories, like, Cultural/ Religious, Institutional, Administrative, Health-care, Recreational, Landmarks, Iconic Buildings with Architectural merit, Built-heritage with historical significance/Associated value, Industrial heritage, Infrastructure, heritage precincts, etc.

The need for identification of Listed and unlisted built-heritage relating to the historical events within the time frame of 1900-2000 is mainly to showcase the spirit of the local people and their aspirations. This research aims to provide the basic parameters with photographic representation to justify their potentiality to be declared as heritage.

Outcomes:

- Developing Thematic Historic Framework** of the Socio-Cultural History of Kolkata as per the Timeline of 20TH Century with various sub-themes for Tangible Heritage of Pre- Independence & Post-Independence era.
- Photographic Identification of built-heritage /landmarks symbolising as key components for the developments in the history of the city**, and establishing their significant roles under various parameters justifying their heritage status.

Timeline

Total Duration: 12 months

Project duration approved under contract: **12 months**

Start Date: 15th March 2022

End Date: 14th March 2023

Estimated Project Cost

Total funds required over 12 months: INR 1,50,000 (inclusive of taxes)

Maximum expenditure approved under contract: **INR 1,50,000** (inclusive of taxes) *in Year 1 as per the stages of progress listed in Article 2.1*



Article 2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- i. The PI shall be responsible for coordinating implementation of the project as per the stages of progress listed below:

Time period	Outcome/Deliverable	Anticipated expenditure	
		Expenditure Type	Amount in INR
Month 1- 3	<u>Developing Historic thematic framework of 20C heritage of Kolkata</u>	Photocopying, Travel and Incidental expenses @ Rs 3000/- per theme	30,000
Month 4-6		Intern's salary @ Rs 7,000 per month for 3 months	21,000
Month 4-10	<u>Compilation of list of buildings with images and photographs based on the thematic study</u>	Travel /Field Survey and incidental expenses	50,000
Month 9-12	<u>Final Report/ Project Monograph</u> containing compiled list of buildings with images and photographs based on the thematic study, rationale for themes, and case for protection of 20C heritage in Kolkatta	Intern's salary @ Rs 7,000 per month for 3 months	21,000
		Printing of report and photographs	28,000
TOTAL Expenditure over 12Months			1,50,000

- ii. The PI shall commit to take all measures to fulfil outcomes and deliverables as laid down in this Terms of Reference within the estimated budget and stipulated time.
- iii. The PI shall be responsible for monitoring expenditure of the project and liaising with COMOS for disbursement of the monies as per Article 4.
- iv. The PI shall be the focal point for coordination with the project team within COMOS and with all collaborating institutions.
- v. The PI, in consultation of COMOS, shall ensure all necessary authorizations and licenses for the project, if any are needed.
- vi. The PI shall inform and seek approval from COMOS in case of presentation of the project to the public or any forum beyond COMOS during the research.

- vii. The PI shall continue to be a member of COMOS, and remain a member of the NSC being represented, for the duration of the project.
- viii. The PI and the project team shall continue to be governed by all ICOMOS' Statutes, Ethical Commitment Statement and Rules of Procedure, specifically by COMOS' Rules and Regulations of the Society (*hereafter, to be referred as RR*), Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (*hereafter, to be referred as SOPG*), Policy for data sharing by National Scientific Committees, Working Groups and Sub-Committees (*hereafter, to be referred as Confidentiality Policy*) unless otherwise specified in this document.
- ix. In the unforeseen circumstance that the PI is indisposed, COMOS shall be notified of the situation immediately. In such a circumstance, the project shall proceed if the Co-PI (as listed in the project proposal in Annexure I) agrees to bear responsibility as Principal Investigator. In the case of non-agreement, either the forfeit or termination clause of this agreement will be put into effect. COMOS reserves the right to the final decision.
- x. The PI shall not have any unfulfilled contracts with, or outstanding dues towards, COMOS.

Article 3. OBLIGATIONS OF COMOS

- i. For the purposes of this Article, COMOS will be understood as members of COMOS' Steering Committee of the Scientific Council and the Board.
- ii. The project shall be monitored, evaluated and supported through its duration by the professional peer network at COMOS.
- iii. COMOS shall bear the responsibility of disbursement of the monies as per the terms of this ToR.
- iv. Feedback and approval on each stage of progress shall be provided by COMOS coordinated and communicated by the NSC Counselor to the PI within 15 days of receipt of deliverable.
- v. Any modifications in the project may be implemented only after due consultation with COMOS as per Article 6 and 12.2.

Article 4. FINANCIAL TERMS

- i. Funds will be disbursed by COMOS to the PI on completion of respective stages of progress as listed in Article 2
- ii. Disbursal will be in the form of reimbursements for actual expenditure undertaken, on receipt of the duly signed Reimbursement Sheet (See Annexure 4) supported by bills and vouchers for all expenses. See Article 4.9 subsection a. for the only agreed exception.
- iii. A mobilization advance of up to 20% of the total project estimate may be provided at the time of signing the ToR, if requested by the PI.
- iv. Processing of reimbursements will be done after approval of the deliverable is communicated by the NSC Counselor to the Treasurer.
- v. All bills shall be in the name of ICOMOS India and GST number provided, where applicable
- vi. It will be the responsibility of the PI to collate expenses made by the project team for submission for reimbursement, and subsequently to disburse reimbursements to the project team.
- vii. Expenditure undertaken must be by team members at COMOS and/or by COMOS non-members listed in the project proposal and/or by COMOS non-members listed Terms of Agreement with collaborating institutions, if any.
- viii. Reasonable variation in nature of expenses listed in Article 1 and 2 is permitted within the upper limit of the overall approved project cost.
- ix. If, in the course of the project, the overall cost has the potential to exceed, the PI has the responsibility to immediately inform Office Bearers of COMOS through the NSC

Page 4 of 7 *Jnderani Sarkar*

Naim Piplani



Counselor in order for COMOS to expressively give its agreement or in order to reassess the global budget or the financial obligation of COMOS towards the PI. At the time of signing of this agreement, COMOS does not commit to funds beyond the approved project cost.

- x. Expenditure per Articles 1 and 2 shall adhere to the following, as relevant:
 - a. Hiring of support staff or specialist consultants
 - Any personnel approved in the research proposal shall be hired directly as Research Assistant/Associate, or Consultant to COMOS.
 - The details of the personnel, including CV and recommendation for appointment, shall be relayed by the PI to the Secretary at least 30 days in advance of hiring needs.
 - The Secretary in consultation with the PI shall provide the appointment letter and scope of work to the respective support staff or consultant. In addition to the Secretary, the PI shall be signatory as supervisor on the appointment letter.
 - Remuneration to support staff will be released subject to submission of duly signed Supervisor Endorsement (See Annexure 6A) and Task-Sheet (See Annexure 6B) sent to the Treasurer and Secretary.
 - Consultancy fees will be released subject to submission of duly signed Supervisor Endorsement (See Annexure 6-1) with a copy of completed scope of work, sent to the Treasurer and Secretary.
 - No GST shall be paid to support staff.
 - No COMOS member may receive professional fees.
 - b. Honorariums
 - Honorariums upto a maximum of INR 2500 for a half-day engagement or a maximum of INR 5000 either for a full day engagement or cumulative engagement in one stage of the project may be provided.
 - No COMOS member may receive honorariums.
 - c. Subscriptions or Memberships
 - All subscriptions or memberships, as needed and approved in the research proposal, shall be taken in the name of ICOMOS India. The Treasurer and Secretary shall be informed 30 days in advance of the date of the need, with information on types of subscriptions/ institutional membership opportunities to facilitate the most effective subscription type.
 - d. No capital expenditure may be claimed for reimbursement

Article 5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT

- i. Work done as part of the NSC shall be presented in all forums as collective work and not as individual research. The Intellectual contribution of members shall be duly acknowledged as per SOPG's Revised Policy on NSCs.
- ii. SOPG's Revised Annexure 14: Intellectual Property Rights shall be applicable to the outcomes of the Research Project.
- iii. Publication of the collective project outcome, if done, shall bear COMOS' ISBN.

Article 6. MODIFICATION

- i. Any modification of the conditions of this ToR will be subject to a written agreement in the form of a letter, email which shall be provided as an addendum to this ToR specifying the elements modified.



Article 7. LITIGATION

- i. In the event where difficulties arise with respect to the execution or interpretation of the present ToR, the PI shall engage with COMOS, with diligence and goodwill, to fully cooperate in order to find an amicable solution rather than litigation as a first resort.

Article 8. CONDITIONS RELATED TO SERVICE PROVISION

- i. The PI acknowledges that all information disclosed by COMOS in the context of the present ToR remain confidential unless it is necessary to disclose information to a third party in order to execute the tasks designated and disclosure is authorized by COMOS.

Article 9. TERMINATION

- i. Breach of any of this ToR's articles by either party shall be reason for termination of this Research Project. Each party has a period of two months to notify their decision of termination. Article 11 will be enforced in case of termination due to listed reasons.

Article 10. FORCE MAJEURE

- i. Force majeure is interpreted as circumstances that occur after the signing of the contract due to actions of an unpredictable and insurmountable nature that cannot be prevented by the contracting parties, including: natural disasters, epidemics, general strikes, political events, insurrection, fire or death. In case of force majeure, the consultant party should as soon as possible and by all means warn the other party. The latter then reserves the right to terminate this contract.

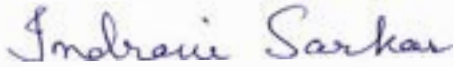
Article 11. FORFEIT CLAUSE

- i. In the case of cancellation of his/her participation to the project at the initiative of the PI at the exception of the force majeure cases, the PI agrees to reimburse entirely all the expenses incurred by COMOS on the project.

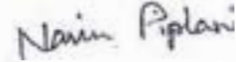
Article 12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- i. This ToR may be executed in counterparts. Facsimile signatures are binding and are considered to be original signatures.
- ii. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties. All negotiations and understandings have been included in this agreement. Statements or representations which may have been made by any party in the negotiation stages of this agreement may in some way be inconsistent with this final written agreement. All such statements are declared to be of no value in this agreement. Only the written terms of this agreement will bind the parties.
- iii. This Agreement and the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement apply to and are binding upon the Parties and their respective successors, assigns, executors, administrators, beneficiaries and representatives.

Prepared and signed in New Delhi in two original copies on 15th March 2022




Indrani Sarkar
Principal Investigator on behalf of NSC 20C



Navin Piplani
President, COMOS

Witnesses:

1. NSC Coordinator (if not the PI) or
NSC Co-coordinator (if NSC Coordinator is the PI)
2. Co-Investigator 


Arun Menon
NSC Counselor

ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Research Proposal submitted by PI
Annexure 2: Milestones- Deliverables- Funds Table submitted by PI
Annexure 3: Bank Details of PI
Annexure 4: Template for Reimbursements
Annexure 5: Template for NSCRG Completion Checklist
Annexure 6-A: Template for Supervisor Endorsement
Annexure 6-B: Template for Employee Task Sheet

Annexure-2



623 A, Somdutt Chamber II,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
Tel: 011 40047876
icomosindia@gmail.com
www.icomosindia.com
f t i @icomosindia

ICOMOS India: NSC Research Project 2021

Addendum to Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Research Project:

Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th Century Heritage of Kolkata

Noted that the ICOMOS Research Project undertaken by National Scientific Committee (NSC) on 20th Century Heritage (NSC 20C) represented by Principal Investigator, Ms. Indrani Sarkar and approved for a total duration of 12 months under contract from 14 March 2022 to 14 March 2023 has been progressing satisfactorily. The research project is being undertaken in collaboration with the College of Architecture, Om Dayal Group of Institutes, West Bengal.

Noted that the first stage deliverables on 8 out of 9 themes were received between 09 August 2022 and 6 September 2022, and feedback from the Steering Committee of the Scientific Council was communicated to the PI by 26 October 2022. These documents are under revision.

Noted that the research team has organized a workshop on 06 February 2023 with students and faculty members of the College of Architecture, Om Dayal Group of Institutes, where demos on how to fill up the Inventory Format were provided. The fieldwork commenced on 12 February 2023, and is progressing at the rate of 2 days per week by 4 student groups surveying 2-3 buildings per group per day. The field survey, which comprises of as many as 100 buildings, is yet to be completed.

Noted that the PI has sought an extension of 06 months with effect from 15 March 2023, for the completion of the research project.

Noted that the project has utilized a total amount of INR 48,000 during the period 15 March 2022 - 15 March 2023, which has already been paid by ICOMOS India to the PI and the appointed interns by the PI, in full. The amount of INR 1,02,000 remains for utilization for the extended project period. The overall budget of the projects will remain the same as mentioned in the ToR.

Noted that this project is being undertaken in collaboration with Om Dayal College of Architecture as per the Agreement of Cooperation signed between both parties in 2022. This cooperation shall continue during the extended project period.

The research project is granted an extension of 12 months with effect from 15 March 2023.

Dated: 23 April 2023

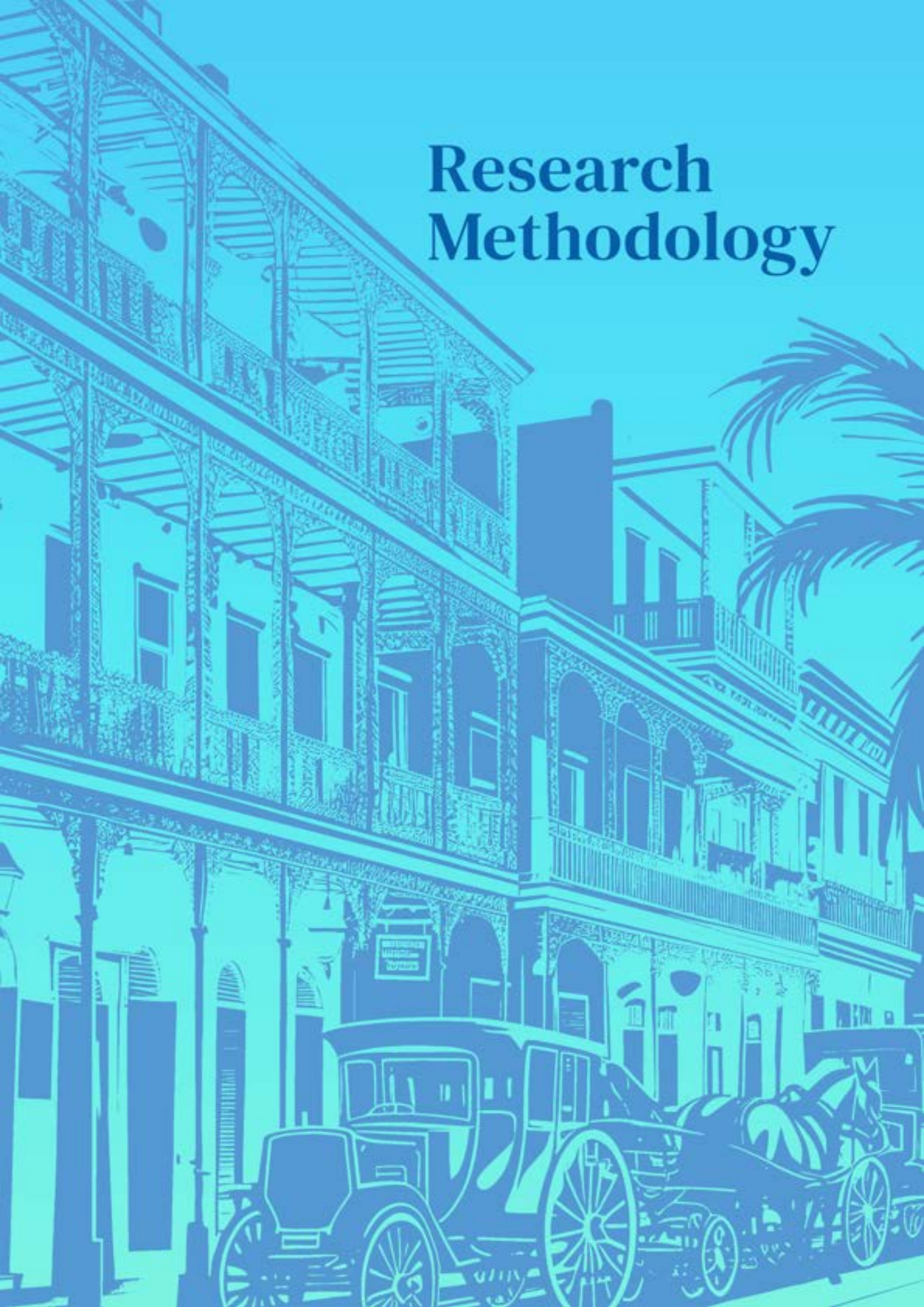
Approved by: Dr Navin Piplani, President – ICOMOS India

Endorsed by: Dr Arun Menon, NSC Counsellor – ICOMOS India

Scope & Objectives

- Develop a '**Thematic Historic Framework**' to study 20th-century heritage, emphasizing its national historical significance.
- Identify and to prepare **an Inventory of 'value-based heritage assets'** (representative but not exhaustive) of the 20th century, both protected and unprotected, relevant to Kolkata's history.
- Highlight the significance of **Post-Independence Modern Architecture** and **evolution of various architectural styles** in Kolkata's cultural and metropolitan growth.
- Contextualize **cultural precincts** within the city's historical narrative.
- Evaluate existing conservation policies aimed at protecting built heritage and showcase **successful examples of adaptive re-use**.
- Identify and assess 20th-century **heritage assets at risk** in Kolkata.

Research Methodology



Research Methodology:

The research project '**Developing a Thematic Historic Framework for Assessing 20th Century Heritage of Kolkata**' has been selected as a recipient of ICOMOS India's Annual National Scientific Counsel Research Project 2021.

The 20th Century Thematic Historic framework of Kolkata has been developed as a mechanism for assessing Built Heritage from Colonial-era of Pre-Independence time to Modern age of post - independence time

Objectives- This research aims to explore and recognize the significance of 20th-century built heritage that is often overlooked or underrepresented, especially when it is not considered "architectural splendour." The methodology employed seeks to identify 'value-based heritage assets' that, though not exhaustive, but representative as per their importance. Many of these structures also hold historical significance due to their connections with prominent figures in India. The aim is to narrate the socio-cultural, socio-political, and socio-economic scenario along with the various architectural styles evolved in this period to depict Kolkata's growth as an important historic city of India during 20th Century. These assets play a crucial role in shaping the cultural identity of Kolkata.

It is to be noted, that the built-heritage of Kolkata is huge and innumerable, it will be difficult to produce elaborative research on it within a limited period or with limited availability of a Research Grant.

Methodology- Hence, the team focused on the '**Thematic Historic Framework**' under **five themes** with Timeline events to understand the growing importance of the city with the following information:

- **Chronological growth** of the city with MAP- Annexure- 4
- **Major events** in the history of the city as per **Timeline** i.e. from 1900- 2000
- Transformation of **Societal Process**, such as - Political Scenario, Cultural heritage, Multi-ethnicity, Infrastructure Development, Rapid Urbanization, Evolution of various Architectural styles, Economic Scenario, etc.
- The primary task of this research is to identify the '**value- based**' **representative Built heritage**. An **Inventory** with various parameters has been prepared to justify their status as **potential Heritage** for their recognition.
- The neighbourhood culture of Kolkata is an important aspect that also deliberated upon. The team identified **three** different '**Heritage Precincts**' from three different zones (North, Central, South) of Kolkata, which narrates the inherent story /culture of a particular precincts and their aspiration.
- A few buildings are identified as **Heritage @ Risk** which requires immediate attention.
- Similarly, a brief account on those Heritage assets of 20C also recorded as an example which are **Restored** as a part of ongoing process of Conservation.

While doing this research, it has been decided to involve budding architects from academic field to generate heritage awareness amongst next generations. Hence, the team associated with the OM DAYAL College of Architecture and **involved their faculty and students through field survey and workshops** to understand the '20th century heritage of Kolkata'.

The team also took the opportunity of involving **ICOMOS National Scientific Counsel -Shared Built Heritage (NSC-SBH)** as a knowledge partner.

The **total research grant** allocated by ICOMOS, India for 20C Heritage Kolkata is **Rs.1,50,000/-for a period of 15 March 2022- 14 March 2024.**

It is also to be noted, that **Om Dayal College of Architecture** also joined as a **Associated partner** for the 50% of the project cost i.e. Rs.75,000/- of the Research Grant.

The team has studied various sources to carry out the research procedure, such as -

Primary Source:

- a. Attempts were made to consult/interview with individual owners/organisations to get the authentic data as far as possible.
- b. The team members along with the students of OM Dayal College of architecture did a 'field survey' and identified 88 buildings (Protected & unprotected categories) and 3 cultural precincts with 5 buildings as a representative example.
- c. Photographic documentation has been made on all the identified buildings by the team members and students of Om Dayal College of Architecture.

Secondary Source:

- a. In this research, a variety of literatures related to the history of 20C Kolkata has been consulted.
- b. a number of Govt. and Non-Govt reports have been considered.
- c. The data on heritage buildings list has been referred from KMC documents available on their website.
(Ref.https://www.kmcgov.in/KMCPortal/downloads/Graded_List_of_Heritage_Buildings_Grade_I_II_A_IIB.)
- d. Various Books /research papers/journals/newspaper articles available on public domain / websites are consulted by various team members enclosed as Bibliography and References.

Research Outcome:

A. **'Thematic historical framework'** for the 20th-century society of Kolkata has been developed with **five different themes** under various sub-themes, such as,

1) Socio-Political, 2) Socio-Cultural, 3) Multi-ethnicity, 4) Rapid-Urbanization/Infrastructure development/Built-Heritage and 5) Socio-economic.

B. **List of Identified buildings** as representative examples of 'Value based heritage'

(Refer Inventory for detail information of the building)

C. A **'Timeline'** has been prepared for 20 C events

D. **An Inventory** with various parameters and photographs for above buildings (Protected and Unprotected category) has been prepared to serve as a tool for formulating policies for conservation.

E. **Kolkata Map** – i) Chronological development, ii) Area of Slums, iii) Location of identified buildings on the map Zone -wise.

F. **Research findings** with examples are compiled **aligned with the objectives of the Terms of Reference (TOR)** of the ICOMOS NSC20C Research Project of Kolkata.

G. **Evolution of various Architectural style** with photographic representation in Kolkata during 20th Century.

Tangible Deliverables

The above information, which has been documented, compiled by 20C Kolkata team and reviewed by the peer committee of ICOMOS India, is now **submitted for publication** by ICOMOS India/NSC 20C. This submission aims to support the recognition of these assets as Heritage Assets for posterity. With this information, it is believed that ICOMOS India will have a solid foundation to liaise with the relevant authorities for their inclusion in the List of Heritage Assets of the 20th century, helping to preserve these assets for future generations.

Outreach to the citizens of India to generate Public Awareness- It is also expected that an exhibition on 20th-century Kolkata will be organized in the near future by ICOMOS India. This will help for reaching out to the citizens of India as well as the global audience, spreading the message of ‘Conservation of Heritage Assets.’

Themes & Subthemes



Themes & Subthemes

1. Socio-Political-

Sub Themes-

- a) Partition of Bengal 1905: Swadeshi movement and Boycott of imported goods
- b) Rise of Revolutionary Parties for freedom movement- 'Jugantar' & 'Anusheelon Samity' led by Bagha Jatin, C.R. Das, Sri Aurobindo etc.
- c) Manifestation of Netaji & Azad Hind Fouz
- d) Quit India Movement
- e) Independence of India & Partition of India/Bengal- 1947
- f) Calcutta Killing- riots between Hindu/Muslim
- g) Migration of Refugee from East Bengal, population explosion
- h) making of Modern India- expansion of the city
- i) Bangladesh War- Migration of Refugee from East Pakistan
- j) Naxalite Movement & rise of Communism
- k) Political disturbance & fall of economy

2. Socio-Cultural

Sub-Themes-After effect of Bengal Renaissance

- a) Religious Reform/cosmopolitan character/eradication of superstitions
- co-existence of multi -religions like, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsee etc.
- b) Educational Reform
- c) Women's empowerment
- d) Rise of Intellectuals and revivalist movement in the field of Literature, Scientific Research and Performing Arts
- e) Philanthropic organizations for e.g.- R.K. Mission, Missionaries of Charity, Indian Red cross Society, St. John's Ambulance, Bharat Sevashram, Birla Group, etc.
- f) Post- Independence aspiration

3. Multi-ethnicity

Sub Themes-

- a) Connections with Foreign nationals- Jewish, Persis, Greek, Armenians, Scottish, Chinese, British, Anglo-Indians, etc.
- b) Indian nationals other than Bengali- Marwari, Punjabi, Gujrati, North Eastern provinces, Tamil etc.

4A. Rapid Urbanization & Infrastructure development

Sub Themes-

- a) Transformation to Metropolis- expansion in North- South direction
- b) Population explosion due to refugee influx
- c) Establishment of CIT, CMDA etc. for planned development
- d) Slum development
- e) Expansion of Road and Railway network
- f) Infrastructure Development
- g) Expansion towards East- Bidhan Nagar and Rajarhat /New Town

4B. Built-Heritage

Sub Themes-

- a) Evolution of various Architectural Styles
- b) cultural precincts etc.
- c) Inventory of representative examples

5. Socio-Economic

Sub- Themes

- a) After effect of Independence and Partition of Bengal
- b) Decline in Core Industry- jute, tea, cotton, film industry, etc.
- c) Drift of Foreign based multi-national companies
- d) Decline in export/import business with UK
- e) Decline of Bengali Business community
- f) Rising of Marwari community
- g) Nationalization of Bank & Coal industry
- h) Political disturbance of '70s- strike, Bandh etc. and power shortage
- i) Manifestation of Indian multi-nationals during '80's-'90's- resurgence of economy

Timeline of important events of Kolkata (1900-2000)

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Category</u>
1.	‘Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Works Ltd at Kolkata’ , founded by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy as India's first pharmaceutical company.	1901	Socio- economy
2.	Calcutta Tramways – electrically operated the pollution free public transport system introduced.	1902	Civic Amenities
3.	Sir Ronald Ross received the ‘Nobel Prize’ in Medicine for his sensational research on ‘Transmission Process of deadly disease of Malaria through mosquito bites ‘in the laboratory of SSKM Hospital, Kolkata.	1902	Scientific Research
4.	Boto Krishna Pal & Co -first medicine shop owned by a Bengalee, which had its branches at London	1904	Entrepreneurship
5.	Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon	1905	Socio- Political
6.	Howrah Station Building	1905	Civic Amenities
7.	Historical Case of ‘Alipur Bomb Case’ by British Govt against Biplabi Aurobindo . The case won by Desh Bondhu C.R. Das , and Sri Aurobindo was released unconditional.	1908-1909	Socio- Political
8.	Sir R.N Mukherjee , a renowned engineer cum industrialist, founded the famous construction company - Martin Burn & Co. by amalgamating two British owned firms-Martin & Co and Burn & Currie. He also owned IISCO (Indian Iron and Steel Company) in 1926 at Burnpur & Kulti. In the post- Independence era, it was taken over by Govt of India as SAIL	1909-1936 1926	Entrepreneurship
9.	Shifting of Capital from Kolkata to Delhi	1911	Socio- Political
10.	Construction of Tala Tank - Overhead Water Reservoir to serve drinking water to the entire population of the then Kolkata	1909-1911	Civic Amenities
11.	Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT) was founded.	1911	Town Planning
12.	Nalini Ranjan Sarkar’s contribution in economic regeneration of Bengal was immense. But he was mostly famous as ‘Insurance man’ being the Chairman of Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Society which flourished with huge success. The same organization at a later date became ‘Life Insurance Corporation of India’ .	1911-1953	Entrepreneurship

13.	Rastraguru Surendranath Banerjee was one of the first political leaders, who protested against the Partition of Bengal in 1905. He finally was successful for its nationwide agitation, which compelled the British to stop the partition of Bengal in 1912.	1912	Socio-Political
14.	Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore - received the 'Nobel' Prize in literature, as the first Asian in 1913 for his collections of poetries 'Gitanjali. *He renounced the title 'Sir' as a protest against the British for 'Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	1913 1919	Socio-Cultural Socio-Political
15.	Electrification of Street Lights	1914	Civic Amenities
16.	The first College of Medicine cum Hospital exclusively for Indians, namely Carmichael Medical College (R.G. Kar Medical College& Hospital) was inaugurated	1916	Civic Amenities
17.	Sir JC. Bose's works of electromagnetic wave was a "milestone achievement" from Asia and accepted as the basis of today's communication system. 'Life in Plant' –another phenomenal discovery by Sir J.C. Bose	1902-1926	Scientific Invention
18.	B. Sircar & Co.- a pioneer in Gold Jewelry Business house, started their journey from Kolkata. Apart from their excellency in entrepreneurship, they also donated generously for ' Azad Hind Fouz ' led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose	1917-1920 1940- 1943	Entrepreneurship Socio-Political
19.	Telephone – Bengal Telephone Corporation office moved to Dalhousie Square and renamed as Calcutta Telephones	1918- 1943	Civic Amenities
20.	Victoria Memorial- a marble edifice came up in Kolkata in the memory of Queen Victoria	1906-1920	Cultural/ Architecture
21.	Manifestation of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose , the supreme leader of Freedom Movement of India.	1921- 1943	Socio-Political
22.	C.R. Das donated his entire property overnight for the establishment of a first maternity hospital as " Chittaranjan Matri & Sishu Seva Sadan "	1922-24	Civic Amenities
23.	Dr. UN Brahmachari discovered the medicine for deadly disease ' KALA-AZAR '	1922	Scientific Invention
24.	Dumdum/Calcutta Airport was founded in the early 1900s as the Calcutta Aerodrome. Dakota 3 was the first aircraft to land in the airport In 1924	1900-1924	Civic Amenities

25.	Deshabondhu Chittaranjan Das , the renowned Congress leader of Freedom Movement of India, left his mortal remains for his journey to abode at heaven.	1925	Socio-political
26.	Double- Decker bus services introduced	1926	Civic amenities
27.	'Nazrul Felicitation Committee' organized a function, for Bidrohi Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Albert Hall of Calcutta,	1929	Socio- cultural
28.	C.V.Raman was the first person in Asia ,who received the 'Nobel' Prize in Physics . He did his research at the laboratory of ICCS at Bowbazar Campus, Kolkata	1930	Scientific Invention
29.	Education- National Education Movement leading to the birth of a series of educational institutions of National importance, such as Science College (Calcutta University) Bose Institute – A Scientific Research Institute. National Council for Education (NCE) was founded for self-reliance in education. The same is converted as Jadavpur University Indian Statistical Institute , etc Rabindra Bharati University , Indian Institute of Management (Joka)	1914 1917 1924 1955 1931 1961 1961	Socio-Culture
30.	Evolution of architecture-Kolkata does not have any particular style of architecture. Mostly mixed type. Approximately eight distinctive styles noticed prominently. The 20th century stands out as a transformative period in Kolkata's history of architecture., marking a shift from colonial influences to embrace the global culture.	1900-2000	Architecture
31.	Rabindranath Tagore breathed his last at his ancestral residence of Jorasanko Thakurbari	1941	Socio-cultural
32.	Jatiyatabadi Andolon / National Movement for Freedom of India in Kolkata was at its peak and was famous as '42 er Andolon'	1942-43	Socio-Political
33.	Howrah Bridge	1943	Infrastructure
34.	World War- II- Japanese Bomb exploded in two locations of Kolkata	1942-1944	Socio-Political
35.	Bengal Famine- A man made famine occurred in Bengal-which had resulted in the death of two to three million people.	1943	Socio- cultural
36.	UCO Bank founded by Birla group	1943	Entrepreneurship
37.	World was shaken with the news flash -that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose died in a plane	1945	Socio Political

	crash at Taihoku airport, which is still remains a mystery.		
38.	Communal Riot -A large scale severe violence occurred between Hindu & Muslim referred as the “Great Calcutta Killing”	1946	Socio Political Direct Action Day – 16 Aug 1946
39.	Gandhiji went for hunger strike in Kolkata , to pacify the Communal violence.	14 Aug 1947	Socio Political
40.	India got Independence	15 th August 1947	Socio Political
41.	Congress Government sworn in as State Govt of West Bengal and Kolkata became the State Capital . Under the leadership of Dr. B.C. Roy, as CM (1948-62) , West Bengal experienced stability and prosperity	1950	Socio- Political
42.	Refugee Influx -The intense violence caused during the partition of India led to a shift in demographics in Bengal, and especially Kolkata	1947-48	Socio Political
43.	Rapid expansion of the city at the fringe area, like New Alipore, Jodhpur, Jadavpur, Dhakuria, Garia, Bidhan Nagar, Rajarhat, etc. by CIT and CMDA	1950-1990	Town Planning
44.	Cultural Capital - 20 th century is a remarkable era in the cultural scenario of the city. Creativity and modernism sparkle the sphere of ‘Performing Arts’, like dance, music, literature, painting, sculpture etc. The Cultural Hub of Kolkata consists of Rabindra Sadan, Nandan, Natty academy, Sisir Mancha, Academy of Fine Arts, Birla Planetarium, etc.	Early 20 th - late 20 th century	Socio-Cultural
45.	Kolkata, being a port-city, has long been a melting pot of cultures, drawing migrants from around the world well before British rule. The city has been enriched by diverse communities, including Jews, Armenians, Greeks, Parsis, and Chinese, who contributed to its cultural and architectural legacy. It earns a moniker as ‘ City of Palaces ’ probably due to this reason. Additionally, migrants from different parts of India seeking opportunities added to the city’s diversity. Kolkata has historically embraced and celebrated this religious and cultural harmony with pride and generosity.	1900-2000	Multi-ethnicity
46.	Bengali Film World - cinema from Kolkata gathered critical acclaim from around the world and was regularly featured in international film festivals. Commercial films and art-films both	1940- 1980, the Golden era	Socio-Cultural

	were successful at its own merit. Satyajit Roy was an ' Oscar ' winning film director is a product of Tollygunge Film Industry.		
47.	Political Unrest -The violent Naxalite movement damaged much of the city's infrastructure. Internal clash between the two rival political party of Naxalites and Communist Party of India(M) leading to economic stagnation and political disturbance in the society	1970-77	Socio- Political
48.	Political Unrest - Bangladesh War - the war between India and Pakistan led to another massive influx of refugees from the former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), and their settling in Calcutta, massively strained its already damaged infrastructure and incurred huge population explosion.	1971	Socio- Political
49.	Change of Political movement – Jyoti Bosu was sworn in as CM of WB led by CPI(M), which ruled for 3 decades.	1977-2011	Socio- Political
50.	Economic turmoil -Kolkata's economic decline began when British shifted the capital to Delhi. Bara Bazar thrives as Kolkata's bustling epicentre of trade and commerce firmly under Marwari influence since pre-Independence era. Mid-20th century events, such as the Partition of Bengal, the freedom movement, and influx of refugees , further aggravated the downfall of city's economy. Only at the end of the century Kolkata's economy turned around due to investment of software technology and made Salt Lake, Sector-V as IT Hub .	1911 1942- 48 1930 onwards 1975- 1990 2000	Socio- Economy
51.	In the post-Independence era, notable development took place in respect of Infrastructure development for Kolkata. To mention a few - suburban train services (1957), Door Darshan Kendra (1975), underground Metro Rail (1980), E.M. Bypass (1982), 2nd Hooghly Bridge (1992), etc.	1950- 2000	Infrastructure
52.	From 1943, Calcutta Telephone was under Indian P & T Dept. Thereafter, in 1985, control of Telephone has been transferred to Dept. Of Telecom. At the time of Independence there were 20,000 phone connections in Kolkata. The figure rose to 5,00,000 by 1997 and crossed 1 million by 2000.	1943-2000	Infrastructure

Themes



Theme-1 -Socio-Political

Introduction: The nineteenth century

The nineteenth century in Bengal was an Age of Reform, the period of the 'Bengal Renaissance'. It sowed the seeds of several events which were to be landmarks in the history of Bengal in the twentieth century. The social and religious reforms of the nineteenth century conferred a new dynamism on the emerging nationalist consciousness among the educated middle classes. As a result, a number of political associations developed in towns all over India. A significant political event of this period was the foundation of The Indian National Congress (INC) at a national convention held in Bombay in 1885 with W.C. Bonnerji as its first president. It became an umbrella organization with Indian leaders of different hues joining the body with the aim of expressing their demands and grievances to the British. The annual sessions of the Congress were held in different parts of the country.

The Moderate phase

The early Congress was formed of upper-class elites which acted as a limitation on its functioning. As W. C. Bonnerji mentioned, the Congress was an association of "*loyalist and consistent well-wishers of the British government*". Initially these leaders expressed their faith in British rule and used the method of petitions and parliamentary procedures to express their opinions to the British. This was the so-called moderate phase of Indian nationalism represented by leaders such as Dadabhai Naoroji and R.C. Dutt. The moderate Congress leaders did criticize the British rule but at the same time placed their faith in it. For instance, Dadabhai Naoroji in his magnum opus, *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*, critically discussed the economic impact of imperialism while at the same time exposing the "un-British" rule of the East India Company in India. R.C. Dutt showed how the British had financially exploited India in his important work *India Today*. Therefore, in spite of their methodological limitations the moderate leaders made important contributions to the understanding of colonial rule.

The first partition of Bengal 1905: Swadeshi and Boycott

The first occasion for a nationalist upsurge in the twentieth century was provided by the 'Partition of Bengal' which took place when Lord Curzon (1898-1905) was the Viceroy of India. Curzon had no sympathy for the nationalists and their demands. The partition of Bengal can be viewed as the culmination of a series of measures taken by Curzon to curb the political aspirations of the Congress and its educated Indian members. It was a territorial reorganization of the Bengal presidency which separated the largely Muslim eastern areas from the largely Hindu western areas. It was implemented on 16 October 1905. However, it failed to weaken the Bengali nationalists and instead revitalized the Congress. Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali poet and intellectual, who never involved himself in direct politics, led a huge procession through the streets of Calcutta singing a song written for the occasion, to resist the '**Bangabhanga Andolon**' along with leaders like Ramendra Sundar Trivedi, secretary of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad (Literary Council of Bengal), observed the '*Rakhi-Bandhan Utsav*' between Hindus and Muslims to mark this occasion as a symbol of communal harmony. Boycott of British textiles was the driving force of the '**Boycott movement**' and it spread to other areas of India such as Punjab, Maharashtra and the Telugu-speaking areas of the Madras Presidency, in solidarity with Bengal. Gradually the movement encompassed the boycott of British educational institutions and the founding of national schools. Atmashakti or self-reliance became the motto of the Swadeshi movement and it addressed the need to build a bridge between the educated classes and the masses through the use of the vernacular language as a medium of instruction in schools and political meetings promoting melas and village reconstruction. The Bengali patriotism of the Swadeshi days led to the emergence of the concept of the motherland or '*Bharat Mata*', an abstract ideal of nationalism.

Rise of Nationalistic Movement /Jatiyatabadi Andolon (1905-1947)

The early 20th century to mid-20th century was an eventful and vital period in the history of India as the '**Freedom movement of India**' got momentum in this phase. The time period from 1885 to 1905 can be called the '*Moderate Phase*'. The leaders of this phase were called moderates, such as Dadabhai Naoroji, Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee, G Subramania Aiyer, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Surendranath Banerjee, etc. The Swadeshi movement led by this moderate group, could not fully satisfy the differences among leaders or bridge the socio-cultural and economic gap between the elite and the masses. The partition of Bengal in 1905 imposed by Lord Curzon on the basis of religion, exposed further the limitations of the methods of the appeal /petitions of the moderate leaders. As a result, there was a turn to militant nationalism which led to a break with Moderate leaders. Moderate groups made an increased use of religious symbolism, coercion and social sanction, which alienated the masses, both Hindus and Muslims in the rural areas of Bengal.

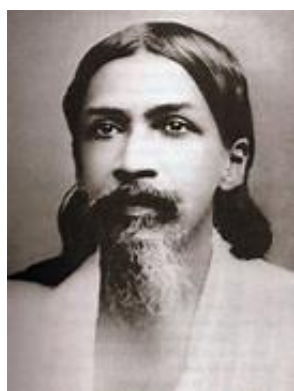
The **Nationalistic Movement** or '**Jatiyadabadi Andolon**' led by *Sri Aurobindo Ghose of Bengal, Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Balwantrao Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal* considered as representatives of a higher stage of Indian nationalism. It was a unanimous opinion by these leaders that India can be freed from the clutches of the British by using two different tactics-armed uprising and non-co-operation.

Sister Nivedita's contribution towards India's freedom is as important as others. Historian *Sankari Prasad Basu* identified the extent of the period from August 1902 to July 1905 in Indian politics as the '**Nivedita Age**'. Sister Nivedita was a pathfinder in the freedom movement, preceding the involvement of Sri Aurobindo.

During this period, she played the most important role in influencing the growth of national consciousness, establishing connections with different revolutionary groups and their leaders, and touring the country giving lectures with the aim of recruiting young volunteers for secret societies and asking for patronage from princely states. At a later date, she intentionally disassociated herself with Ramkrishna Mission to save the Mission from British outrage, but maintained the closeness with revolutionary organizations.

(Source: Vivekananda international foundation.org)

In 1902, Sister Nivedita travelled the length and breadth of the country, striving the national consciousness amongst the Indian people. At this time, Nivedita visited Aurobindo Ghosh at Baroda and urged to play more direct role in the National Movement and to relocate him at Calcutta. Finally, Sri Aurobindo relocated himself in 1906 to Calcutta upon a call from Raja Subodh Chandra Mallik to join as a Principal of '**National Council of Education**'. He stayed at the house of Raja Subodh Mallik at Wellington Square and from there he wrote many articles on '**Purna Swaraj**' in the newsletter namely '**Bande Mataram**.'



Sri Aurobindo



The 'Plaque'



Raja Subodh Mallik's house at Wellington Square

The popularity of 'Bande Mataram' reached to its peak in Bengal mainly due to Sri Aurobindo's thought-provoking articles on Freedom, Swaraj and Nationalistic Movement. However, as it is published in English language, it even energized the whole Nation, on the issue of 'Jatiyatabadi Andolon' which was the original idea of Sri Aurobindo behind its publication.



From 1908-09, underground organizations and secret societies came up such as the '**Anushilan Samiti**' of Calcutta and Dacca, which believed in armed uprising to end the British rule. At that time, **the most competent and natural leader of this movement was Sri Aurobindo Ghosh**, who believed that '*Freedom of India*' cannot be achieved through petitions, appeal or discussions.

Sri Aurobindo at the very initial stage, conceptualized a **three-point program**:

- a) to organize **a holistic armed revolution** nationwide and direct confrontation to resist and protest against the torture of British Administration,
- b) to sensitize the country men on the issue of '*Liberty, Swaraj and Revolt*' by **disseminating knowledge** through articles in journals/newsletters /lectures in the meetings nationwide.
- c) to adopt tactics of **non-co-operation, boycott of foreign goods, hunger strike** etc, as a passive protest, through '**Non-violence movement**'.

Under Sri Aurobindo's leadership, the Swadeshi Andolon adopted 'Purna Swaraj' (complete independence) as its goal, contrasting with the moderates' push for partial autonomy. The ideological clash between the moderates and Jatiyatabadi leaders culminated in the split at the Surat Congress of 1907. Despite Sri Aurobindo's brief political career from 1906 to mid-1910, his thoughtful methodology including the 'Non- Violence Movement' got momentum for Freedom movement of India, much before Gandhiji landed in the Indian politics. Gandhiji arrived in India in 1915 from South Africa, and later popularized the non-violence approach as '*Satyagraha Andolon*'. Very few people know actually, that this 'non-violence movement' was also a part of three-point program of Jatiyatabadi Andolon led by Sri Aurobindo.

In 1908, revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafula Chaki attempted to assassinate British magistrate D.H. Kingsford in Muzaffarpur with a bomb, but instead killed two English women. Khudiram was arrested, while Prafula Chaki committed suicide. This incident, known as the Alipore Bomb Case or Manicktala Conspiracy, led to the arrest of Khudiram, 32 members of the Anushilan Samity, including Sri Aurobindo Ghose and his brother Barin Ghosh. All were imprisoned in Alipore's Presidency Jail. Despite being held for a year, the British could not prove charges against Aurobindo, who was defended successfully by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and acquitted on May 6, 1909. However, the remaining members of the Samity were not acquitted, significantly disrupting the Samity's activities.



*House at 48, Grey Street (now demolished)
from where Sri Aurobindo was arrested*



*The solitary cell at Presidency Jail, where
Sri Aurobindo was kept*



The Trial Room at Alipore Court



Commemorative Plaque at Alipore Court



Alipore Jail



freedom fighters laid their lives in Gallows

Surprisingly, during his imprisonment at Presidency Jail, Alipore, Sri Aurobindo experienced a profound spiritual awakening and achieved '**Siddhi**,' as he described in his '**Uttarpara speech**.' This marked his transformation from a revolutionary into a spiritual leader. After his release, he found the nationalist movement in decline due to the imprisonment of leaders and the execution of young fighters. To counter this, he launched two influential newsletters, '*Karmoyogin*' in English and '*Dharma*' in Bengali, revitalizing the movement with his writing and clear message on freedom. He also organized numerous meetings across Bengal, staying at his maternal uncle's house in 6, College Square, Kolkata during this period.



No.6, College Square,
House of Krishna Kumar Mitra



The Plaque



No.4, Shyampukur Lane
office of 'Karmoyogin'
& 'Dharma'

Unable to accept the failure of the Alipore Bomb Case, the British sought to arrest Sri Aurobindo again, using an article in Karmoyogin as grounds for arrest. He relocated to Chandannagore, a French territory, on February 15, 1910, and then **departed for Pondicherry**, also French, on April 1, 1910, following a divine call for a greater commitment to humanity. **At Pondicherry, he practiced Integral Yoga and worked on bringing Supramental Power to Earth. Renamed Rishi Aurobindo, he was recognized internationally as a spiritual leader of high order.** He broke his silence only twice on political matters firstly, during World War II and then on India's Independence Day, August 15, 1947.

Jatindranath Mukhopadhyay (Bagha Jatin), who joined as a volunteer of a relief camp organized by *Sister Nivedita* became another famous patriot of freedom movement of India inspired by none other than *Swami Vivekananda*.



Jatindranath Mukhopadhyay
(Bagha Jatin)



His statue at Kolkata

Bagha Jatin's meeting with *Sri Aurobindo* intensified his revolutionary zeal. Sri Aurobindo tasked Jatin with forming a secret society to train youth for armed resistance against the British. This society, named '**Jugantar**', saw Jatin as its commander-in-chief. Later, Jugantar merged with '**Anushilan Samity**' to create a unified secret organization. Jugantar quickly expanded nationwide, establishing units across India and extending its influence to South-East Asia, Europe, and America. Jatin's frequent attacks on British. According to British records, Earl of Minto and Charles Hardinge, successive Governors-General of India, were deeply concerned about Jugantar's rapid rise under Jatin's leadership.

In 1915, under Bagha Jatin's leadership, the Jatiyatabadi Andolon resurfaced again. Jatin's attempt to import arms from Germany, though unsuccessful, foreshadowed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's later armed struggle with foreign support against the British. Despite the failure of his efforts, Jatin died heroically in a battle with British police at the Buri Balam riverbank in Orissa, securing his place in history. (Source: <https://swarajyamag.com/culture/bagha-jatin-the-bengal-tiger>)

In the meantime, relations between the Hindus and Muslims worsened due to several factors and the **All-India Muslim League was formed in 1906** in Dacca. The Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 provided for limited self-government to the Indians by allowing them representation on the legislative Councils and also provided reservation to Muslims.

The Delhi Durbar of 1911

1911 was another turning point in the history of India when the **Delhi Durbar** took place to welcome King George V. He, along with his wife Queen Mary, landed at the Prinsep Ghat in Calcutta. It was the year when **the capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi** by the British in order to deal with the increasingly agitating Bengali nationalists to give a jolt to its economic and political scenario. This marked the beginning of the decline of Calcutta in national politics. The partition was therefore, undone six years later in 1911 in response to the Swadeshi and Boycott movement. **Rastraguru Surendranath Banerjee**, a moderate Congress leader, protested countrywide against the 'Partition of Bengal' and **finally compelled the British to withdraw it in 1911 through his fierce agitation nationwide.**

The outbreak of World War I (1914-1918) intensified the demand for 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence. This movement was spearheaded by **Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das** and his **Swarajjya Party** in Bengal, and Mahatma Gandhi on a national scale. C. R. Das, a key figure in Bengal, led the Non-Cooperation Movement against the British and was both the founder of the Swarajjya Party and an active member of the Anushilan Samity. His most competent disciple was **Subhas Chandra Bose**, the most important leader thereafter in Bengal, as his successor.



Chittaranjan Das



The Cell of CR Das



*The building at Alipore Jail
where CR Das & Netaji both were imprisoned*

1921-1941: Manifestation of Netaji

On his return from England as ICS, young **Subhas Chandra Bose** met **Mahatma Gandhi** and expressed his desire to work for the nation. Gandhiji directed him to join with C.R.Das. **Subhas met Chittaranjan Das** and immediately accepted him as his 'Guru', and **joined the Congress Party**. The young Subhas was made the leader of '*Bengal Volunteers*'. **Within a very short spell of his political career, he became a frontline leader of the nation.**



Subhash Chandra Bose



as Congress President



with Gandhiji at 'Haripura Congress'

In 1938, Subhas Chandra Bose was elected Congress President and articulated a vision for an independent India that conflicted with Gandhi's ideology. This led Gandhi to withdraw support for Bose's presidency in 1939 at the Tripuri Congress. Despite Gandhi's opposition, Bose won the election against Gandhi's candidate, Pattabi Sitaramayya, reflecting his peak popularity. The disagreement over the strategy for achieving freedom led Bose to resign from the Congress Presidency and form his own party, the Forward Bloc, in 1939.

Subhas Chandra Bose was imprisoned 11 times by the British, including in Kolkata and Mandalay, Burma, where he fell ill. In 1940, he was jailed again in Presidency Jail and went on a hunger strike. Fearing a severe national uprising if he died in prison, the British decided to release him and place him under house arrest instead

Subhas Chandra Bose, unwavering in his fight against injustice, made a dramatic escape from British custody one night from his Kolkata home, marking a historic '**Great Escape.**' He went abroad to build international support for India's freedom movement. In 1942, alongside Rashbehari Bose, he established the **Indian National Army (INA)** to openly challenge British rule and seek India's independence through armed struggle.

It was Rashbehari Bose, who coined the title '**Netaji**' for Subhash Chandra Bose and declared him as the supreme leader of **INA/Azad Hind Fouz**. The most important announcement made by Netaji in the history of Indian Independence was the formation of provincial '**Azad Hind Government** i.e. '**Azad Hind Sarkar**' in exile in 1943, which was recognized by nine states of the world at that time. Japan, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Manchukuo, Nanking, Philippines, Thailand, and Burma. It had its currency, postage stamps, civil code, Cabinet Ministries and declared '**Subhas Bose**' as **Head of the State /Prime Minister**. His Govt. declared War against the British.

National Flag was first hoisted in Andaman Islands (which were handed over to Netaji by Japan Government) **in 1943 by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.**



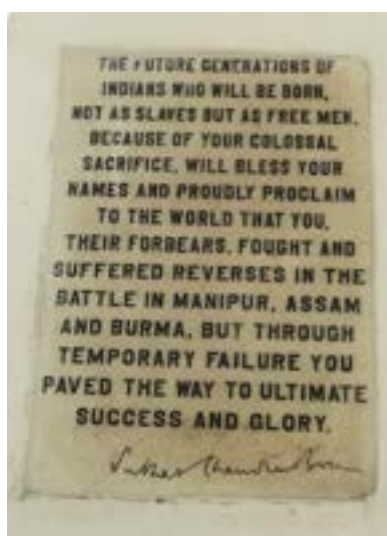
Netaji was inspecting INA contingent
PC: Netaji Research Bureau



Netaji was like a God
PC: www.rediff.com

In January 1944, Netaji Bose issued the '**Delhi Chalo**' call and led the Indian National Army (INA) into British India, capturing Kohima with Japanese support. However, the INA was defeated due to insufficient Japanese assistance and the onset of monsoon. After Japan's sudden surrender following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Bose was advised to leave Japan. He then boarded a plane aiming to reach Russia for support.

The world was shaken when **the news spread that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had died in a plane crash at Taihoku airport in 1945** while travelling in a Japanese Bomber to Russia. **However, it remains a mystery till date** as it was not supported through enough evidential proof, neither from Japan Government nor from British Indian Government. **Even Gandhiji did not believe it.** The cause of Netaji's disappearance from the world politics is still under research.



The 'Plaque' at Netaji Bhavan



Message to his countrymen

Quit India, Independence and Partition

1942 witnessed the **Quit India Movement** whereby the demand was made that the British transfer power immediately to Indians and quit India. Mahatma Gandhi and several leaders were imprisoned and the masses took over the movement also known as the August revolution. It was the most successful of all the mass movements led by Gandhi and put tremendous pressure on the British to leave the country. The Second World War (1939-1945) quickened the process of British departure. Two Japanese bombs fell at the Kidderpore Docks in Calcutta as part of the Hiroshima Nagasaki bomb blast incident in 1944-1945. The INA trials took place from 5 November 1945 in the Red Fort at New Delhi.

The Great Calcutta Killings of 1946

On 16 August 1946, Direct Action Day led to the Great Calcutta Killing, with severe violence between Hindus and Muslims causing 5,000 to 10,000 deaths and 15,000 injuries. The riots spread across Bengal and Bihar. Gandhi traveled from Noakhali to Delhi to promote peace but had limited impact on the British Government. **On the eve of Independence Day, he began a hunger strike in Calcutta at 'Hyderi Manzil' to protest the violence.** Despite the partition of India, Gandhi's 73-hour hunger strike established him as a champion of communal harmony by stopping the riots between Hindus and Muslims. 'Hyderi Manzil' is now a heritage site, renamed '**Gandhi Bhavan**'.

India got Independence

India gained independence on 15 August 1947. The Governor House was taken over by the State Govt of West Bengal. **Celebration spread all over the city and each and every house raised Indian National Flag.** The citizens thronged on to the roads of Calcutta in jubilant mood. Handing/ Taking over was done in a peaceful manner.



Independence Day at New Delhi 15 August 1947 & jubilant mood at Calcutta on Independence Day

Post-independence: Partition, Migration and the refugee crisis

India's independence was achieved along with the partition of the Bengal and the Punjab provinces. **This led to one of the largest migration of populations in history and a major demographic change in Kolkata.** The 1951 Census found only 33.2 percent of Calcutta's inhabitants to be city born. The rest, including a small group of non-Indians, were migrants; 12.3 per cent from elsewhere in West Bengal, 26.6 per cent from other Indian states, and 26.9 percent from what had become East Pakistan in 1947. **This demographic change led to an increased pressure on the city's infrastructure and resources** and the rehabilitation of the refugees constituted a major preoccupation of the state government in the 1950s and 1960s. The flow of refugees from the eastern parts of Bengal into and around Calcutta occurred in several spurts from 1947 to 1971.



Partition of India-affected states -Punjab & Bengal- Price of Independence- Refugee influx-19

The 1950s decade

The Congress dominated the political culture of the 1950s. It held the municipal body and nearly all of the legislative constituencies in the state capital. Within the Congress party there were continuous factional disputes but these were on the whole settled with the installation of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ray as Chief Minister** and Atulya Ghosh as the principal party boss. The Congress had by now established itself as the party of order, mobilizing support in its favor by appealing to its old nationalist credentials and its new programs of Nehruvian socialism. **This was a phase of positive**

direction for a new nation when Bengal /Kolkata experienced some infrastructure and economic development, employment opportunity etc., after a prolonged period of suffering. During the 1950s itself a new type of agitational politics emerged, examples of which were the strike related to the rise in tram fare (1953) followed by the Teachers' Strike (1957) and the Food Movement (1959). All of this coalesced into street politics giving a new dimension to the city's political scenario. This new form of protest politics was supported by the Communist Party of India (CPI) which emerged as the principal opposition to the Congress in Bengal.

The split in the CPI and the decade of the 1960s

The 1960s began in turmoil with the **Indo-China War in 1962-1963** leading to a massive defeat for India as an unprepared nation. This dealt a blow to the Congress and soon after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister died in 1964. In the same year a major split occurred in the Communist Party of India. It was the result of decades of tensions and factional infighting. After the split the left faction formed the Communist Party of India (Marxist). **In 1965, the Indo-Pakistani War took place leading to further migration of refugees to Calcutta. The decade ended with the Naxalbari Uprising, an armed peasant revolt in 1967.** It was mainly led by tribals and the radical communist leaders of Bengal and further developed into the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) in 1969. The Naxalite movement created a lot of violence and tensions in the city of Calcutta and later spread to other parts of India.

1970s and 1980s

1967 saw a change in government, the first since Independence. In 1969 the United Front returned to power once again but did not last long. The state repression of the **Naxalite movement between 1970 and 1975** meant that the city was a receptacle of endless violence and upheavals. Thousands of political activists were imprisoned while numerous young activists were died on police encounter.

Added to all this was the migration which resulted from the **Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971**. The elections of 1977 brought the **Left front led Government by CPI(M)** came to power and continued to remain there **for 35 years**



Jyoti Basu, the then CM, leader of CPI(M) Party addressing a meeting at Brigade Parade Ground



Political Rally by CPI(M) at street of Kolkata

PC: <https://akm-img-a-in.tosshub.com/sites/dailyo/story>

The 1970s therefore witnessed the death of colonial Calcutta and the emergence of a new city in many ways. The 1970 – 1980 was a decade of **political instability** with power cuts, rallies, bandhs, hartals etc., being a part of everyday life. The economy stagnated and the city's culture suffered. However, in spite of all negative activities, one positive action by Central Government took place, i.e., **First Metro Rail connections** in Kolkata provided much relief to the citizens for having fastest mode of conveyance.

Liberalization and its impact

The 1990s was the decade when liberalization was introduced in India. **The policy of globalization and liberalization of the economy had a great impact on every aspect of life particularly for the middle classes.** The city of Calcutta had already expanded towards the east and north east from the **1970s** when **Salt Lake** came up after filling up of the salty marshlands in east Calcutta. In the **1990s** the CPI(M) government took the initiative to build the **New Town/Rajarhat** township amidst a great deal of controversy. This was linked to its pro-capital economic policy.

However, the attempt to build a small car factory in fertile Singur with the help of the Tata Group and the subsequent controversy over the building of the Salim Group's chemical hub in Nandigram district led to widespread agitation. **The result was a change in the government after thirty-five years when the Left Front led by Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was overthrown by the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee was voted to power in the 2011 elections.**

Hence, it is a fact for the citizens of Kolkata, peaceful life is a rare commodity since British Raj and even after Independence. Education and economy suffered to a great extent, and thereby young children left Kolkata to abroad and other parts of India, in search of quality education and employment opportunity.

by

Dr. Sukanya Mitra

THEME-2- SOCIO – CULTURAL REFORM IN 20 C KOLKATA

Introduction

‘**Bengal Renaissance**’ started in the late 18th century and spanned up to the early 20th century. It was a time when cultural, social, and intellectual reform emerged in Bengal, especially in Calcutta, reached to its zenith. Surprisingly, 19th century Bengal experienced a magical manifestation of huge numbers of reformers, scholars, scientists, literary heavyweights, educationists, patriots, and freedom fighters, who ignited and contributed to this movement in various ways. **The Eastern part of India** remains a **cultural hub** since the Pre-Independence era **and it continues its legacy even in the post-Independence era**. Kolkata’s culture is the breeding ground for the literary and artistic manifestation of the new nation.

Sub -Theme – A.- Religious Reform

Religion has been integral to Indian culture since the Vedic era, and Bengal, including Kolkata, was no exception to it. In the 19th century, Bengali society was marked by rigid social customs and practices such as **Sati, polygamy, child marriage, widow oppression, and untouchability**. The early British era ushered in significant reforms in judicial system and social justice influenced by Western ideals. This period saw the **emergence of reformers** like **Raja Rammohun Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, H.L.V. Derozio, Ramkrishna Paramahamsadev, and Swami Vivekananda**, who challenged traditional practices and promoted social progress. Swami Vivekananda by establishing **Ramkrishna Mission** in 1896 also paved the way towards a much liberal Bengal and Kolkata of today through his vision of transformation of the society from conservatism, superstition, casteism etc. (Bagchi. N. (1995)-Rammohun Charcha, Maxmuller. F (2002)-Rammohun to Ramkrishna)

In the early 20th century, the focus shifted towards self-esteem, liberalization, and women's empowerment. The educated class began to move away from religious confinement to a broader humanistic approach under the influence of ‘**Young Bengal**’/ **Derozians**. Bengali society, especially in **Kolkata, increasingly embraced religious harmony among various faiths**. (H.L.V. Derozio-National Biography, Asiatic Society)

The partition of India in 1947 and subsequent riots, including the **Calcutta killings**, briefly disrupted this harmony. Similarly, the 1984 **anti-Sikh riots** following Indira Gandhi's assassination caused tensions, but these were managed by the government and were short-lived. Since then, **Kolkata has largely maintained religious harmony**.

Post-independence, Government of India enacted several laws to promote secularism and end discriminatory practices. Notably, the **Constitution of India**, (adopted on January 26, 1950), **enshrined secularism and abolished untouchability**, ensuring that all religious communities could celebrate their festivals freely and peacefully, supported by the administration.

Sub- Theme- B. Educational Reform

Backdrop of 19th Century

At the beginning of the 19th Century the University of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras were already established. The University of Calcutta functioned not merely for Bengal, but for Burma, Assam, the Central Provinces, and Ceylon. The Initial years of the 19th Century were marked by the growth of national consciousness and the **birth of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885**. This new idea

of rationalism emanating from the western education deeply influenced the youthful minds of Bengal, particularly the **Derozians**, who started the '**Young Bengal Movement**' in 1820-30. **Iswarchandra Vidyasagar**, a great scholar, social reformer and a key figure of Bengal Renaissance contributed substantially in developing the education system in Bengal. His major contribution was to simplify 'Bengal Alphabet' and to formulize 'Bengali Grammer'.

However, the history of education in Calcutta will not be completed, unless the contribution of three European educationists is mentioned, namely **David Hare**, **Alexander Duff** and **John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune**. They are the ones, who initiated in the 19th century, the wave of 'educational reform' in the country along with the Bengal Renaissance (a reformistic movement that took place in the Bengal region, from the late 18th century to the early 20th century).

David Hare (1775–1842) was a Scottish philanthropist came to Kolkata as a watchmaker. He founded many educational institutions in Kolkata, such as the **Hindu School**, **Hare School** and helped in founding **Presidency College**.

Alexander Duff ((1806 - 1878), was the first overseas missionary of the Church of Scotland to India. He also played a role in establishing the University of Calcutta. Two institutions founded by Duff, i.e., the 'General Assembly's Institution' and the 'Free Church Institution' was merged in 1908 to form the '**Scottish Church College**'.

John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune (1801-1851) established 'Calcutta Female School', the first school for girls in Calcutta in 1849, with 21 girls on its roll. 1851 onwards, this school came to be known as **Bethune School**. Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was the first Secretary of Bethune School. Since 1880, Bethune College was open to the female students of all religious backgrounds.

History of Education

Pre-Independence scenario of 20th century

The National Education Movement has been divided into the following phases by various educationists and historians. Phase 1: (1890-1904), Phase 2: Around 1905(Lord Curzon's Time), Phase 3: 1920-1922 (Non- Cooperation Movement), and Phase 4: 1937-1939 (Wardha Scheme of Education).

For the present research phase, 2-4 is of utmost importance. Lord Curzon, being appointed as the Governor-General of India in 1899, he understood the importance of India to the British Empire.

Curzon held India's very first education conference in 1901 in Shimla, where no Indian was invited. Despite all the criticism from Indian nationals, he went ahead with the recommendations of the Shimla conference through his **Indian Education Act of 1904** on primary, secondary, and higher education. The second phase of the **National Education Movement** (NEM) was characterized by the Indian Control of Universities in 1920-22. It was realized that, British ideals were good for Britain and Indian ideals were good for India.

The educated intelligentsia of Bengal no longer tolerated the insults made by Lord Curzon. This rise in the national consciousness brought forth the **National Education Movement** leading to the birth of a series of educational institutions of National importance all over India. The most important was the establishment of **National Council for Education** (NCE, renamed now as **Jadavpur University**) in Kolkata. NCE was patronized by *Raja Subodh Chandra Mallik*, *Rash Behari Ghosh*, *Tarakanath Palit* etc, and *Sri Aurobindo* became its first Principal.

(<https://www.iiests.ac.in/IIEST/MoreHistory>, <https://jadavpuruniversity.in>, <https://en.wikipedia.org>)

Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, another stalwart educationist, believed that knowledge was the only weapon that could enlighten the society from the grass root level. He favoured the western thoughts and ideas but not at the cost of indigenous culture that forms our identity. Hence, he created a modern transformed Calcutta university out of the colonial influenced system, when he became its Vice-Chancellor in 1906. **He founded Science College, Raja bazar (1914) for the Indians** to study science subjects, which was earlier facilitated to the Europeans only. Sir Ashutosh also opened the horizon of **education for mass by introducing vernacular medium for higher studies**. These epoch-making decisions were sensational achievement in the education system of India.

(Bhaduri. R (2014)-Asutosh: Vidyar Sarathi, 150th Birth- centenary publication, Asutosh Memorial Institute)

It was during this time that **Visva-Bharati** was established (1922) by **Kabiguru Rabindranath Thakur**, aiming to strike **a concord between the east and the west**, and to develop a feeling of international harmony and brotherhood. His **Visva-Bharati at Santiniketan**, was the centre of experimentation with his new educational ideas and practices, based on the traditional Indian concept of '*Gurukul*' system. The educational system of the country saw a '**new wave**' with a splendid combination of traditionalism and modernism. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>, <https://www.visvabharati.ac.in>)

The **second wave of the NEM** was more intensive and more widespread. The number of students and teachers involved was much larger, creating new national leaderships that brought in a wave of patriotic feeling among the entire Bengalees and therefore Indian community at large.

The period (1921-1937) is called **the period of Diarchy** or the rule of the two. The activities of the provincial government were divided into two. The reserved and the transferred departments. The Governor is the Head of the Provincial Government was to administer the reserved departments while the transferred departments were administered with the help of certain ministers. It was because of this division, that the Indians first obtained control of the Education Department. Despite its useful work, it was abolished in 1923, only to be revived again in 1935. **The Wood Abbot report in 1937** stressed that both vocational and general education was equally important and neither of them should be claimed as to be more useful and necessary.

Post-Independence scenario of 20th century

The most significant thing in post-independence period was the **appointment of the University Education Commission (1948-49) under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**. The report is still of great importance as it guided the development of university education in India since independence, by providing suggestions on improvement and extensions to suit future and present requirements of the country.

India was partitioned and achieved independence in 1947, after which there was a remarkable improvement in the education and research. Literacy rate increased at tremendous pace. **The new constitution adopted by free India provides 'Right to education' for all as a fundamental right for the citizens**. It encouraged Basic Education as a prime responsibility of the state governments, and the union (central) government continued to assume responsibility for maintaining the appropriate standards in higher education, research and scientific and technical education.

The number of educational institutions in India tripled during 1950s - '80s. The primary schools, in each locality of Kolkata and villages of West Bengal experienced rapid growth as the states gave highest priority to **the elementary education** to follow the constitutional directive of providing universal, free, and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14. ([Britanica.com](https://www.britanica.com))

The recommendations of the **Kothari commission** were widely discussed in Parliament out of which emerged India's first National Education Policy 1968, thereby forming the basic framework for all governmental actions though it was revised in 1986, 1992 and again in 2020. The peculiar dimension, the vastness and variedness of the country with an exploding population speaking 28 different languages and following different religions and cultures pose certain unique problems that are indigenous to India. Bengal being a part of India and Kolkata being a part of Bengal has faced all the aftermath of all these historical events and the same problems as that of greater India.

Kolkata continued to be in the forefront of the educational scene in the post-independence period as well, as quite a few institutes of repute were established during this time.

There are **several schools and colleges** emerged during this period to support the growing demand of educational thrust. Few schools and colleges for girls and boys flourished in general educations are noteworthy, like *Arya kanya Balika Mahavidyalaya* (founded to educate Marwari community in Hindi medium -1902), *Mitra Institution for Boys* (Main- 1901, Bhowanipore-1905), *Sister Nibedita Balika Vidyalaya* (1902), *Jagabandhu Institution for Boys* (1914), *Gokhale Memorial Girls' High School* (1920), *Ballygunge Govt High School for Boys* (1927), *Birla (Hindi) High School for Boys* (1941), *Modern High School for Girls* (founded by Birla Group -1952), *South-Point High School* (First Co-education School -1954), *Ashutosh College* (1924), *Moulana Azad College* (mostly for Muslim Boys -1926), *Surendra Nath College for Women* (mostly for imparting higher education to girls from partition-affected families -1948), *Lady Brabourne College* (mostly to educate Muslim Girls-1939), *Sree Shikshyatan College for Girls* (mostly for conservative Marwari community-1955) and many more.

Sub-Theme- C. Science

This was a period when Research on **Scientific innovation/discovery** reached its zenith at Kolkata. by manifestation of some genius scientists of Indian origin, who were located at this city, whose contribution to the international field was huge due to their epoch-making discoveries. To name a few-

J.C. Bose-(1907-1933)- His discovery of '**Life in Plants**' gave a new wave in the science of Botany. Other than this, Bose's experimental work in '**millimetre band radio**' has been recognized by the international organization i.e. IEEE as a '**Milestone in Electrical and Computer Engineering**'. His research and pioneering innovation on 'Radio and Microwave optics are the basis of today's radio communication /mobile technology. '**Bose Institute**' a premiere research institute of India was founded in 1917 by him. It is Asia's first modern research Centre for interdisciplinary research on science.

P.C. Roy- He was regarded as the '**father of chemical science**'. He founded the first pharmaceutical company of India '**Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceuticals**' in 1901 at Kolkata. He discovered '**Mercurous Nitrite**', which helped further research in chemistry.

C.V. Raman- He carried out the ground-breaking work in 1928, in the field of light scattering, which earned him the 1930 '**Nobel Prize for Physics**'. He discovered the phenomenon, known as '**Raman Ray scattering**', & the '**Raman effect**' in the laboratory of Indian Association of Cultivation of Science (IACS) at Bow bazar, Kolkata.

Meghnad Saha-He was an astrophysicist and a great scientist. He is famous for his development of the '**Saha ionization equation**', which describes the chemical and physical status in stars. Saha was the

first scientist who discovered the relation between a star's spectrum and its temperature. This was the fundamental requirement in the research field of astrophysics and astrochemistry.

PC Mahalanobis- He was a 'Multifaceted talent' with a special aptitude in Mathematics and Applied Statistics. He has been regarded as the '**father of modern Statistics**'. He founded the '**Indian Statistical Institute**', in 1931 which gained a status of national importance by an act of India Parliament in 1959. Mahalanobis also established the '**National Sample Survey**' in 1950.

Satyen Bose- Bose's **Planck's Law and the Hypothesis of Light Quanta** (1924) led Einstein to seek him out for a collaboration, which gave birth to '**Bose-Einstein Condensate**' a dense collection of particles with integer spin known as '**Bosons**' (named after Bose). According to a July 2012 New York Times - Bose is described as the '**Father of the God Particle.**'

Hence it is understood, **Kolkata flourished as a breeding ground for scientific research** during 20C for few geni along with many meritorious scholars, whose contributions are enormous to the World.

Indian Institute of Management Calcutta was the first (1961) management institute in India in collaboration with the MIT Sloan School of Management, the government of West Bengal, the Ford Foundation and the Indian industry. During the initial years of IIM Calcutta, several renowned academics and visionaries formed part of its core team, including Paul Samuelson, Jagdish Sheth, J K Sengupta, Peter S King, and Thomas Hill. In its initial years, IIM Calcutta operated from Emerald Bower, Barrackpore Trunk Road, Kolkata, thereafter it shifted to its new campus at Joka (1975) (Source:(https://www.iimcal.ac.in/sites/all/files/pdfs/indian_institute_of_management_calcutta20221227.pdf) (PDF). IIM Calcutta.)



Indian Institute of Management-Campus in Joka, Kolkata



Indian Statistical Institute, Baranagar campus

Sub-Theme- D. Women's Empowerment

Women's education gained significant momentum from the 19th century onwards, thanks to pioneers like Dwarakanath Ganguly, Shibnath Shastri, Ananda Mohan Bose, Lady Abala Bose, Sarala Roy, and the Jorasanko Thakur family. In 1882, Chandramukhi Bose and Kadambini Ganguly became India's first female graduates from Bethune College. Kadambini Ganguly later became the country's first practicing female doctor in 1888. By the 20th century, it was widely recognized that women, when given opportunities, could excel in various fields, demonstrating their capabilities across numerous domains. Few Institutions for Girls' education were the achievements of this era, like, '*Gokhale Memorial Girls' High School*' (1920), '*Sister Nibedita Girls High School*' (1922) '*Arya Kanya Balika Vidyalaya*' (1949), '*Modern High School*' (1952) and many more.

It is also to be noted many Women freedom fighters took part into the '**Freedom Movement**' of India along with their men counterpart, for e.g. *Bina Das*, *Kanak Das*, *Aruna Asaf Ali*, *Sarojini Naidu* etc. **Pritilata Waddadar** became the **first woman Martyr** of India.

Few important Acts of Govt of India were passed after Independence to liberate women from social oppression, like, the *Special Marriage Act 1954*, *Hindu Marriage Act 1955*, *Indian Divorce Act 1869*, *Equal rights for men and women*, *Hindu Succession Act 1956*, *Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961*, *Domestic Violence Act 498 A in 1989* etc.

Sub-Theme- E. Literature - The glorious period (1900-1947)

Children's literature played a prominent role for the first time in Bengali culture, to nurture the child's psychology and intelligentsia. *Upendra Kishore Roychowdhury*, (1913) a prominent author of this period, first ventured into children's literature and science fiction for children in Bengali. His brilliant

son *Sukumar Roy* created history by introducing non-sense poems, namely '*Abol Tabol*' which bears a satirical message to the society in a comical way. Other important writers of children's literature of this period were *Rabindranath Thakur*, *Abanindranath Thakur*, *Gaganendranath Thakur* etc.

The era of Rabindranath Tagore (1890-1940)

Rabindranath Tagore was a versatile literary giant who profoundly impacted Bengali literature with his diverse works, including poetry, plays, dance dramas, novels, short stories, essays, and over three thousand songs. He was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913** for his poetry collection '**Gitanjali**'. Renowned as '**BISWAKABI**' (World Poet), Tagore's influence shaped Bengali poetry for decades. While many of his contemporaries were influenced by him, notable figures like **Dwijendralal Roy**, **Satyendra Nath Dutta**, and **Kazi Nazrul Islam** eventually established their own identity as poet.

Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay was a prominent figure in 20th-century Bengali literature, renowned for highlighting the suffering and social injustices faced by women. His impactful works, including *Charitraheen*, *Devdas*, *Polly samaj*, and *Sree Kanta*, challenged conservative norms and contributed significantly to the women's liberation movement in India.

Effect of Freedom movement on Literature (1930-1947)

In mid-20th century Bengal, patriotism flourished, with poets like **Rabindranath Tagore**, **Dwijendralal Roy**, and **Kazi Nazrul Islam** inspiring freedom fighters through their songs. Tagore's "*Jana Gana Mana*" and "*Amar Sonar Bangla*" became the **National Anthem of India and Bangladesh**, respectively. Dwijendralal's "*Dhana Dhanye Pushpe Bhora*" remains a symbol of national pride. Kazi Nazrul Islam's rebellious poetry, such as "*Bidrohi*", and his song "*Chal, Chal, Urdha Gagan Baje Madole*" were chosen by **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** for the INA. Nazrul's other song "*Karar Oi Louha Kopat, bhenge fel kor re lopat*" also inspired many freedom fighters.

Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's acclaimed novel "**Pather Dabi**" significantly influenced India's freedom movement. Its themes closely mirrored the activities of the INA, leading to its ban by the British authorities at the time.

The fourth phase, the post-Rabindranath Tagore phase

'**Kallol era**' (1923-1930) started to give a jolt and jerk to the system of the so-called sophisticated society and to establish a new philosophy / perspective in Bengali literature with more lucid way to narrate the stories of downtrodden society. A sign of modern thought process began with Kallol era. However, this movement did not last more than seven years.

Sukanta Bhattacharya (1926-1947), another firebrand poet, shook the society with his rebellion philosophy in poetical forms, like, "**Runner**" which describes the sufferings of the common man and their struggle for existence.

Fifth phase - the post-partition phase (1947 onwards)

A new era in Bengali literature began with the rise of modernism, introducing influential novelists and short story writers. This period also saw the emergence of many women writers, reflecting a wave of empowerment. Their works vividly portrayed the post-partition and post-Independence struggles in Bengal, capturing the societal frustration, economic hardship, and growing political awareness, particularly Marxist leanings, amidst widespread corruption.

So, it is a clear indication, that change in the **culture always gets reflected in the literature** as well, as a **MIRROR of the society**.

Many literary institutions were founded to provide the treasure of Bengali literature for next generation to ponder over, such as- *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* (1908), *Rammohun Library* (1913), *Vivekananda Society* (1977) are such organizations were established as a torch bearer.

Boi-Para- a potential ‘Heritage Precincts’

Kolkata's College Street, known as ‘**Boipara**,’ is a vital part of the city’s literary heritage. This area, bustling with bookstores and second-hand rare book shops, draws students, authors, teachers, and publishers. The Publishers & Booksellers Guild, organize the ‘**Kolkata Book Fair**’ annually since 1976, Asia’s oldest and largest book fair by attendance. The iconic ‘**Indian Coffee House**’ on College Street, a popular hangout for intellectuals and students since 1947, is a cherished 20th-century cultural landmark. This vibrant area deserves recognition as a heritage precinct.



Boipara- College Street



Calcutta Book Fair

Sub-Theme F. Performing Arts

a) FINE ARTS/PAINTINGS/SCULPTURES - Bengal’s original artworks were mostly influenced by ‘**Folk Art**’, like, ‘*Patachitra*’ (Midnapore Dist.), *Terracotta* (Bankura/Birbhum Dist.), *Dhokra* (Bardhaman Dist.), *Kantha Work* (East Bengal), and a few Tribal art form, such as ‘*Alpona*’ etc. **Gurusaday Dutta museum at Joka**, established in 1940 displayed a huge personal collection of the ‘folk art of Bengal’ by the great philanthropist Gurusaday Dutta, ICS.

In 1907, ‘**Indian Society of Oriental Art**’, was founded by a few Bengali elites and a few foreign nationals, like *Ananda Coomaraswamy*, *O.C. Ganguly*, *Surendranath Thakur*, *Abanindranath Thakur*, *Gaganendranath Thakur*, *Sister Nibedita*, *Kakuzo Okakura*, etc.

In the early phase of 20th century, **Abanindranath Thakur**, propagated for various ‘Oriental style of the Art form’. Thereafter, **Nandalal Bose**, **Jamini Roy**, etc, the other stalwart artists of this era, nurtured indigenous themes as the subjects of painting based on our mythology. The credibility of these master artists also lies for **adopting even the common man as an object of Art form**, like, Nandalal Bose’s *Posters of Haripura Congress*. Nandalal Bose even uplifted a **tribal (Santhals) art form** of floor decoration i.e. ‘**Alpona**’ at Santiniketan to a very sophisticated artform with indigenous motifs.

Previously, art was seen as a domain for the wealthy and elite. However, **20th-century master artists made it accessible to the common person, by appreciating their livelihood transforming it as an art object.**

The **Artworks of Six Master artists of Bengal**, namely, *Abanindranath Thakur*, *Rabindranath Thakur*, *Gaganendranath Thakur*, *Nandalal Bose*, *Jamini Roy*, *Sailoza Mookerjee* are considered as the ‘**Art Treasures of India**’ by the Govt. of India. During Post Independence era, the legacy also continued, to name a few Artists & sculptors of late 20th century Kolkata who excelled in their respective fields are,

- Debiprosad Roychowdhury, Chintamani Kar, Bikash Bhattacharjee, Ganesh Pyne, Jogen Chowdhury, Shanu Lahiri, and many more.

To appreciate the works of these talented artists and to showcase it for public, a space for its exhibition was felt, **Lady Ranu Mookerjee** of Martin Burn & Co, came forward to establish '**Academy of Fine Arts**' (1933). At a later date, **Basant Kumar Birla** and his wife **Sarala Birla**, of Birla Group also established the '**Birla Academy of Fine Arts**' (1967).

b) DANCE - Truly, Bengal does not have a classical dance form of its own. However, there are various 'Folk Dance forms' found in various parts of Bengal since ages, like *Raibese, Jhumur, Bratachhari, Sari, Dhamail, Baul, Chau*, etc. Bengal is famous globally for **two other modern dance forms**, that emerged during 20th century.

Uday Shankar, an internationally famous dance maestro of 20th century innovated a dance form i.e. '**Contemporary Creative Dance form**' that appealed to the world for its uniqueness, by mixing Indian Classical style with Western Classical Ballet style. It has been accepted globally as '**Uday Shankar style**'. After his demise, *Mamata Shankar*(daughter) and *Tanushree Shankar* (daughter-in-law) also runs a dance school at Kolkata to maintain his legacy.

Kolkata's culture is highly influenced by the *dance form of 'Shantiniketan'* also. i.e. in general, termed as '**Rabindrik Style**', which is also a fusion of various dance forms of India and South-East Asia. This choreography was developed under the supervision of various cultural icons of the 20th century at Santiniketan and got **approved by none other than Rabindranath Tagore himself**. Again, it is a simpler form of dance, mostly based on Tagore's dance dramas or songs **to reach the common people, which is the crux of the 20th century reform in all fronts**.

New Empire Theatre (1932), *Mahajati Sadan*(est.1958), *Rabindra Sadan* (1961), *Birla Kala Mandir* (1968) are a few iconic built-form of the city, where most of the danseuses of the 20th century performed like, *Uday Shankar, Amala Shankar, Manjushree Chaki, Anadi prasad etc.*

c) MUSIC -Kolkata has a rich '**classical/semi-classical music**' heritage dating back to the 18th century, with genres like Gazal, Khayal, and Thumri popularized by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. Legendary singer **Gauhar Jaan, the first artist in India**, to have her songs recorded by **Gramophone Co., UK in 1903**, exemplifies the city's early contributions. In the 20th century, great artists such as *Pt. Vishmadev Chattopadhyay, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Pt. Gyan Prakash Ghosh and Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty* emerged from Kolkata. The city hosted its first private musical conference, the '**All Bengal Music Conference**', sponsored by *Pathuriaghata Ghosh family* in 1934. The **ITC Sangeet Research Academy**, established in 1978, continues the legacy to nurture classical music talent.

The other popular genre that emerged during this period, was due to the manifestation of the Great Poets/ Music Composers such as *Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul, Dwijendralal Roy, Rajanikanta Sen, Atul Prasad Sen*, etc. Those are famous as '**Rabindra Sangeet**', '**Dwijendra Geeti**', '**Nazrul Geeti**', '**Atul Prasadi**', '**Rajanikanter Gaan**', etc. either with patriotic spirit and bear high philosophy with each of them having their own identity. **Rabindra Bharati** an university (established at Jorasanko Thakurbari in 1961) was one of the most important institutions of 20th century to nurture and to train the people in 'Rabindrik culture' and spread it to the world. **It has a greater impact on the society compared to classical music as it reaches to the heart of millions.**

During mid-20th Century to late 20th Century, was a time when a genre of modern Bengali songs and Bengali Filmy songs in the '**light music**' category became popular created by legendary music

composers of Bengal, like *Raichand Boral*, *Pankaj Mallik*, *Hemanta Mukhopadhyay*, *S.D. Burman*, *Salil Chowdhury* etc. **Those were mostly popularized through Cinema and gramophone records.** A new culture developed through a new mode of secondary source of communication like radio, records and cinema, instead of live performance.

HMV Studio at Kolkata had a century old legacy of popularity in the field of recording songs and manufacturing records, which gave boost to this light classical music and filmy music in 20th century. The legendary people were associated with it, like *Rabindranath Tagore*, *Kazi Nazrul Islam*, *R.C. Boral*, *Pankaj Mallik*, *Timir Boron*, *Ali Akbar Khan*, *Ravishankar*, *V. Balsara*, *Gayan Prakash Gosh* etc.

However, the fact is- *“The century-old, erstwhile HMV studio in Dum Dum, which produced the country’s first recorded song in 1903, is now set to make room for residential apartments”*.

(source: The Economics Times)

Sub-Theme-G. Entertainment

a) THEATRE - The theatre is also an important part of Bengali culture since the early 19th century as a way of entertainment. However, those were mostly **commercial theatres**. At one point of time **commercial theatres failed to respond to the challenge of the times.**

Bengali Theatre reached its zenith with an intervention of a few theatrical personas, who changed the approach with many **experimental ideas**, like realistic acting skill, adopting socio-political/ socio-cultural events as a theme, one-act play, street play, and putting importance on stage lightings and stage crafts, that mesmerized the Bengali audience. **Thus, again the theatre got momentum an expression of outburst against the social-injustice.** During this time **IPTA** (Indian People’s Theatre Association) **movement** came up. *Bijon Bhattacharya’s ‘Nabanna’* produced by IPTA, cleared the path for the emergence of **‘Parallel’** or **‘Other’ theatre**.

This was the time when Kolkata audience will owe to the **‘Group Theatre movement’** also, which showcased **this medium as a form of art and adopted as a medium of spreading social message.** *Utpal Dutta’s PLT group* production, *Angar*, *Kallol*, *Tiner Talwar*, *Manusher Adhikar* etc., created a social uproar for its message to the society.

Leaving apart their positive contribution, fact remains, theatre is no longer a popular medium for entertainment at present, due to the advent of Cinema and Television. Most of the theatre halls of the city were either closed, demolished or in a bad state. Only two halls of historical importance survived and renovated after the fire hazards i.e. **‘Star Theatre’** and **‘Minerva Theatre’** which are still functioning in a moderate way.

b) CINEMA - ‘Cinema’ has emerged as one of the most interesting media arrived in the early decade of 20C in the world. Kolkata was also no exception to this.

Hiralal Sen (1866 - 1917) is the **founding father of Indian cinema**. He formed the **Royal Bioscope Company** with his brother, **Motilal Sen**. His first superhit film of course was *‘Alibaba & 40 thieves’* in 1903 under the banner of **‘Royal Bioscope’**. Hiralal Sen appears to have been a prolific filmmaker producing several films until 1913. His achievements, however, were all destroyed in a fire in 1917, a few days before his death.

(Source: Journeys in and Beyond the City: Cinema in Calcutta 1897 –1939-by Ranita Chatterjee-2011

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/westminsterresearch/>)

Thereafter came the era of Madan Theatres. **J. F. Madan**, a Parsi gentleman, who started **production of commercial films** under the banner of **Madan Theatres Ltd.** In 1907, he **constructed the first Cinema Hall in India located at Kolkata- ‘Elphinstone Picture Palace’** (renamed afterwards as ‘Minerva’, which has been demolished). From 1919 onwards this **‘Madan Theatres Ltd’** reached its peak. **They built many cinema halls in Kolkata to popularize this media**, such as- *‘Elphinstone Picture Palace’* (1907- later re-named as ‘Minerva’/Chaplin- demolished), *Madan Theatre* (later named as ‘Elite’ -Closed), *Cornwallis Theatre* (1919-later named ‘Sree’-closed), *Imperial Theatre* (later as ‘Moonlight’), *The Electric Theatre* (1920-‘Regal’ -closed and converted to KFC Shop), *Crown Cinema Hall* (1925- ‘Uttara’- closed -converted to super market), *Corinthian Theatre* (1902- later renamed as ‘Opera’), etc. **Madan Company produced several popular and super hit films too till 1937.**

During the same time another Armenian real-estate baron, **Arratoon Stephen**, in partnership with **Maurice Bandman**, an American global entrepreneur built the **‘Empire Theatre’**, later renamed as **‘Roxy’** in 1908. Bandman came to India in 1901 and made Kolkata the base of his theatrical empire upto 1905.

Humayun Properties Ltd - Madan, Arratoon, Bandman were not only who ventured in this field. **Major General Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana**, the then home minister of Nepal, set up a base in Calcutta and acquired 45 properties in the city. **New Empire** (1932) was one of them., which was popularly known as **‘Humayun Theatre’** on those days. **Lighthouse**, (1938) another cinema hall, next to New Empire, was built by an internationally famed Dutch architect, **W.M. Dudok**, under the ownership of Humayun Theatre. Warner Brothers used to run their films at New Empire from 1970 - 1989.

‘Metro Cinema’, a landmark Art Deco building located at Esplanade, Kolkata, was opened in 1935 by **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** and designed by Scottish architect **Thomas W. Lamb**. It was a popular venue for the European community during the British Raj and continued to attract Indian elites in the post-Independence era. Currently owned by a Mumbai-based firm, the cinema has undergone renovations, including the addition of a shopping center on the ground floor and a multistoried complex at the rear, to enhance its commercial viability.

‘Aurora Film Corporation’ (est. In 1905) founded by **Sri Anadi Bose** also played a significant role in film production since the silent era. They are **the pioneer in introducing documentary films** in the field of journalism. The original studio no longer exists, but recently they built a fairly large studio at Salt Lake. (Source: aurorafilmcorporation.com)

Sir B.N. Sircar, a key figure in Bengali cinema, founded **New Theatres Ltd.** in 1930 and established **NT 1 & 2 Studios in Tollygunge**, aiming to create a professionally managed film studio for Bengali films. New Theatres was a pioneering institution in Indian cinema, producing about 160-165 films in various languages. Despite its early success, financial difficulties led to its decline after 1940. The company also built two notable cinema halls in Kolkata: **‘Chitra’** (later renamed ‘Mitra,’ inaugurated by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, now a supermarket) and **‘New Cinema’** (inaugurated by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay). Both halls are now closed.

Tollygunge area turned into a **Film Industry** by the middle of the century. Other than *N.T.-one and two*, *Indra puri*, *Technicians-one and two* and many more came up and the area is fondly referred thereby as **‘Studio-para/Tollywood’ – another potential ‘Heritage Precincts’**. Bengali Film Industry of the 20th Century proved its credibility by producing ‘Commercial movies’ and ‘Art Film’ simultaneously, by the globally famous directors. However, Satyajit Ray’s **‘Pather Panchali’** surpassed

all by winning sensational **11 awards in the International Film festival** during 1955-56. **Satyajit Ray** received the '**Lifetime Achievement Award**' by the **Oscar Committee** and '**Bharat Ratna**' from Govt of India in 1992.

Between 1940 and 1980, Bengali cinema thrived, but its popularity waned in the latter part of the 20th century. The rise of big-budget, star-studded Hindi films in vibrant technicolor, produced by Bombay's film industry, shifted audience preferences away from the low-budget, black-and-white Bengali films known for their realistic storytelling. Additionally, the advent of television offered affordable home entertainment, further impacting cinema attendance. **The 1990s saw a decline in cinema's appeal, leading to the closure of many single-screen theaters, exacerbated by the rise of multiplexes like INOX and PVR.**

With the advent of 21st century, one after another single screen cinema hall are getting closed or demolished to paved the way for shopping mall /Bazar/Real estate, etc. as an alternative profitable venture -that's a pathetic situation for Kolkata's culture! Few 'single screen cinema' halls, like, *Basusree, Priya, Menoka, Bijoli, Minar* etc. are still surviving, but the future is very bleak!

In the light of Conservation of Heritage, it is felt, that few areas of the city, once popular as 'Cinema para' since the 19th century such as '**Hatibagan**' at North Kolkata (for Bengali Movies), '**Chowringhee/Esplanade**' at Central Kolkata (for English movies) and '**Bhowanipore**' at South Kolkata (for Bengali movies) may be declared as '**Heritage Zone.**'

In the 20th century, '**Nandan**,' a state government-sponsored cultural hub and the city's first multiplex, was established in 1985 to support the film industry and promote cinematic awareness. It remains a key venue for Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF). Additionally, the **Satyajit Ray Film Institute**, established in 1995 under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was set up to train filmmakers and uphold the legacy of the Bengali film industry.



Nandan- Govt-owned multiplex of Kolkata Satyajit Ray Film Institute, E.M. Bypass, Kolkata

c)TELEVISION- The advent of television in the 20th century marked a fundamental shift in visual media. Introduced in India in 1965, and with Door Darshan Kolkata starting on August 9, 1975, television became a major medium for home entertainment and journalism. **Television offered a cost-effective source of entertainment, with the added benefits of news updates, educational content, and travel programs, making it a popular choice.** This affordability and broad reach led to a decline in other media industries, such as newspapers, theatres, cinemas, and live musical events, impacting both businesses and professionals in the entertainment sector.

d) SPORTS- Kolkata is also a sports-loving city. The popular games are, Football, Cricket, Hockey, Table Tennis, Swimming, Chess, etc. However, Football is always remained at the top of the list.



Yuba Bharati Krirangan for Football



Eden Garden Stadium for Cricket

i) Football- Mohan Bagan, one of the most famous sports clubs of Kolkata, whose members are mostly Bengali. Its popularity went high when it lifted the 1911 IFA Shield defeating Yorkshire Regiment in the final and 4 other English Clubs in the competition's during previous rounds. **This victory completely changed football's status in Kolkata** (source: <https://xtratime.in/the-history-of-football-in-kolkata>). **Kolkata is one of the top football lovers' cities in the world and it has become a culture of the city.** Many Nationally famed /Olympian football players came out of this city, like, *Chunni Goswami, P. K. Banerjee, Jarnail Singh, Balaram, Shyam Thapa, Baichung Bhutia* etc.

'Yuba-Bharati Stadium' - a boost for sports- lovers was built in 1984 with a capacity of about 85,000 spectators. Thereafter, it has gone through a renovation in 2011, 2014, & 2016. **The stadium hosted the final match of the 2017 FIFA Under 17 World Cup.**

ii) Cricket- The **'Calcutta Cricket Club'** already in existence since 1792, perhaps the **second oldest cricket club in the world.** It was sometime in the mid-1880s, that a match was held between Calcutta Cricket Club (CCC) and Town Club. Young **Narendranath Dutta** (who later became Swami Vivekananda), was a member of that Town Club, **made a record by taking seven wickets alone.**

By 1920, at least 50 small clubs were up and having 'tents' over the vast Maidan. A few notable ones were, *Town Club, Aryan Club, Kumartuli Institute, Sporting Union and Bengal Gymkhana* belonged to Bengalis.

Eden Garden Stadium, established in 1864, is **the oldest and second-largest stadium in India and the third-largest in the World.** It is famous as the **'Mecca of Indian Cricket'** being the first built ground in India for its finest pitch and the lush green outfield. **It hosted World Cup Final in 1987.** During this time, a huge restoration took place including the **construction of a new Club House.** The capacity expanded from 40,000 to 94,000.

Many national/Internationally famed cricketers came out of this city, like, *Pankaj Roy, Ambar Roy, Subrata Guha, Dilip Doshi, Russy Gigiboy, Gopal Bose* etc. However, the most famous and iconic Cricketer is **Saurav Ganguly**, the **former Captain of India** and former **President of BCCI** thrived from this city. The other internationally famed woman cricketer is **Jhulon Goswami**, a **former Indian Captain** of women's National Cricket team of India.

iii) Swimming- is another passionate sport for Calcutta. There are few renowned Swimming Clubs existed since Pre- Independence era, like *College Square Swimming Club*, *Anderson Club* (Dhakuria), *Bhowanipore Swimming Club* (Puddapukur) in South Kolkata, *Calcutta Swimming Club* (**Strand Road**) in Central Kolkata and *Azad Hind Bagh* (Hedua), *Hatkholra Swimming Club* (Deshbondhu Park), *Cossipore Swimming Club*, *Tala Park* in North Kolkata. **College square swimming club (CSSC)** is one of the **oldest swimming clubs** in the history of swimming in Kolkata.

Few renowned and internationally famed swimmers came out from this city were, **Padma Bhushan Mihir Sen** (who crossed the English Channel as the first Indian male swimmer and also earned fame for swim across Seven Seas), **Padma shri Arati Saha** (who crossed the English Channel as the first Indian female swimmer), **Arjuna Awardee & Padma Shri Bula Chowdhury** (-first women to swim across seven seas in five continent and many more.



Indian Life Saving Society/Anderson Club (1922)



College Square Swimming Club (1917)

In 1922, Kolkata achieved a significant milestone with the establishment of the **Indian Life Saving Society at Anderson Club** in South Kolkata. This organization set the standards for swimmer and trainer safety, including the use of life-saving devices, lifeboats with medical aids, pilot boats, divers, and medical teams. **Anderson Club pioneered these safety measures**, which have since become mandatory under regulations by the Sports Authority of India.

Sub- Theme-H-Philanthropy

Calcutta has a legacy of Philanthropical works, since the 18th century. *Rani Rashmoni*, *Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar*, *Raja Radhakanta Deb Bahadur*, and *Prince Dwarakanath Tagore*, all were famous for their charitable works toward Education. *Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarkar*, and *Nilmoni Mitra*, along with their friends established the '*Indian School for Cultivation of Science*' at Bowbazar

To continue the legacy, in the 20th century, we found **Sir Rash Behari Ghosh** donated RS.10 Lacs for establishment of *Science College* and Rs 13 lacs for *National Council of Education* (later date renamed as Jadavpur University). Rash Behari Ghosh even donated his entire property to Jadavpur University. **Raja Subodh Chandra Mallik**, another noble personality, donated a huge amount of money to establish *NCE(JU)* and donated his palatial residence to *Calcutta University*. Many more are on the list, who donated for the benefit of these two universities, like **Tarakanath Palit**, **Sir R.N. Mookherjee**, **Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi**, etc. **Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy** also donated his entire savings and pension for the development of Research in Chemistry at *Science College*. **Prasanta Chandra Mahala Nobis** too, donated his residence and entire property at Baranagar to *India Statistical Institute*. **Deshabondhu Chittaranjan Das**, a statesman, who donated his entire property to establish a maternity home for women/children's hospitals as *Matri Sadan*. The above are mostly by individuals' contribution to the society in the **Pre- Independence era**.

In the post-Independence era, a few organizations of Calcutta became **Internationally famous** for their **welfare and charitable works for humanity**, such as- '*Ramkrishna Mission*' (1938) founded by **Swami Vivekananda**, and '*Missionaries of Charity*' (1952) founded by **Mother (St.) Teresa & 'Bharat Sevashram Sangha'** (1917), founded by **Swami Pranabanandaji**- all have their HQ in Kolkata and still continuing their welfare activities for the benefit of the mankind since their formation.



Ramkrishna Mission-Flood Relief work at village
(Source: [http:// ramkrishnamission](http://ramkrishnamission))



Mother Teresa at her Orphanage Home for destitute children
(source: *Missionaries of Charity*)



Flood Relief by Bharat Sevashram Sangha volunteers
(Source: www.bharatsevashramsangha.org)

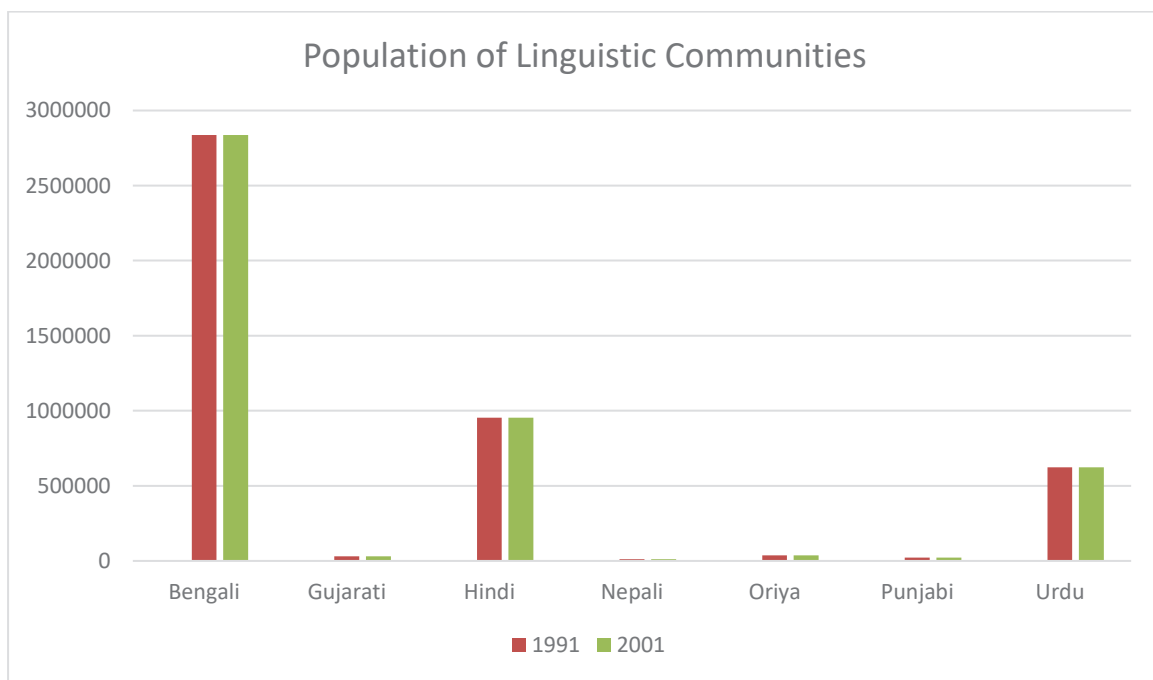
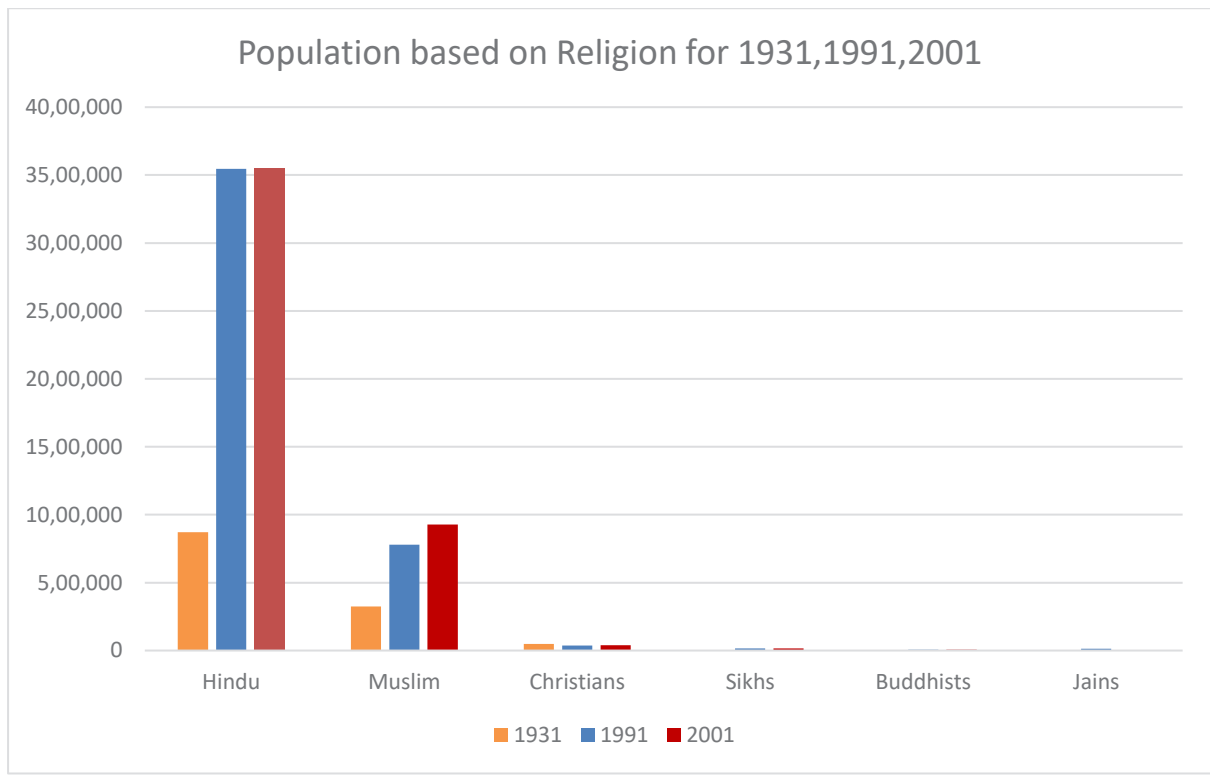


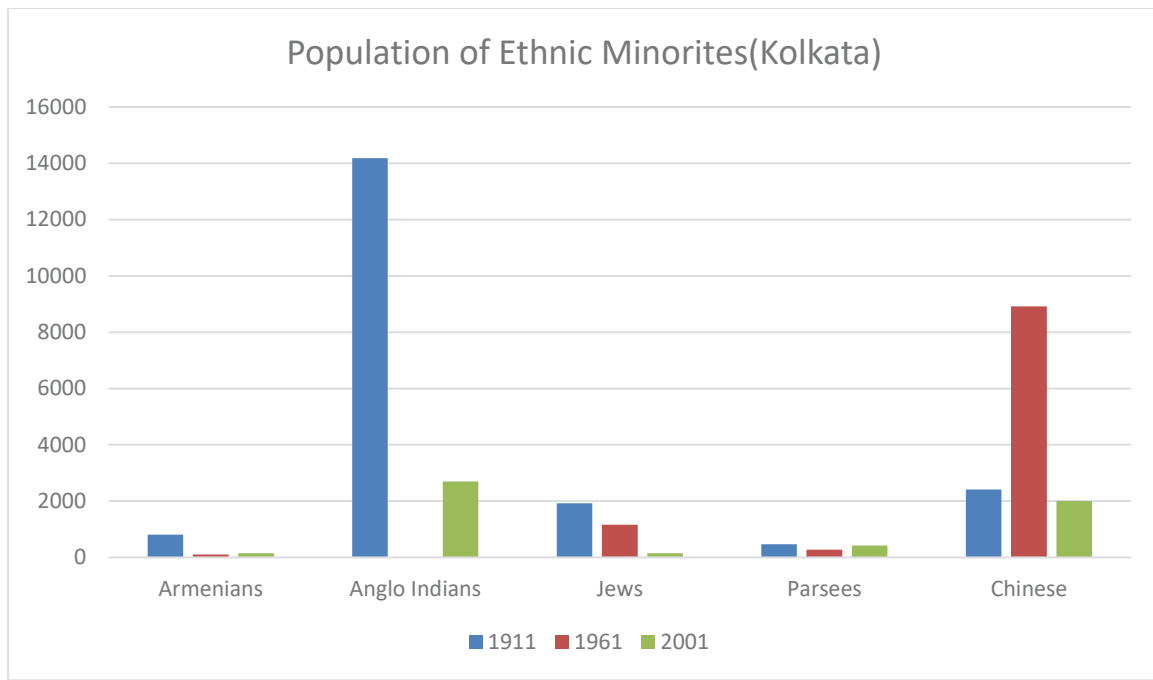
Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital- land donated by C.R. Das

It is also to be noted, *few* Industrialists/ Businesses Group also did few philanthropic works, such as many hospitals, schools, colleges, science museums, planetarium, temples, Dharamshala *by* Birla Groups, Jalan, Tata etc.

Hence, it is observed, that Kolkata had always played a pioneering role for upliftment of modern cultural system in the post-Independence scenario of India.

By
Indrani Sarkar
Dr. Mom Mitra De





Theme- 3- Multiethnicity- Calcutta and its cosmopolitan legacy

Calcutta/Kolkata has a dual identity in that it is both a Bengali as well as a cosmopolitan city. Due to its location as a port city on the river Hooghly, it has attracted migrants from all over India and the world. Like Rome, Calcutta has been an open city, a city of migrants. If we look at Calcutta's colonial past, we can identify several such groups of people who have come from other parts of the world and embraced the city as their own. These groups, like, Armenians, Jews, Parsis, Greeks, French, Italian and the Portuguese came to reside next to each other in the "grey" quarter-the buffer zone between the 'Black'(Natives) and 'White' (British) zones, i.e., mostly in and around Park Street, Theatre Road and Chowringhee area. They have contributed immensely to the city's tangible and intangible heritage and its multicultural legacy. Many of these migrant groups are also belong to Indian nationals, such as, Marwari, Gujrati, Punjabi, Tamil, Oriya and Bihari. They came here to seek their fortune and contributed to Socio- economic scenario of 20th century of Kolkata.

Foreign Nationals.

The Jews

The Jews made Calcutta their home since the arrival of an ambitious young merchant called Shalom Cohen from Aleppo via Baghdad. Most Calcutta Jews trace their antecedents to the migrants from Baghdad and other parts of the Middle East. They came to India due to its trading prospects coupled with freedom from the periodical persecution that they faced in the Middle East. The Calcutta Jewish community was set up by **Shalom Cohen** and consolidated by his son-in-law **Moses Duck Cohen**. The Jewish population had reached 1900 by the end of the century and the community began to move east and later south from their original homes in the Burrabazar area close to their synagogues, the **Neveh Shalome** (1826) and **Bethel** in Pollock Street. Towards the end of the 19th century the community moved to the selected residential areas i.e. south of Park Street and took a prominent part in Calcutta's public life.



Esplanade Mansion at Esplanade East

The name of Ezra is associated with some of the city's most prominent buildings-**Esplanade Mansions, Ezra Mansions and Chowringhee Mansions**, as well as **Ezra Street**. David Joseph Ezra had made his fortune in trading and invested much of it in prime real estate. His son Elia **David Joseph Ezra**, Calcutta's first Jewish sheriff built the **Maghen David synagogue** in 1884 on Canning Street. Other important Jewish families were the Elias family and the Cohens. Welfare organizations like the Jewish Women's League was set up in 1913. The Judean club was a recreational space for the community. It

was established in May 1929 with Lady Ezra as its president on Kyd Street. However, it closed in the 1970s due to a lack of sufficient members. In the early 1940s the Jewish population of Calcutta reached an all-time high of 3800. A central body called the Jewish Association of Calcutta was formed in 1945 with their newspaper—the *Shema*. However, soon after the birth of Israel in 1948, the Jews started leaving for their promised land and the number of Jews currently living in Calcutta can be counted by the fingers of one hand. At present, **Nahoum's Confectionery** in New Market is the only well-known Jewish establishment which is still in business.

The Armenians

Many thousand Armenian merchants started arriving in India from the eleventh century. Soon after the landing in Calcutta, they started building homes, business houses and a wharf (Armenian Ghat) next to their wooden chapel set up in 1707 on Old China Bazar Street. The **Church of Holy Nazareth**, the oldest Christian place of worship standing in the city on Armenian Street was built in 1724. Many of the Armenians were great builders and property dealers. For instance, the foundation stone of **Park Mansions** on Park Street was laid in 1910 which was built by **Thaddeus Merope Thaddeus**. Park Street has at least three other buildings credited to the Armenians. **Stephen Court** (1924) and **Queen's Mansion** (1920) at Park Street were built by **Aratoon Stephen**, another Armenian business tycoon, who also built **the Grand Hotel** at Chowringhee Road. The main façade of the Grand Hotel on Chowringhee Road was built in 1911. These four magnificent buildings were conceived as a landmark architectural marvel of the city.



Queen's Mansion at Park Street

Close to the Olympia Pub on Park Street is the Masonic (Freemasons') Lodge and Hall, built by **Johannes Carapiet Galstaun** in 1928 and it has a lot of historical documents and rare books in its library but the building is not open to the general public.

The Parsis

A thousand strong Parsi community have been living in Calcutta from time immemorial. They have made their mark in entrepreneurship, industriousness and sportsmanship. The earliest known and recorded history of a Parsi in Calcutta commences in 1767 with the arrival of **Dadabhoy Behramji Banaji** from Surat. Known as 'Banaji Seth', he was the doyen of the Banaji family which made a deep mark in the commercial and industrial history of Bengal. The person who truly raised the name of Banaji to legendary heights was **Seth Rustomji Kawasji Banaji** who settled here with his family in 1838. Shipping was the cornerstone of his trading activity. In 1837 he bought the **Calcutta Docking Company or the Khidirpur Docks**. Rustomji Banaji built the **first fire temple** at no 26 Ezra Street in

1839. Many other illustrious families flourished alongside the Banajis or followed in their footsteps. **Seth Jamshedji Framji Madan** was one of the pioneers of the Indian film industry. From 1919 onwards this ‘**Madan Theatres Ltd**’ reached its peak. They **built many cinema halls in Kolkata** to popularize this media. **Madan Company produced several popular and super hit films too till 1937.** Other than these, Parsi families lead the two most profitable industries in the city---shipping and jute. The Parsi community acted as a catalyst to the British and when they left India, the prosperity of the Parsi community declined. Some of them continued to live in Calcutta and continued to contribute to its rich community and cultural life. **V. Balsara**, a legendary pianist and music composer of the 20th century, was from Parsi community, settled in Kolkata, who contributed a lot for film industry of Kolkata and Mumbai.



Minerva/ Chaplin Cinema Hall (demolished)



Madan Theatre/ Elite Cinema at Dharmotalla

The Chinese

The first Chinese settler in India, **Yong Atchew** came only in 1780 and built the village of Achipur fifteen miles south of Calcutta and drew people to work for him in his sugar mills. After his death the Chinese community were noticed for their shoemaking and other mechanical skills. They soon flourished as a community and inhabited certain parts of the city like the **Tiretta Bazar** area (parts of Phears Lane, Rabindra Sarani and Poddar Court) in central Calcutta and **Tangra** in east Calcutta where they worked in the several tanneries set up by them. The **leather industry** along with hairdressing, dentistry, shoemaking and carpentry are the sectors where a lot of contribution from Chinese population were found. The **food-processing** and **pharmaceutical industries** also witness a major Chinese presence. The old Chinatown in central Calcutta is dotted with **Chinese temples** such as the **Toong On Church, Nam Soon Church, the Sea Ip Church, Gee Hing Church, Sea Voi Yune Leong Futh Church, Hsuan Tsang Monastery.** Although the term church or monastery is used in naming them, these temples follow traditional Chinese religion and together they form a mosaic of Chinese practices and culture in the city. In India, Kolkata is the only place to have a flourishing China Town. With time more migrants settled in Kolkata, making **Tangra- a thriving Chinese hub**, famous for restaurants and tanneries.



Entrance to Tangra



Sea Ip Temple at Tiretta Bazar

The Anglo-Indians

The Anglo-Indian community in Calcutta, emerging prominently in the 18th century from British and Indian heritage, was officially recognized in 1911. They thrived due to their proficiency in English and Western lifestyle, establishing themselves primarily in education, with key figures like social reformer and poet **Henry Louis Vivian Derozio**, founder of the '*Young Bengal*' movement. They also made notable contributions to railways, telegraphs, postal services, the military, and music, exemplified by **John Meyer**, a composer with the Indian Symphony Orchestra and later the London Philharmonic Orchestra. **Neil O'Brien's** impact on education and quizzing is well-regarded, though his son **Dereck O'Brien** later pursued politics. Anglo-Indian women contributed in nursing and teaching as well. In Calcutta, their vibrant cultural presence is evident in **Bow Barracks**, known for their unique Christmas celebrations. However, post-1947, many migrated abroad, yet some stayed back in India.



Bow Barracks of Anglo-Indian Community

The Scots

Calcutta has a notable Scottish heritage, with Scots arriving in the city as early as the 18th century. As administrative power transitioned from the East India Company to the British crown, many Scots served as writers in the administration and left their mark in politics, education, missionary work, trade, and philanthropy. Reverend **Alexander Duff**, a Scottish missionary, founded the General Assembly Institution in 1830, which later became Scottish Church College. Duff's legacy includes Duff College, now the Jorabagan police station, Duff School, and a street named in his honor in north Kolkata. Philanthropist **David Hare** helped establish Hindu College, now Presidency University, and his contributions are also commemorated by Hare School, founded in 1867.

Saint Andrew's Church, or Kirk, in Dalhousie reflects Calcutta's Scottish heritage. Designed by Burn, Currie and Company, it opened in 1818 as a place of worship for Scottish Presbyterians. Scots played a key role in developing the jute industry, with **Margaret Donnelly** founding Calcutta's first jute mill in 1855. Scottish contributions also include trading firms like **Andrew Yule**, **Balmer Laurie & Co.** and **Gillanders' Arbuthnot & Co.**

On the west bank of the River Hooghly, the Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose **Indian Botanical Garden** in Shibpur was established in 1787 by Scotsman **Lt Colonel Robert Kyd**. The **Roxburgh House** within the garden honors **Dr. William Roxburgh**, another Scotsman who significantly expanded the garden's collection and advanced Indian botanical studies through his notable contributions.

The **Scottish Cemetery** in Kolkata, established around 1820 for the burial of Scots, was once in a state of disrepair. It has since been restored by the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust.



Roxburgh House, Shibpur



Scottish Cemetery, Moulali



Yule House, BBD Bagh



Balmer Lawrie House, BBD Bagh



Gillander House, BBD Bagh

The Greek



Greek Orthodox Church at Kalighat

Between 1768 and 1778, during the conflict between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, many Greeks were displaced from their homes in Philippou Polis and Adriano polis (now part of Bulgaria). A significant number of Turks and Greeks migrated eastward, with many settling in Calcutta, which was emerging as a key trading port under the East India Company. **By the early 20th century, a substantial Greek community had established itself in Calcutta,** contributing to the city's cosmopolitan character with their skills in shipbuilding and other businesses. In 1924, the local Greek community closed their Amratala church and relocated to Kalighat, where they constructed a new church in the style of a Greek

temple. The foundation stone was laid on November 3, 1924, and the church was inaugurated on November 19, 1925. This church, now known as the **Greek Orthodox Church**, is the only remaining relic of the Greek settlement in the city. Its construction was funded by the Greek mercantile house **Ralli Brothers**, known for its silk, cotton, and timber businesses.

The British

When discussing the various ethnic groups that shaped the city, it's important to acknowledge the British contribution. Although their rule in India was primarily driven by economic and commercial interests, they played a **significant role in the development of Calcutta**, which was their first capital city. The British invested in key infrastructure, including the Howrah Bridge, Central Avenue, and Circular Road. They introduced postal services and railway connections, enhancing communication across India. Additionally, they established a drainage system, dug canals and water bodies, and introduced electrically operated trams in the early 20th century to improve the civic amenities.

The Lottery Committee (1817-36) and the Fever Hospital Committee were crucial in transforming Calcutta from a village to a planned city during the 19th century. The Calcutta Improvement Trust (1911-1960) further stressed by focusing on housing and slum improvements. As a result, southern areas of the city, such as Ballygunge, Alipore, and Dhakuria Lakes, developed significantly in the early 20th century.



Howrah Bridge and Howrah Railway connections are two major infra-structure developed by the British



Introduction of public transport -Electric Tram



Filtered drinking water supply



Calcutta Maidan – the only lungs space

Indian multi-ethnic society

The Marwaris

The Marwaris, a thriving community in Calcutta since the 19th century, migrated from Western India seeking opportunities. They initially settled in **Burrabazar**, becoming key players in the city's economy, particularly in the jute and cotton trades. Prominent families like the **Singhanias**, **Sarafs**, **Jalans**, **Poddars**, and **Birlas** established themselves by the early 20th century at Kolkata. They founded the **Marwari Association** in 1898 and the **Marwari Chamber of Commerce** in 1901. In 1918-19, **Swarupchand Hukumchand** and **G.D. Birla** established jute mills, while **Keshoram Poddar** acquired a cotton mill. As tensions rose between British and Indian business interests, the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)** was formed in 1929 by the Marwari associates and **G.D. Birla as its President**. The community enriched Calcutta with numerous educational, charitable, and cultural institutions, including the Birla Planetarium and Birla Mandir. They built their mansions inspired by memories of Rajasthani architecture on MG Road and C.R. Avenue at Central Kolkata. Today, however many Marwaris have moved out of that area and settled to southern part like Ballygunge, Alipore, Camac Street, Shakespeare Sarani etc.



Marwari Hospital



C.R. Avenue- imported architectural style from Rajasthan



Burrabazar, is one of the oldest and busiest wholesale market in Kolkata dominated by Marwari community since pre-independence era, that has developed into a commercial hub from a humble textile market. It is one of the largest wholesale markets in India. **Marwari Hospital** was established in 1919 for providing medical services to the community as a bold move against the British towards the Indians.

The Sikhs

The Sikh community in Calcutta has a long history, with both Guru Nanak and Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh believed to have visited the city. By the early 20th century, Calcutta's growing opportunities, driven by its port and improved transport links, attracted many Sikhs. Many served in the British Indian Army or worked as taxi drivers. The Sikhs are known for their neutral role during Calcutta killing. The Jagat Sudhar Gurudwara (1944) provided shelter to both Hindus and Muslims during the riots. This community is mostly visible in Bhowanipore and Charaberia in the South Kolkata. Post-independence era, the Sikhs shifted their business from transport to heavy vehicle industries and settle in suburbs like Behala, Dum Dum, and Dunlop. Despite the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, over 30,000 Sikhs in Kolkata settled and maintain their culture while actively participating in the city's diverse festivities.



Gurudwara, Rashbehari Avenue



Khalsa High School, Bakulbagan

Punjabi Cuisines are part and parcel of Kolkata and **Punjabi Dhaba's** are very popular destinations for food lovers. Most popular ones are Azad Hind Dhaba. **Calcutta Punjab Club** is one of the top most club of Kolkata. Sikh Community also opened their **Khalsa Schools** to teach the 'Gurmukhi' languages to the young children and the community celebrates the **birthdays of Guru Nanak, Guru Gobinda Singh** by taking out processions on Kolkata roads with pomp and grandeur. (Gupta, R(2018)- The Sikhs of Kolkata: How they became an Integral part of the city. [https:// the bengalstory.com](https://thebengalstory.com))

Others

Several communities have enriched Kolkata's cultural fabric, including Gujaratis, Tamils, Bihari, Oriya, Assamese etc. The Jain Communities & Tamil community also contributed to the city's architectural heritage by building their place of worship, like, **Parswnath Temple** and **Vaikuntha Temple**

Kolkata is renowned for celebrating various religious festivals, reflecting its diverse culture. Durga Puja, Christmas, and Eid are particularly significant, bringing communities together and boosting tourism and the local economy. Other festivals like Holi, Diwali, Muharram, etc. are also celebrated with enthusiasm. Amongst these, **Durga Puja stands out**. Once a private ritual of affluent families, it has evolved into a city-wide celebration i.e. '**Sarbojaneen**' open to all, transcending caste and class. Today, Durga Puja is not just a religious and social event but also a major economic driver, generating approximately ₹25,000 crore annually. In December 2021, Kolkata's Durga Puja was inscribed on **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage** list.

Conclusion

Thereby, it can be said that Calcutta's multi-ethnicity portrays shared built - heritage of many cultures and contributes not just the Bengali community but for several other communities since long and forms a healthy cosmopolitan character to its diverse and shared multicultural fabric – *Truly a City of Joy!*

by

Dr. Sukanya Mitra & Indrani Sarkar

Rapid Urbanization & Growth of Calcutta in 20th century

Introduction

When the first governor-general, Warren Hastings, transferred all essential offices from Murshidabad to Calcutta in 1772, the city became the capital of British India.

Calcutta's population in 1706 was estimated to be between 10,000 and 12,000 people. By 1752, it had risen to about 120,000 people, and by 1821, it had risen to 180,000. The White (British) Town was constructed on raised and drained ground. The British portion of the city was dubbed the "city of palaces" because of its abundance of palaces. In Calcutta, two separate areas—one British, the other Indian—coexisted.

The construction of railways (which began in 1854) has accelerated the growth of business and industry. The Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Peshawar (now Pakistan) was constructed about this time. Calcutta's Indian sector grew into a bustling commercial center, attracting visitors from all over India and Asia. Calcutta became the subcontinent's intellectual capital.

Town Planning in Pre-Independence era

On the 2nd of January 1912, the **Calcutta Improvement Act** of 1911 went into effect.

In September 1912, E P. Richards was appointed Chief Engineer of the CIT and given the task of preparing a scheme of main roads of fundamental importance to Calcutta and its suburbs.

Richard produced the first Calcutta planning document, which was published in 1914 from England under the title '**Report on the Condition, Improvement and Town Planning of the City of Calcutta and Contiguous Areas**'. This report is a defining moment in Calcutta's planned growth, as it incorporates European ideas about town planning that emerged in the early twentieth century.

Richards proposed a **Town Planning Act** as a supplement to the Calcutta Improvement Act of 1911, which would cover both the suburbs and surrounding areas, as well as the inner city.

Over the next forty years, the CIT implemented over a hundred road improvement, area development, slum rehousing, parks, and playgrounds initiatives, making a genuine effort to improve circumstances within the municipal limits as defined at the time. Despite the Trust's inability to establish any major diagonal roads, as indicated by Richards, **Park Street was extended, Shyambazar Street was improved, and Bhupen Basu Avenue was created. The creation of a new north-south arterial route, Central Avenue, was its crowning achievement (now Chittaranjan Avenue and Jatindra Mohan Avenue). In north Calcutta, it erected Vivekananda Road and B.K. Pal Avenue, and in south-east Calcutta, Dr Sundari Mohan Avenue. It built Southern Avenue and the Dhakuria Lakes (Rabindra Sarobar) in the field of new area development, as well as East Calcutta and the Beliaghata Lake (Subhash Sarobar) in the field of planning and development in Calcutta.**

The Area Improvement Programme in **Bhabanipur, which saw an old residential neighbourhood updated to modern town planning requirements, was no less significant.** The new civic center in Ultadanga and Dhakuria were also built by CIT.

Civic & Public Services-

During the first half of 20th Century, Calcutta experienced induction of many new civic amenities and infrastructure development to improve the life of the citizens. Such as-

Role of Kolkata Municipal Corporation in Pre- Independence Era

The Calcutta Corporation was founded in 1727. The passage of an Act in 1794 for raising funds through different means, including hosting public lotteries, was the next step in the slow evolution of the Calcutta

Corporation. In the early nineteenth century, a 'Lottery Committee' was formed to oversee the cash raised and to plan and carry out initiatives for the benefit of the town. During this time, new roads were built, old ones were improved, tanks were dug, and old ones were filled. The Committee's work came to an end in 1836.

In the year 1847, the election system for city management was established. Municipal governance was vested in a body comprising of all the justices of the town as well as all the justices of the provinces who were inhabitants of Calcutta in 1863, which was a significant step forward. When the Corporation was reorganised in 1876, the election system was given emphasis. The Municipal border was expanded in 1888 when the South East of the Circular Road was added.

When Surandranath Banerjee was the Minister for Local Self-Government in 1923, the most significant modifications were made. According to the Act, a mayor would be elected each year to preside over the Corporation's sessions, which would now include a mayor, deputy mayor, five aldermen, and 90 councillors.

Infrastructure Development in Post Independence era

- The four **Strand Warehouses** were constructed between 1901 and 1903, during Calcutta's boom time, these were the city's moorings on the Hooghly. An important and busiest area for the clearing and forwarding agents, when maritime trade was in boom for Calcutta Port
- Construction of **Tala Tank by KMC- Overhead Water Reservoir** to store the distilled water of River Hooghly from Palta Water Works to meet the demand of the entire population of the city (1909-1911).



Figure 1: Tala Tank

Source: www.asianage.com/metros/kolkata/240417/tala-water-tank-to-be-revamped-for-1st-time.html

- **Howrah Bridge (1943)** – connecting the city with Howrah, the opposite bank of River Hooghly. Renamed as '**Rabindra Setu**' in 1965. **The bridge is currently one of the world's busiest bridges.**



Figure 2: Howrah Bridge

Source: indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/destination-of-the-week/as-kolkatas-iconic-howrah-bridge-turns-75-here-are-some-lesser-known-facts-about-the-unique-bridge-5052203/

- **Electrification of Street Lights** – Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation installed high-power Keith lamps with 1000 candle power on Corporation Street (now S.N. Banerji Road) and Chourangi in 1914. Electric street lamps were introduced in Maniktala the same year, Garden Reach, in the year 1924. The first **Alternating Current (AC)** plant came up at Ultadanga Station in September 1910. The Kashipur (Cossipore) station commissioned in July 1912. Other large plants followed. Old DC plans were converted into sub-stations.

Civic Amenities

- **Establishment of Municipal Market:** Lansdowne Market was opened in 1903, Sir Charles Allen Market in north Calcutta in 1910, and the College Street Market in 1917
- **Parks:** The first planned parks were set up by CIT after 1911. Park Circus Maidan, Deshapriya and Deshabandhu parks were made.
- **Two large artificial lakes:** Rabindra Sarobar at Dhakuria, excavated between 1926 and 1939, and Subhash Sarobar at Beliaghata, planned in 1939.



Figure 3: Rabindra Sarobar Lake

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabindra_Sarobar#/media/File:An_artist_draws_in_front_of_lake.jpg



- Rickshaw was brought into the city around 1900 to negotiate the flooded streets.
- Departmental stores like **White away Laidlaw and & Co** (now known as the Metropolitan building) built in early 1900s, **Hall & Anderson** much altered from the original complex built in 1925. The elite retail trade of Calcutta flourished in the early 20th century and these upscale establishments were household names across India and Britain.

Improvement on Public Transport system-

- Calcutta Tramways Company Limited (CTC) **introduced first electric tramcar** in 1902 which ran from Esplanade to Khidirpur. Subsequently many tracks were laid.
- **CTC also began bus services.** As did Walford transport Limited, they later introduced double decker busses in 1926.
- **Taxis** appeared in Calcutta in 1906. Rules governing their operation were framed in 1910.

Public Health Engineering

Drainage, Sewerage and Waste Disposal

- Combined system for the disposal of **storm water drainage as well as sewage system** was proposed in 1855, sanctioned in 1859. Under the **Suburban Sewerage Scheme** executed between 1891 and 1906, 12.5 square miles in the newer southern areas of the city were brought under sewerage. New pumping station was constructed at Baliganj.
- Dr. Birendranath Dey proposed a new scheme for both the **outfall and internal drainage system.** It took much needed separation of storm water and dry weather flows. It was commissioned in 1943.
- **Due to the fact that the ground profile of the city slopes away from the river Hooghly towards east,** Calcutta suffers from water logging in the rainy seasons. The reasons behind is that the city expanded towards east in an unplanned manner chocking the natural drainage system through East Kolkata Wetlands.

Public Health Care Facilities

- The foundation stone of **School of Tropical Medicine** was laid by Lord Carmichael (1914)
- **The first College of Medicine cum Hospital opened exclusively for Indians, namely Carmichael Medical College (R.G. Kar Medical College& Hospital) -1916**



Figure 4: R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital



Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._G._Kar_Medical_College_and_Hospital#/media/File: R._G._Kar_Medical_College_&_Hospital_during_Covid-19_01.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._G._Kar_Medical_College_and_Hospital#/media/File:R._G._Kar_Medical_College_&_Hospital_during_Covid-19_01.jpg)

- **J. B. Roy State Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital**, Kolkata, established on February 10, with a dream, dedication, and devotion of **Kaviraj Jamini Bhusan Roy** - the **oldest Ayurvedic academic institute of the country**. The foundation stone of the institute was laid down by Mahatma Gandhi- 1916
- C.R.Das donated his property for the establishment of the first maternity hospital as **“Chittaranjan Matri & Sishu Sevasadan”**- 1922-24
- **All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health**, is a pioneering Indian institute for research and training in public health and allied sciences in Kolkata. It was established on 30 December 1932 with assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Growth of Calcutta in the Post-Independence era

Infrastructure development

- **Eastern Metropolitan Bypass- A Link Road from extreme North to South** was constructed at the eastern fringe of Kolkata which has become **a lifeline of the city**
- An underground rapid transit system i.e. **Kolkata Metro** Rail project was introduced in 1984, to ease the traffic movement. Foundation stone was laid by Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in 1972. It was running between Belgachia to Tollygaunge initially. Later on, it is extended up to Dumdum/ Noapara at Northern end and New Garia /Patuli at Southern end.



Figure 5: Kolkata Metro

Source: www.altnews.in/atal-bihari-vajpayee-passenger-indias-first-ever-metro-claimed-pm-modi/

- **2nd Hooghly Bridge-/ Vidyasagar Setu** (1992)- a Bridge over River Hooghly has come up between Kolkata and Howrah to reduce the traffic load on Howrah Bridge/ Rabindra Setu.



Figure 6: Vidyasagar Setu

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vidyasagar_Setu#/media/File:Vidyasagar_Setu_-_Kolkata_2014-07-11_7360.JPG

Parks

- **Nicco Park** (1991)-is an amusement park located in Jheel Meel, Sector - IV of Salt Lake City, Kolkata. It was created to attract tourists to the state by providing Children's recreation as well as educative entertainment zone.



Figure 7: Nicco Park

Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File: Nicco_Park_16.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nicco_Park_16.jpg)

- **Millennium Park**, Strand Road (1999) – A recreational park for the citizens of Kolkata on the bank of Hooghly constructed by KMDA to mark the millennium.



Figure 8: Millennium Park

Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Park_\(Kolkata\)#/media/File:Millennium_Park_\(Kolkata\)_20170924_095149.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Park_(Kolkata)#/media/File:Millennium_Park_(Kolkata)_20170924_095149.jpg)

Area Development

In the year 1948, after partition of India, Calcutta was flooded with refugees from East Pakistan.

In 1951, the southern part of **Tollyganj** was added to the boundary of Calcutta. In 1984, the Municipality of **Garden Reach**, the South Suburban Municipality of the **Behala** region and many non-municipal areas were added to the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

The total area under Corporation became 187.33 sq. km from earlier 104 sq.km.

Emergence of Refugee Colony –

Unorganized /unplanned growth emerged due to sudden burst in population in the fringe area, mostly at southern part of Kolkata, i.e. Dhakuria, Jadavpur, Bijoygarh, BaghaJatin, Garia etc. The refugees had taken over the outskirts, such as Tollyganj, Jadavpur, and Garia, and turned them into a completely different environment. These colonies provided a significant challenge to the city's planning and development in the decades that followed not only a mess in the cityscape as also a great trouble for socio-economic sector. As a result, a huge linear development of **unauthorized/temporary shops /kiosks by the hawkers (mostly by therefugees) all along the major roads of the city occupying the footpath** came up, hampering the city's civicamenities. State Administration had no options other than accepting those as, to give the employment opportunity for this huge influx was next to impossible

Over and above, Calcutta also possessed certain '**Slum Area**' since the beginning of 19th century, almost in all the locality as a residential quarter for service people.

These two problems were the major hindrance for the city of Calcutta in the Post Independence era, which was once could boast of as a city next to London.

Two organizations which were responsible for City planning since British Regime Calcutta Municipal Corporation and Calcutta Improvement Trust were unable to tackle this huge pressure due to insufficient capacity.

Thereby, State Govt of West Bengal decided to establish two more Planning Authorities, such as-

- Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) identified in 1964
- Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) set up in 1971.



Role of CMPO & CMDA

By the 1950s, Calcutta's civic amenities were severely strained and, in any event, grossly inadequate. At the same time, cholera epidemics ravaged Calcutta, drawing the attention of the World Health Organization. The WHO sent a consultant team to Calcutta in 1959, led by Dr. Abel Wolman, to look into the city's water supply and sanitation. The team emphasized the critical need for water supply and environmental sanitation system rehabilitation and development.

As a result **on the WHO's initiation, the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMPO) was established as a planning organization for Greater Calcutta.**

The West Bengal government established the CMPO in 1961 in response to the painful realization that 'Calcutta is a city in crisis,' with a chronic shortage of basic utilities such as water supply, sewerage, and drainage, as well as community facilities such as schools, hospitals, parks, and recreation spaces. Its transportation system was inadequate and overloaded, and there was a severe housing shortage, with slums and squatter colonies developing.

CMPO Basic Development Plan made in 1966-1986.

The CMPO identified a 460-square-mile (1191.4-square-kilometer) area that included two municipal corporations, 33 municipalities, and 37 non-municipal urban areas, all of which formed a linear urbanized sprawl (the Calcutta Urban Agglomeration) on both sides of the river Hugh, with significant rural stretches interspersed. This complete area, presently known as the **Calcutta Metropolitan District (CMD)**, was used as the planning foundation for the upcoming development plans. In 1961, the CMD had a population of 6.62 million, compared to 2.93 million in Calcutta city.

In September 1965, the CMPO drafted and published its "Memorandum on Development Plan: CMD 1966-7," which corresponded to the Government of India's Fourth Five-Year Plan. That brief document was, in fact, **Calcutta's first comprehensive planning statement**, including the entire district. This historic document established the first physical plan framework for the so-called '**Greater Calcutta' or Metropolitan Area.**

In 1971, the **Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA)** was established to coordinate planning and development operations within the CMD in the face of persisting urban challenges as well as social, political, and economic turmoil. Although much of the authority for funding and development has lately been passed to the municipalities, the CMDA has emerged as the most powerful apex body for urban planning and development in the Calcutta region.

Role of Kolkata Municipal Corporation in Post- Independence era

The Calcutta Corporation was taken over by the West Bengal government in March 1948. With the passage of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951, a new chapter in the Calcutta Corporation began on May 1, 1952. The Corporation was envisioned as a policy-making, directive, and rule-making entity under the new Act. In January 1984, the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act 1980 took effect, replacing the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act 1951.

Bidhannagar

Bidhan nagar/Salt Lake City- a neighborhood concept adjacent to main city has come up to accommodate the demand of housing for the expanding population (conceptualized under the leadership of the then CM Bidhan Chandra Roy) -1958-65

The Irrigation and Waterways Department of the Government of West Bengal was responsible for the development and construction of Bidhannagar. This planned city was first under the jurisdiction of the South Dum Dum Municipality, then the Public Works (Metropolitan Development) Department, which was renamed

the Urban Development Department in 1991. Sector I, Sector II, Sector III, and Sector IV were designated as Residential Townships, while Sector V was designated as an Industrial Area.

Rajarhat/New Town

Rajarhat/New Town is a planned satellite city of Kolkata, developed by NKDA (conceptualized under the leadership of the then Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu)-1990

Public Health Care Facilities in Post –Independence era

- Bellevue Clinic/Multi specialty Hospital- An M.P. Birla foundation healthcare facility opened for the citizen of Kolkata-1967
- The Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI) is one of the biggest multispecialty hospitals in Kolkata & is the flagship hospital of CK Birla Hospitals. For over 50 years this hospital has been providing unmatched health care service to millions of patients from different parts of India-1969

Conclusion

Kolkata is the seventh-most populous city in India, with a population of 4.5 million residents within the city limits, and a population of over 14.1 million residents in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area. The Kolkata metropolitan area is spread over 1,886.67 sq.km (728.45 sq mi). Kolkata, which is under the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), has an area of 206.08 sq.km (80 sq mi).



Figure 9: Development of Calcutta from 1690 – 1996

by
Adris Naskar

Theme-4B -Built Heritage

EVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN 20th CENTURY CALCUTTA

Continuation of Colonial Architecture through the early 20th Century

Architecture of public buildings of 19th Century colonial Calcutta was largely Neo-Classical in style with varying degrees of eclecticism. The neo-classical style, a symbol of Imperial power, continued well into the mid-20th century, till the Indian Independence, in Calcutta. Surrounding the Tank Square or Dalhousie Square, the chief administrative neighbourhood of the British, rose imposing Neo-Classical buildings like the **Royal Insurance Building** (1902-05) and the **Hong Kong House** housing HSBC Bank built by Martin & Co. (1914-15) in the Edwardian style, the Renaissance style **Oriental Assurance Building** on Clive Street (1914) and the **Imperial Department of Commerce & Industry** on Council House Street with its Greco-Roman façade (1911). Less grand but equally important in the creation of a Neo-Classical urban texture in and around Dalhousie Square were structures like the **Balmer Lawrie Headquarters** (1909) and the **Royal Exchange** on Clive Street built by TS Gregson of Gregson, Batle & King (1916-18), **Turner Morrison & Co** on Lyon's Range (1924). Public buildings in other parts of the city, also following European classicism include the **West Bengal Legislative Building** (1927-1931) at BBD Bag, built by London based firm J. Graves along with Martin & Co.



Figure 1 a) The Royal Insurance Building. Source: https://live.staticflickr.com/3475/3927442861_57b2e1d056_b.jpg
b) The Oriental Assurance Building. Source: www.double-dolphin.blogspot.in

Completed in 1921, Lord Curzon conceived the **Victoria Memorial Hall** to be built in the Neo-Classical style. He felt it that no other style would be befitting of a memorial for the Queen, under who's reign 'splendour reached its zenith'. Though the Victoria Memorial Hall as it stands today has Indo-Saracenic elements, it is Neo-Classical in spirit.

Private buildings in the city were also inspired by European Classicism. In Chowringhee, the **Metropolitan Building** (1905) was built in the Neo-Baroque style. The **Young Men's Christian Association** (1905), **Bengal Club** (1908) were also classically inspired. On Park Street, multi-storeyed mixed-use structures like **Park Mansions** (1910), **Galstaun Mansion** or **Queen's Mansion** (1920), and **Stephen Court** (1924), all had classically designed facades. This style continued all the way till the 1930s when the **Statesman House** in Chowringhee (1931-33) was built. Even after the Indian Independence, the **Silver Mint** in Alipore (1952), was designed by the CPWD in a Neo-Classical style with grand Doric columns supporting a large triangular pediment.

Along with the buildings designed and commissioned by the British, the **homes of the Bengali elite** gradually began to adopt European architectural elements in their domestic architecture. While the traditional spatial configuration was retained, having a single or double courtyard surrounded by long, narrow verandahs on all sides, the ornamentation was heavily borrowed from European Classicism. This syncretic mix of styles came to be known as the **Bengali Baroque** style in the 19th Century, continued in the early 20th century. Columns and pilasters of the Roman order, ornamental capitals in stucco, Roman, Gothic or segmental arches with projecting key stones, stained glass tympanums, deep mouldings, venetian bifora windows, decorative cast iron columns and grills, etc. Though the courtyard was retained, the size of courtyard became smaller and the houses rose to three or more floors.

Lack of the Indo-Saracenic style in Kolkata

During the 1860s and 70s, British Colonizers felt the need to create a distinctive architectural style typical to the British Raj. The product of this was the Indo-Saracenic style, using European prototypes with stylistic elements from Indo-Islamic architecture. This Revivalist style became characteristic of colonial buildings across the country from the late 18th Century. However, the British did not feel the need to promote this style in Kolkata, which was still deeply Neo-Classical in nature. Amongst the few **Indo-Saracenic** Buildings is the **Standard Chartered Bank building**, designed by Edward Thorton of Martin and Co. in 1906. The red and white striped appearance of the building is created by using red and white Porbandar stones. The ornamental brackets supporting a projecting eave, octagonal domes at the centre of the façade surrounded by cupolas and the domed octagonal minarets or turrets at the corners give it an Indo-Saracenic appearance.



Figure 2 Standard Chartered Bank. Source: <https://imgstaticcontent.lbb.in/lbbnew/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/04144618/Chartered-Bank-Building2.jpg>

The **Bengal Nagpur Railway Office** designed by Vincent Esch in 1906, now known as the South-Eastern Railway Headquarters in Garden Reach, also produces an Indo Saracenic appearance with Indian embellishments on its façade. The **Victoria Memorial** (1906-21) though built largely as envisioned by Emerson in the Neo-Classical style, also sports Indian corbels in the frieze of the entablature, jalis in the arches, octagonal domed chhatris and Mughal domes over slender columns above the corner towers.



Figure 3 The Victoria Memorial. Source:

source: <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/public/uploads/articles/travelnews/victoria.jpg>

Modernism in Kolkata

Art Nouveau, the predecessor of Art Deco, barely touched the country, and the only Art Nouveau structure in India remains the **Esplanade Mansion** (1910) at Chowringhee designed by Martin & Co.



Figure 4 a) The Art Nouveau Esplanade Mansion. Source: en.wikipedia.org b) The Lighthouse Cinema.

Source: <https://colonialarchitecture.eu/islandora/object/bt:407/datastream/OBJ>

In terms of structural innovations, Ballardie and Thompson designed the first steel framed multistoried structure in the city – the **Tower House** (1925) on Bentinck Street. **Modernist** work in Kolkata, like other Indian cities, was carried out by foreign architects. The **Garden Theatre and Lighthouse Cinema** (1936-38) at Lindsay Street, now largely remodelled, was one such structure designed by Dutch architect Marinus Dudok, with balconies and rounded windows and contrasts of solids and voids and horizontals and verticals¹. Another significant work in Modernism is the **Lady Dufferin Memorial Hospital** (1937) by Ballardie, Thompson and Matthews. By the 1950s a subdued Modernism was seen

¹ Metcalf, T. (1999). *Architecture and Independence: The Search for Identity—India, 1880–1980*. By Jon Lang, Madhavi Desai, and Miki Desai. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997. xxi, 347 pp. \$115.00 (cloth). *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 58(2), 551-552. doi:10.2307/2659470

in the **ICI (India) Office** and the **India Exchange Office**, both designed by Ballardie, Thompson and Mathews.

Art Deco emerged in France in the 1920s and quickly spread across the globe. In Kolkata, the first significant **Art Deco** structure was the **Victoria House** (1933) in Chowringhee, though it still retained some colonial features like the Roman arches with a rusticated façade on the ground floor. In 1935 **Metro Cinema Hall**, designed by Thomas White Lamb and built by Metro Goldwyn Mayer, became the most prominent Art Deco icon of the city. Art Deco soon became the characteristic style for cinemas across the city. **Elite Cinema Hall** in Dhurmatollah was built in 1940, designed by M.A. Ridley Abbott of Abbott and Davis and completed by John B Fernandez. **Roxy Cinema Hall**, which was originally Empire Theatre, was remodelled as an Art Deco structure and reopened in 1941. The **Reid House** (1941) in Red Cross Place, designed by Ballardie and Thompson became another Art Deco city icon.



Figure 5 The Victoria House. Source: <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-old-picture-vintage-1900s-of-victoria-house-calcutta-kolkata-west-83583871.html>

From here onwards the movement gained ground and the Art Deco style or the ‘Metro style badi’ became popular in residential buildings of Kolkata. With the Indian Independence seeing a trail of refugees settling in the Southern parts of the city, Art Deco houses built by Contractors became increasingly common. Bold horizontal and vertical bands, sleek and smooth geometrical forms with streamlined and curved edges, Ziggurat like stepped silhouettes were some of the characteristic features. For ornamentation, embossed motifs and geometrical patterns were seen in the cast-iron grills of parapets, doors, windows, ventilator and gates. Terrazzo and patterned tiled or marble flooring were also common. There was no specific spatial organization that was brought about with this style.



Figure 6 a) Metro Cinema. Source: Author. b) Elite Cinema as it was originally built. Source: oldkolkata.blogspot



Figure 7 Art Deco inspired residential structures in the city near Dover Lane and Lake Terrace. Source: Author

Apart from residences, multi-storeyed commercial and mixed-use buildings also became increasingly common in this style like **Hind Mutual** on Madan Street, **Saha Court** and **Olympia House** on GC Avenue, **Laha Paint House** on Central Avenue. Construction in the Art Deco style in Kolkata, continued till the late 1960s in Kolkata. **Indo Deco**, an offshoot of Art Deco but more revivalist in nature with use of Indian motifs also evolved in the city. This style was used not only the residential structures of the city but also includes city landmarks like the **Akashbani Bhavan** (1956) in BBD Bagh and the **Ram Krishna Mission Complex** (1960) in Golpark both designed by Ballardie, Thompson, and Matthews.

Revivalist styles and the Modern Indian Architectural movement

The **Bose Institute**, built in 1917, is one of the first buildings in Kolkata in the **revivalist** style, designed by Abaninath Mitter and assisted by artists like Abanindranath Tagore and Nandalal Bose. The design experimented with Hindu and Buddhist motifs from Ajanta-Ellora. The **Mahajati Sadan** (1939-1958), conceived by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and whose foundation stone was laid by Rabindranath Tagore, was built in the Revivalist style with Aatchala roofs over the corner towers, decorative brackets over projecting chajjas and geometric Jalis on windows. Another structure in the Revivalist style was the **M.P. Birla Planetarium**, designed by GK Gora of Ballardie, Thompson and Mathews, incorporating Buddhist architectural elements from stupas, railings, and finials.



Figure 8 The Bose Institute. Source: Patrick Geddes (*The Life and Work of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose*, 1920)

The 1920s and 30s saw the birth of the **Modern Indian Architectural movement** spearheaded by **Sris Chandra Chatterjee** to bring about Nationalism through architecture. The movement was a **reaction against the growing International Modernism** elsewhere, especially Art Deco, and searched for an Indianness which could be a source of identity and pride for the nation. He brought about a change in the syllabi for Calcutta University and BE College where great importance was given to Indian and Asian architecture as opposed to the Bombay School which were controlled by chartered British architects. He received support from Subhash Chandra Bose, the then mayor of Calcutta to introduce a department in the Calcutta Corporation for traditional designs for new construction in the city. However, the movement was not very successful, and Sris Chandra Chatterjee's only work in the city remains the **Ashok Singh Palace** (1942) which had a modern utilitarian form. However, The Calcutta Improvement Trust echoed the principles of the Modern Indian Architectural movement, in the building of private residences for one of their most important projects – the **Central Avenue**, now Chittaranjan Avenue and hence many structures on it have distinct Rajasthani influences on their facades.

Architecture post-Independence

Political economy of post-Colonial Calcutta did not allow great architectural thought or innovation within the Modernist movement. There was limited architectural activities due to multiple socio-political reasons which prevented Kolkata from adopting a 'distinct, modernist, architectural culture'. The **New Secretariat Building** (1944-54) designed by Habib Rahman in the Bauhaus style patronized by Dr. BC Roy is one of the few structures. Built in the **International Modernist** style, the New Secretariat Building was the tallest building in India with fifteen storeys and became one of Rahman's most celebrated works. Calcutta, with few native architectural firms, continued to employ foreign architects for the city. A product of this were the **Reserve Bank of India** designed by John A. Ritchie, the **Life Insurance Corporation Building** (1954-58), initially commissioned to an Indian Architect but eventually taken up by Maxwell Fry, **Tata Centre** (1963) designed and built by Holabird and Root of Chicago and the **US Consulate Staff Quarters** designed by Willgoose and Chase from Washington DC. The shell dome of the Mahajati Sadan Hall, though a Revivalist building, was designed by an Italian, Dr. A Carbone.



Figure 9 The Reserve Bank of India .

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/87/Reserve_Bank_of_India_%28RBI%29_building%2C_September_2011.jpg/1200px-Reserve_Bank_of_India_%28RBI%29_building%2C_September_2011.jpg

With lack of political incentive and private patronization, architectural thought in Kolkata stagnated. There was no cohesive school of thought that guided construction activity and only a few individualistic landmarks emerged. Architectural works of first- and second-generation modernist architects of Independent India were notably absent. The only structure designed by Charles Correa in Calcutta in the 20th Century was a private residence for **Sanjoy Sen's family** (1959-61) on Palm Avenue which was torn down to make way for a public sector bank. Another of Correa's work, the **City Centre** in Salt Lake City began in 1999 but was completed in 2004. The iconic City Centre provided a new benchmark for malls across the country breaking away from the American notion of air-conditioned malls and amalgamating it with traditional open market streets of India. Public as well as private structures of all typologies were built in various modernist styles. The **Rabindra Sadan**, a cultural center in the modernist style, was designed in 1963 to mark the birth centenary of Tagore. The foundation stone was laid by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Another cultural center, **Kala Mandir** was built in 1968 designed by Binoy Chatterjee and Benjamin Polk who are credited with designing other Modernist structures across the country. The idea of forming a cultural space for the city of Kolkata stemmed in the mind of the eminent industrialist of India Syt. Basant Kumar Birla. Two very close associates, Mr. G.D. Jhavar and Mr. B.D. Bhattar joined Mr. B.K.Birla in his decision. The **Birla Mandir** on Syed Amir Ali Avenue, begun in 1970 and inaugurated in 1996, designed by Nomi Bose and supervised by traditional Sompuras was a landmark temple construction based on North Indian temple architecture, influenced by the Lingaraja Temple of Bhubaneswar. An interesting amalgamation of the old and the new was seen in the **Annexed building of the Calcutta High Court** (1975-77) where the new building uses the neo-gothic vocabulary of the old building in a modern manner, without blatantly imitating original architectural elements. This was designed by B.N. Banerjee who led the team of PWD architects. In 1985, **Nandan**, a government-sponsored film and cultural center in Kolkata designed by Amitava Sengupta was an addition the cultural hubs of the city built in the Modernist style. It was inaugurated by Satyajit Ray and the logo for the complex was designed by him too.



Figure 10 a) Rabindra Sadan.



10 b) Nandan

Source: https://live.staticflickr.com/24/60443068_d474625d56.jpg.

Source: <https://c8.alamy.com/>

Dakshinapan Shopping Centre launched in 1988 in Gariahat as an indoor shopping complex, was designed in the Modernist style by Hiren Chowdhury and commissioned by the Kolkata Improvement Trust. The **Taj Bengal** in Alipore (1989), was built with a Modernist façade but successfully introducing traditions of Bengal art and culture into the interiors. Taj Bengal was designed by Ajoy Chowdhury and Ranjit Sabiki of Design Group, who are credited with the construction of many significant modern heritage across the country while the interiors were designed by an American architect Bob Fox. The minimalistic façade with vertical gardens and the large double height covered atrium were a novelty in the city. In the 1980s, the Bank of Calcutta, a heritage building of the early 1800s was demolished. On its site, came up the **new State Bank of India Headquarters**, a multi-story building mimicking the Neo-Classical façade of the demolished structure with roman arches with projecting key stones, disproportionate ionic columns and triangular pediments. Designed by Development Consultants Pvt Ltd and completed in 1997, the **Science City**, Kolkata, another city icon, was built using experimentation in forms. Developed by the National Council of Science Museums, it is one of the largest and finest in the world, presenting science and technology in a stimulating and engaging environment. Apart from a few noteworthy structures, most construction related activity in Kolkata especially in the public sector was utilitarian in form – multistoried RCC construction with prominent vertical and horizontal shading devices which dominated the façade. These were largely designed and executed by Civil Engineers rather than architects.



Figure 11 Science City Kolkata. Source: Author

Private residences in plotted lands were built in the modern Indian vernacular, especially in Salt Lake City or Bidhan Nagar. These were largely a mishmash of various styles with elements ‘borrowed from Modernism to Indian Historical Architecture’ (Sen 2017). The houses are designed by the contractor builders and architects were employed only occasionally. Market driven forms of architecture was late to appear in Kolkata. This is again rooted in Kolkata’s political history, being ruled by the Left. Foreign and corporate investments in Kolkata were also low compared to other cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. Due to paucity of land, most market driven private apartment complexes expanded vertically. This trend was also possible due to the introduction of RCC Framed construction. Some of these are the **Tivoli Court** in Ballygunge (1980) and the **Himadri Apartments**, also in Ballygunge, which had an exposed brick façade.

Conservation of built heritage:

Policies and Planning –

The 20th Century saw the beginning of many efforts in the conservation and preservation of built heritage in the nation. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act was passed in 1904 by Lord Curzon to preserve and restore ancient Indian monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India which was replaced by the AMASR Act in 1958. The state government of West Bengal had adopted the Preservation of Historical Monuments and Objects and Excavation of Archaeological Sites Act in 1957. However, only 105 structures and sites in West Bengal and a handful of 18 sites in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area were protected by this Act leaving numerous heritage sites without protection. In 1980, as per the provisions of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) was responsible for the identification, preservation, and conservation of heritage buildings. A heritage building was defined as ‘any building of one or more premises, or any part thereof, which requires preservation and conservation for historical, architectural, environmental or ecological purpose and includes such portion of the land adjoining such building or any part thereof as may be required for fencing or covering or otherwise preserving such building’. Heritage buildings were identified in various land use and developmental control plans by the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA). In 1997, an expert committee (EC) on Heritage Buildings was constituted by the KMC where the State Government instructed the Committee to review the Heritage Buildings identify and provide necessary measures for their conservation. In September 1998, the EC submitted a list of 1363 heritage buildings and structures to the KMC along with recommendations for their conservation. Amongst the recommendations were the following:

- preparation of a manual with the final enlistment along with their photographs and significance of each item
- preparation of a technical manual with the help of Conservation specialists and setting up of an autonomous Institute of Conservation to build technical and financial resources to help safeguard the heritage structures and sites
- creation of the West Bengal Heritage Commission, a statutory body by legislation in the assembly

As per the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act (Amended) the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) was formed in 1999-2000. The HCC would be responsible for scrutinizing all applications to enlist a building as a heritage structure or site. The HCC would also be responsible for grading of the enlisted buildings as per their significance. The efforts that commenced in the 20th century finally began to take shape in the early 2000s with the setting up of the West Bengal Heritage Commission in March 2001 and the formulation of the West Bengal Heritage Regulations in 2004.

Conservation Efforts -

Though restoration of heritage buildings in the 20th century were few and far between, over the years, restoration initiatives have been taken up in Kolkata by national bodies like the ASI, state bodies like the West Bengal Heritage Commission, urban local bodies like Kolkata Municipal Corporation, non-profit organizations like INTACH as well as other private organizations and individuals. In 1961, the centennial birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the State Government acquired the **Jorasanko Thakur Bari** which then went through large scale repairs and restoration. In 1962, the Rabindra Bharati University and the Jorasanko Museum was established in the same premises². The Jorasanko Thakurbadi was repaired multiple times over the coming years. In 1972, during the birth centenary of Sri Aurobindo, the **Aurobindo Bhavan**, his residence was restored and converted into the Aurobindo study and research centre. **Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar's residence** in Kolkata was restored in 1998. The **Raja Ram Mohan Roy College** on Amherst Street was also restored around that time. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's residence, which was acquired by the Police Department in 1918, was restored and converted into the **Kolkata Police Museum** in 1996³. **Netaji Bhawan**, established in 1952 on the premises of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's ancestral property, was also repaired in the late 20th Century.



Figure 12 The Kolkata Police Museum. (Source: The Concrete Paparazzi)

However, while many structures got repaired and refurbished during this period, most being public buildings being worked upon by the Public Works Departments, few followed the principles and norms of good practices in Conservation. The restoration of the **Town Hall** between 1996-1998 was the first scientific restoration and adaptive reuse projects undertaken in the city as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model between the State Government, the KMC and the Homage Trust, guided by a private firm Udayan⁴. Amongst the other projects undertaken by the KMC are renovation of **residences of Satyajit Ray and Sukumar Ray**, restoration and illumination of **St. Andrews Church**, restoration of **Job**

² https://www.ambujaneotia.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-Issue_1.pdf. Accessed online on 10.07.2022

³ <http://www.kolkatapolic.gov.in/images/docs/Museum.pdf> Accessed online on 10.07.2022

⁴ Bose, Shivashish. (2012). Restoration of Town Hall in Kolkata for adaptive reuse: A case study. Structural Survey. 30. 280-291. 10.1108/02630801211241838.

Charnock's Mausoleum. Government organizations like the LIC were involved in the restoration of two key buildings in the city – the **Queen's Mansion** and the **Metropolitan Insurance Building**.

While the number of structures in the jurisdiction is few, the ASI were responsible for the restoration of the **Metcalfe Hall** and the **Currency Building** in Kolkata in the recent years.



Figure 13 The Town Hall post restoration.

Source: Bose, Shivashish. (2012). Restoration of Town Hall in Kolkata for adaptive reuse: A case study. Structural Survey. 30. 280-291. 10.1108/02630801211241838.

Amongst private organizations, one of the first conservation efforts was undertaken by INTACH in 1992 when they restored the **Gwalior Monument** on Strand Road, followed by the **Princep Ghat** in the following year funded by the UB group. In 2004 the **Dalhousie Square** was included as one of the sites on the endangered list by World Monuments Fund which made the West Bengal government pledge to preserve the site and in 2007 **St. John's Church** was restored with the help of INTACH.



Figure 14 The St. John's Church in Dalhousie Square post restoration.

Source: <https://www.wmf.org/project/dalhousie-square> Accessed online on 10.07.2022

Heritage at Risk –

Though many conservation efforts have been undertaken by various governmental and non-governmental agencies and private individuals, they are minuscule compared to the large stock of heritage structures and site that the city boasts of. These structures, a large percentage of which belong to the 20th Century, are not adequately protected by legislation and are at a continued threat of demolition. This can be demonstrated taking the case of a particular functional typology – the opera halls and single screen theatres which have fallen out of use after the introduction of multiplexes. While some of these structures have already been demolished like the **Minerva (Chaplin)**, the country's first cinema hall, established by Jamshedji Framji Madan in 1907 and demolished in 2013 after falling into disuse, others have been altered beyond recognition. Amongst these are **Roxy Cinema**, built originally as Empire Theatre in 1908 in the Neo-Classical style and harmoniously revamped in 1941 in the Art Deco style, which is now covered with Aluminium cladding, the **Lighthouse**, built in 1936-38 which shut down in 2002 and the **New Empire Cinema Hall**, built in 1932 and a Grade I listed building, both of which have derelict facades covered in advertisements and hoardings. Roxy Cinema was also up for demolition but was stopped due to public agitation. A number of Art Deco cinema halls lining Bidhan Sarani have closed its curtains and are at risk of being pulled down.



Figure 1 Roxy Cinema over the years.

Source: a) <https://puronokolkata.com/2013/10/11/3816/> b) <http://www.atreyeegupta.com/cinematheatre/> c) telegraphindia.com

Apart from the Cinema Halls with their iconic facades, another typology of Art Deco structures is facing a threat of demolition – private residences. While most of these residences are not listed as a heritage building by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, other which are listed also have been downgraded or are lacking maintenance. It is essential these structures and sites are identified, their significance assessed, and adequate measures taken to ensure sustained conservation of the historic urban fabric of Kolkata through various planning measures.

By

Sohini Pyne

Theme 5 - Economy & Entrepreneurship

Introduction

Kolkata is the largest metropolis in India, in terms of its population. It is a city of teeming millions, born only about three centuries ago, rising from a paddy farming hinterland near Ganges delta to a metropolis of gargantuan scale. Once, it enjoyed the status of the administrative capital of British India. At present, Kolkata is recognized as a global city, with rapidly emerging industrial development. The East India Company, and later the British monarchy, introduced the industrial agenda by encouraging growth of Agricultural -based raw materials like, jute, cotton and tea, and mining coal. The idea was to use India as a supplier of raw materials, feed the industries in the UK and market the products back in India and SE Asia.

By the early 1900s, Kolkata and its surrounding areas were bustling with industries. The Bengal Renaissance and advancements in education during the 19th century enabled Kolkata's affluent residents, such as, Prince Dwarakanath Tagore, showed much interest to invest in mining shipping, trading, etc. at par with the British counterpart. However, the struggle for independence and the push for indigenous materials and technology slowed industrial progress. The partition further disrupted economic growth, particularly impacting the jute industry. Post-1960s, Kolkata's economic decline was exacerbated by the left-leaning government's policies, which led to 30 years of stagnation. Despite these setbacks, the city's economic history remains complex and multifaceted.

Manufacturing Industry at Kolkata (1900-2000)

Many foreign-based companies and the companies owned by Indians had their manufacturing units in various fields and their Headquarters based in Kolkata and its surroundings, with roaring business since pre-independence era. Such as,

a) British Owned Companies - Imperial Tobacco Company /ITC (1910)Imperial Chemical Industries / ICI(1929), British/Berger Paints(1923), Dunlop & Co (1937- closed), Duncan Bros (1923),CESC(1899), Britannia (1892), HMV Gramophone Co(early 20th cent), Jessop & Co (1820 – closed), GEC(1910 - closed), Eveready(1934), Bird Co (1860- taken over by GOI in 1980), Jardin & Henderson (1950), Shaw Wallace (1886- amalgamated), Hindusthan Unilever/Brook Bond Tea/ Lipton Tea(1903), Starling Tea Co./Goodricke (1977-78) Reckitt & Colman Ltd/Cherry Blossoms /Dettol/Harpic etc(1938), Coates of India/Dainippon Ink & Chemicals (1947).

Over and above there were many Jutes, Cotton Mills and Tea gardens owned by the British in Bengal, which were at a later date taken over by Indian Business tycoons, like Birla, Tata, Kanoria, etc.

b) There were some Companies of other origin, like, Phillips (Dutch -1930- closed down), SF India (Swedish), Union Carbide (American-1934- sold), WIMCO (Swedish-1948/50- closed down), Bata Shoes

(originally a Czech company -1931- taken over by Indians), **Balmer Lawrie & Co.** (Scottish-1924), **Andrew Yule** (Scottish-1907), **Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. Ltd.** (Scottish-1909) etc.



Balmer Lawrie & Co -HQ at Dalhousie Sq

PC: www.balmerlawrie.com



ITC-Verginia House (1928) Chowringhee Road

PC: www.rethinker-future.com

c) **Indian Owned manufacturing Companies** – Titagorh Paper Mills (1900), Martin Burn & Co (1946- less active), India Foils (1960- amalgamated), Hindustan Motors/ Ambassador car factory (1942- shifted from WB), **Indian Oxygen**(1958), Bengal Potteries(1919-under liquidation), Bengal Lamps(1932- Closed), Joy Engineering Works/USHA Fan & Sewing Machine (1940 – shifted from WB), **Polar Fan** (1978), **Shalimar Chemicals** (1945), Shalimar Paints (1902-shifted to Gurgaon) , **Sulekha Ink**(1934- closed down in 1988, reopened in 2006), Krishna Glass(1979-under process of strike off),**G.D. Pharmaceuticals / Boroline** (1929) , **Dabour India Pvt Ltd** (est.1884), **Bengal Waterproof/Duck back** (1940-), **Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd** (1932), **Emami Group** (1981),**Bengal Ambuja Cement** (1995) etc.

d) **Govt owned manufacturing Units-**

i) In the late 1930s, foundation work for a new mint at Taratala, near Alipore, was completed, but construction was halted due to World War II. The **Alipore Mint** was eventually inaugurated by India's Finance Minister, Shree C. D. Deshmukh, on March 19, 1952. From that date, it began full-scale operations for producing coins, as well as medals, decorations, and badges. Besides manufacturing coins for domestic use, the Alipore Mint also produces coins for other countries. (source: Wikipedia)



Alipur Mint, Kolkata (PC: wikipedia)



iii) **Saraswati Press** was founded in Barishal, Bangladesh, in 1923, and moved to Sealdah, Kolkata, in 1925. In 1958, the press relocated to a larger facility on B.T. Road to accommodate its growing workload. Renowned for its superior printing quality in Eastern India, it garnered numerous awards for 'Excellence in Printing'. The press achieved high standards by importing advanced machinery from the UK and Germany, operated by skilled technicians with specialized training to stay abreast of the latest technology. (Source: saraswatipress.org)

iv) Founded by Prafulla Chandra Ray in Kolkata, West Bengal, in 1901, **Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.** was India's first privately-owned pharmaceutical enterprise. Initially successful, the company began facing financial losses in the mid-1950s but has recently returned to profitability. The Union government took over the company's management on December 15, 1977, and it was officially nationalized on December 15, 1980. The company produces industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals such as antibiotic injectables, tablets, and capsules, as well as household products like phenol. (source: [https:// pharmaceuticals.gov.in](https://pharmaceuticals.gov.in))

h) **Kolkata Port**, now known as *Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust*, is India's only riverine major port, established by the British East India Company in 1870. It is the oldest operating port in India. After Independence, its significance declined due to the navigability of the river Hooghly and regional economic stagnation. Key developments include the completion of **Kidderpore Dock II** in 1902, the addition of the **Garden Reach jetty** in 1925, and the commissioning of King George's Dock (now Netaji Subhash Dock) in 1928. The port, crucial during WWII and bombed twice by Japanese forces, boasts India's largest dry dock facility, with five dry docks and shipbuilding capabilities. Warehouses at Strand Road have been in use since the British era. (Source: KOPT)



Old Port of Kolkata



Kidderpore Dry Dock-1905

Banking Industry in Kolkata

The banking industry in India was introduced by Europeans, with Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) emerging as a key banking hub due to its prominence as a major trading port. The evolution of banking in India can be divided into three phases:

- **Pre-Independence Era** (Before 1947): The **Imperial Bank of India**, formed in 1921 from the three Presidency Banks, served as the central bank for British India which at a later date became the **State Bank of India in 1955**. By 1942, G.D. Birla established the **United Commercial Bank**, one of India's first commercial banks, which was nationalized in 1969, along with the **United Bank of India**, founded by B.K. Dutta in 1950.
- **Post-Independence** (1947 to 1991): The **Reserve Bank of India**, initially headquartered in Kolkata, began functioning as India's central bank and **regulatory body from 1949** before moving to Mumbai. The **1969 nationalization** of 14 commercial banks, followed by six more in 1980, aimed to support social welfare, reduce regional imbalances, and expand banking into rural areas. This phase established the foundation for the modern banking system and promoted widespread banking practices.
- **Liberalization Era** (1991 and beyond): Marked by the liberalization of economic policies, this phase saw a dramatic expansion of banking services, with numerous branches opening both in cities and rural areas. Banking sector got tremendous impetus by reaching door to door service. Many office buildings were constructed for various Banks and Life Insurance Corporation of India. Kolkata remains a major banking center, housing the headquarters of UCO Bank, United Bank of India, and Allahabad Bank.



The Reserve Bank of India, BBD Bag, Kolkata



UCO Bank, BBD Bag, Kolkata

j) Coal Industries (Collieries)

Coal has been integral to India's history for centuries, with commercial mining beginning in 1774 in the Raniganj coalfield of West Bengal. Concerns over unregulated mining practices and poor labor conditions in private mines led the Indira Gandhi administration to nationalize the sector. The Coal Mines (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1973, allowed the government to assume control of both coking and non-coking coal mines in seven states, including those nationalized in 1971. On May 1, 1973, the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973, was enacted, formalizing the government's control over coal mining in India.

Impact: Established in 1975, Coal India Limited (CIL) is a government-owned coal mining and refining corporation headquartered in Kolkata. i.e. 'coal bhavan at Dalhousie Square. It is the world's largest coal producer and a 'Maharatna' public sector undertaking (PSU), as well as the seventh-largest employer in India, with approximately 272,000 employees. (source: Wikipedia)



Coal Bhavan at BBD Bag



Now it has shifted its HQ at Rajarhat- New Town

Several **other manufacturing units** that have been major players in Kolkata since the pre-Independence era continue to thrive during 20th century. For instance, the **gold jewelry industry, film industry, and construction industry**, experienced significant growth in Kolkata after Independence.

e) **Gold Jewelry** – Gold jewelry from Kolkata is renowned for its indigenous designs and fine craftsmanship. In the early 20th century, **B. Sirkar & Sons**, established in 1905 in Bowbazar, outshone European competitors like Hamilton & Co. They pioneered the industry, inspiring many entrepreneurs to transform Kolkata into a major gold jewelry hub. By the mid-20th century, **P.C. Chandra Jewellers** (est. 1939) and **Senco Jewelry House** (est. 1938) emerged as key players, both starting in Bowbazar and now boasting numerous branches nationwide. Although B. Sirkar & Sons ceased operations in 1955, the family's legacy continues through next generations, like **B. Sirkar & Johuree**, **A.K.Sirkar** and **Anjali Jewellers**.

Impact: The Gold Jewelry produced at Kolkata are not only popular to the other parts India, but also possess a great demand in the world market and a popular item of export, **thus a foreign exchange earner!**



P.C.Chandra showroom at Bhowanipore



B.Sirkar Johuree showroom at Bowbazar

f) **Film Industry** –

20th century was the 'Golden period' of this Industry when, **New Theatres Pvt Ltd, Arora Film Corporation, Chandimata Fims Ltd, Indian Film Laboratories Pvt Ltd, R.D. Bansal & Co**, and many others ventured into this entertainment business to set an example how business could reach to the height of creativity with commercial success! Bengali Film Industry produced not only good films but also produced Nationally/Internationally famed directors/Filmmakers, Actors/ Actress, playback singers Music composers, and technicians.

Impact: In the 20th century, many distributors and cinema hall owners, including prominent names like Madan Theatre and Metro Golden Mayer, along with Bengali entrepreneurs, capitalized on the booming film industry in Kolkata. The city attracted talent in various roles—directors, cameramen, sound recordists, composers, actors, and singers—who gained national and international acclaim. Kolkata boasts Oscar-winning director Satyajit Ray, and other internationally recognized figures like Mrinal Sen, Ritwik Ghatak, Aparna Sen and great actors like, Pramathesh Barua, Kanon Debi, Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen.

The Tollygunge film industry, or "Tollywood," was renowned for both art and commercially successful films until the rise of television and multiplexes like INOX and PVR in the late 20th century. This shift led to the decline of **single-screen cinema halls**, many of which have since closed or been reappropriated for other purpose. It is a heartbreaking truth that most of the famous single-screen cinema halls and Film Studios are already closed, and the others are waiting for their turns. These cinema halls are a reflection of 20th-century Art Deco architecture that emerged in Kolkata, where METRO Cinema is an example of popularising 'Metro pattern' architecture.' Hence, it is a fact that once a vibrant a popular choice of business on the Film industry got a set back since late 20th century.



Darpana, (North- closed) Light house, (Central-converted to retail stores) Indira,(South- Closed)

The above are few iconic Cinema halls across the city, were the legacy of film industries of Kolkata.

g) Construction Industry-

Another boom in business found in Kolkata since its inception, i.e., **Infrastructure and Real Estate Development**, mainly due to increasing demand in Infrastructure and housing sector. Multistoried apartments and offices were the order of the day as an impact of technological development in 20th century. **Mackintosh Burn** (estd.in1834 -still continuing) and **Martin Burn & Co** (1946- almost wound up) were the two leading companies who built many architectural marvels, for which Kolkata can boast of with the title '**the City of Palaces**' in the early part of the 20th cent.

The other agencies were **Hindustan Construction Company** (1926), **Larsen & Tubro** (1938- still continuing), **HRBC** (1969-still continuing), **Bengal Ambuja** (1993- still continuing), **Peerless**, **Emami** etc. are few construction companies who had contributed for city's infrastructure development and developing housing sector, mainly in the later part of 20th cent. State Govt encouraged to develop newer areas in and around Kolkata, like Salt Lake, Rajarhat, Behala, Joka, Garia, Dumdum, Barasat etc.



Howrah Bridge-Infrastructure (by Martin Burn& Co.)

(source: www.outlook.com)



Housing complex (by Peerless Real Estate Developer)

(source: bengalpeerless.com)

k) The Small and Medium Scale Industries of engineering goods exist since Pre Independence era in the fringe area of Kolkata and Howrah, through which the skilled and unskilled labor force of the city survived, which also contributed for economic growth and built-heritage of the city. It even continues in the post-independence era.

l) Software Industries

Incorporated in 1974 to develop the electronics industry in West Bengal, Webel adapted to the evolving landscape with the introduction of the **West Bengal Information Technology** Policy in 2000. The organization positioned itself as the key agency responsible for advancing West Bengal's prominence in the knowledge industry in India. It focused on transforming Sector V in Salt Lake/Bidhan Nagar into the IT hub for Kolkata and West Bengal. (Source: [www. webel.in](http://www.webel.in))

Many private MNCs like WIPRO, IBM, TCS, INFOSYS, Capgemini, Accenture, etc. opened their office at Salt Lake, Sector-V through which the city's economy got a fresh life.



Webel office at Sector-V, Salt Lake



Webel Tower-I, Sector-V

(PC: <http://www.webel-india.com>)

m) Entrepreneurship

The Bengal Renaissance catalyzed many aspects of Bengali life, including entrepreneurship. **Prince Dwarkanath Tagore** is celebrated as a pioneer in this field. In the early 20th century, notable figures such as **Sir Rajen Mookherjee of Martin Burn & Co** in construction and **Nalini Ranjan Sarkar of Hindustan Insurance Corporation** (later Life Insurance Corporation of India) made significant contributions. The rise of the **Birla Group from Kolkata**, expanding into diverse sectors like manufacturing, jute, tea, automobiles, banking, education, and healthcare, was a key event of the century. Kolkata's **Bara Bazar**, a commercial hub influenced by the **Marwari community**, plays a central role in the city's economy. Today, it is basically a wholesale market of each and everything of daily livelihood and trading is the key word there. Alongside the Birla Group, other influential families and groups such as the **Singhanias, Sarafs, Jalans, Poddars, Bangaur, Kajaria, Bajoria, Jhunjhunwala**, etc. emerged. The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, founded in 1929 by Marwari entrepreneurs with G.D. Birla as its first President, highlights this era's entrepreneurial spirit. These Marwari business groups acquired British-owned Jute Mills and Tea Gardens, while others diversifying into sectors like Real Estate and Pharmaceuticals. Tata Group played a pivotal role, dominating iron mining and establishing steel plants across Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, with Kolkata serving as their corporate hub for production control. (Source: Chaudhuri. S. (1990) Calcutta the Living City (Vol.II))

In the latter part of the 20th century, major business houses like the **R.P. Goenka Group, Bengal Ambuja, Peerless, and Emami Group** made significant contributions to Kolkata's growth in manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, and healthcare sectors.

n) **Hospitality Sector**- the first hotel in Asia was 'John Spence's Hotel' which opened in Kolkata in 1830. Thereafter **David Wilson** opened the 'Auckland Hotel' in 1840 at Dalhousie Square. Presently it is known as '**Great Eastern Hotels**'. State Govt took over this hotel in 1970 and continued its operation for 30yrs and then it was sold to a private owner, the Lalit Group. It was closed for many years and finally reopened in 2013. **Oberoi Group of Hotels**, rose from this city in 20th century under the leadership of M.S. Oberoi when he took over the ailing '**Grand Hotel**' at Chowringhee in 1938.

o) **Journalism**- From the 19th to 20th centuries, Kolkata saw the emergence and flourishing of several notable newspapers such as *The Statesman*, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, *Jugantar*, *Basumati*, *Bartaman*, and *Ajkal*. However, it is regrettable that only **The Statesman**, **Ananda Bazar Patrika**, and **Bartaman** have survived to the present day.

p) **Publications** – Few publishing houses came up in a big way starting their business career in this city, such as **Ananda Publishers** (Est in 1957), **Rupa Publishers** (est. 1960), **Macmillan Education** (1958), **Seagull Books** (Est 1982), **Jaico Publishing house** (Est in 1946), **Dey's Publishing House** (Est in 1971),

Signet Press (1943), and a few more. **College Street** is one of the areas of Kolkata where all these publishing houses are still running their business and annual **KOLKATA BOOK FAIR** organized by the Publishers Guild is the largest 'Book Fair' in Asia.

Socio- economic culture at the later part of 20th century:

- **Political disturbances** in '70s like the Naxalite movement, Bandh, Gherao, trade union activities, and **Power shortage** were the problems faced by industries which the State Govt was unable to handle properly, till the '90s. The ultimate result was many companies closed their factories and shifted their factories & HQ to other parts of India. The '70s to '80s were a dark phase!
- **Opening up of economy in 1991--** India's economy embarked on a neoliberal regime characterized by a **greater degree of privatization, liberalization of foreign policy etc.** **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** has mostly come in the manufacturing and telecommunication sectors. The advantages of FDI inflows to West Bengal has been that, it has led to the development of the infrastructure in the state for the flyovers, roads, power, and tele-communications, which was developed very rapidly. **FDI has also boosted the real estate industry in West Bengal.**
- Unemployment had been a major area of concern for West Bengal. Since 2000, there has been an **economic resurgence** in the city, due to **thriving IT industries and business parks** in Bidhannagar and Rajarhat-New Town at Greater Kolkata.
- There has also been a surge in investment in Kolkata's **booming real-estate sectors**

India's urban growth and economic expansion since the 1990s have brought numerous challenges, particularly in cities like Kolkata. As metro cities rapidly expand both vertically and horizontally, they face immense pressure from rising migrant populations and stretched infrastructure. This rapid growth often undermines the quality of life due to increased congestion, pollution, and spatial poverty. Although recent economic policies have revitalized Kolkata from its earlier downturn, the city still struggles with only 40 percent of its population in the workforce and a growing transient population, indicating significant room for economic improvement.

by

OM Dayal College of Architecture

Research Findings



Research Findings

Objective -1- Developing Thematic Historic Framework of the 20th Century Kolkata

The early 19th century to mid-20th century, was a vibrant and prosperous period of Kolkata. It experienced various reforms in every sphere of life, such as, Political, Religious, Social, Educational, and Cultural Reform. 20th century history of Kolkata is the story of a village turned into a Metropolis. 20C Kolkata portrays extra-ordinary expressions of the cultural landscape in every sphere of life, and the same is still present as an example of LIVING HERITAGE. A brief account of Societal Process has been developed under **Five Themes** with various Sub-Themes. The Themes are as under-1) **Socio-Political**, 2) **Socio-Cultural**, 3) **Multi ethnicity**, 4) **Rapid Urbanization & Built- Heritage**, 5) **Socio-Economic**. An **Inventory of 93 buildings** has been prepared on the basis of significant values related to 20C History as representative examples only. The detail findings theme wise are narrated below: -

- **Theme-1- Socio- Political**

Findings 1: The most important event of the era was - the **freedom movement for India's Independence** (Chaudhuri. S. -1990)

1.1 Various structures (unprotected and lesser-known category) linked to the 'secret services of freedom movement' are identified. (Dasgupta. B 2014, Sri Aurobindo, Banopdhyaya. A. 2003)

Examples- '*Bande Mataram*' Office & '*Karmajogin/Dharma*' Office (associated with Biplobi Aurobindo), '*Anushilon Samity*' Office and hideouts (associated with revolutionaries of freedom movement)- (Refer Inventory)

1.2 The buildings associated with the political leaders/social reformers like, *Surendranath Banerjee*, *Sister Nibedita*, *Mahatma Gandhi*, *Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose* are given due recognition in this research to mark their significance for freedom movement.
(INTACH.2006, Sengupta. S .2021, Basu. A- 2019, Bose. S.K-1986,)

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Examples- *Bharat Sabha Bhavan*, *Albert Hall*, *Vivekananda Society*, *Netaji Bhavan*, *Alipore Jail*, *Gandhi Bhavan*, etc. (Refer Inventory)

- **Theme-2- Socio- Cultural**

Findings 2:

Effect of Bengal Renaissance (late 18th century – early 20th century)-It was a time when religious, cultural, social, and intellectual reforms emerged in Bengal, especially in Calcutta, reached to its zenith. The creative mentality of the Bengal Renaissance was characterized by two distinct cognitive features. The first was the ability to perceive and create by combining two seemingly contradictory yet interconnected attitudes: the Indian cultural and philosophical heritage and the Western intellectual and creative interests. (Dasgupta. S -2007)

2.1. **Religious reform**-communal harmony, and secularism emerged. Landmark religious built-heritage constructed during pre- and post- Independence era has been identified.

Examples-*Nakhoda Masjid*, *Birla Mandir*, *Ram Mandir*, *Parswanath Temple*, *Vaikuntha Temple*, *Mahabodhi Society*, *Gurdwara*, etc. (Refer Inventory)

2.2 **Educational reform**- National Education Movement leading to the birth of a series of educational institutions of National importance, which were initiated at the early part of 20C, and by the end of the

20C, those gained importance as an internationally reputed institution. Those are identified and included in this research for their recognition as heritage assets not only for Kolkata, but for the nation as well. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jadavpur_University, <http://www.sriarobindoinstitute.org/> https://www.iimcal.ac.in/sites/all/files/pdfs/indian_institute_of_management_calcutta2022).

Examples- *National Council for Education (Jadavpur University), Rabindra Bharati University, Indian Institute of Management (Joka), etc.*

2.3. **Scientific Research Institute-** Kolkata flourished as a breeding ground for scientific research during 20C through manifestation of few genii, whose contributions are enormous to the World, such as- Jagadish Chandra Bose, P.C. Roy, P.C. Mahal Nobis, C.V. Raman, Meghnad Saha, Satyen Bose, etc. In the field of Medical Science also, Kolkata produced brilliant doctors, like, Dr. Radha Gobindo Kar, Dr. S. K. Sarbadhikary, Dr. Nil Ratan Sircar, Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. Subhas Mukhopadhyay and many more. Few premiere scientific institutions of this era have been identified, which played important role for Nation building in the field of Scientific Research and Medical field. (<http://www.jcbose.ac.in/history>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._G._Kar_Medical_College_and_Hospital, <https://www.isical.ac.in>)

Examples: *Bose Institute, Science College, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Indian Association of Cultivation of Science (IACS), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), National Sample Survey, S.N. Bose National centre for Basic Sciences, R. G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, Jadavpur University (NCE), etc. (Refer Inventory)*

2.4. **Women empowerment-** A Sea change found in the status of women in the society of 20C. Enlighten and inculcate self- confidence amongst the girl-child are the two key components introduced by Sister Nibedita in the 20C society. In the post-Independence era, however, the new constitution adopted 'Right to education for all' as a fundamental right – a great opportunity provided to avoid gender-biasness. 20C opened the scope for recognition of women's power and brought them in the main stream. It is also to be noted many women freedom fighters took part into the 'Freedom Movement' of India. Few important Acts of Govt of India were passed after Independence to liberate women from social oppression. A few notable educational institutions are identified which encouraged the 20 C women to empower in life as a human being. (Chaudhuri. S. -1990)

Examples- *Sister Nibedita Girl's High School (for holistic education), Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya (for the girls of Marwari communities), Lady Brabourne College for Girls (initiated to educate Muslim girls), Surendranath College for Women (mostly for refugees of East Pakistan and the girls from mufassil), etc. (Refer Inventory)*

2.5. **Fine Arts** - During the Bengal Renaissance, spanning the late 18th to early 20th century, indigenous ideas profoundly influenced arts, literature, music, theatre, and cinema, shaping a distinct cultural identity. This era marked a shift towards addressing the needs of the common people, with democracy gaining prominence. Renowned artists such as Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, and Jamini Roy embraced themes depicting the lives of ordinary people in their art. A notable example is Ramkinkar Beji's "Call of the Mill," which portrays a 'Santhal family running towards their workplace' - focus is on the common man's livelihood. The built- heritage established with an aim to showcase Bengal's art & culture are identified. (Chaudhuri. S. -1990, Dutta.K.-2003)

Examples- *Academy of Fine Arts, Rabindra Sadan, Nandan complex, Sangeet Kala Mandir, built in the post-Independence era, are true representation of 20C culture with new ideas. (Refer Inventory)*

2.6. **Theatre**- Bijon Bhattacharya, Utpal Dutta, Shombhu Mitra, and other influential figures in theatrical field brought forth dramas based on the struggles of the middle and lower-middle classes, sparking significant societal impact in the 20th century. For instance, Utpal Dutta's "Angar," depicting the lives of mineworkers, stirred public discourse. Additionally, artistic geniuses like internationally acclaimed dance maestros Uday Shankar and Amala Shankar, and the renowned magician P.C. Sorcar Sr., integrated dramatic elements into their performances. Their shows achieved high standards and were frequently staged in prestigious auditoriums of Kolkata. Few Built- Heritage are identified for their associational value with legendary artists of 20C.

(<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/rise-and-fall-of-dream-theatres-2012>)

Examples- *Empire Theatre (Roxy), New Empire, Minerva Theatre, Star Theatre*, etc. (Refer Inventory)

2.7. **Field of Cinema**- In the Post- Independence era, Bengali Cinemas predominantly focused on the struggles of the middle and poor classes rather than mythological or historical narratives. Oscar winning film director Satyajit Ray's acclaimed film "Pather Panchali,"(1955) winner of 11 international awards, exemplifies this shift. Cinema was a popular mode of entertainment for citizens of Kolkata. But it is hard to believe, Kolkata's once-popular Cinema Para, once a thriving hangout for middle-class Bengalis from north to south, now faces decline. Apart from a few, all of them either succumbed to demolition or converted to as a shopping mall. (Chatterjee. Ranita- Ph.D. Thesis-2011)

Example- 'Nandan' the only multiplex built by State Govt has been identified as a successful addition to the city's cultural hub. The iconic 'Metro Cinema' transformed to a retail stores with multiplex and many more changed to accept new use value. Only a hand full, such as, *New Empire, Basu Sree, Bijali, Minar, Priya, Menoka, Naveena*, are still fighting against odd, representing single screen cinema hall.

2.8. **Literature**-From 1900 to 1947, Bengali literature flourished, reaching its peak. Rabindranath Tagore, revered internationally as 'BISWAKABI', was a pivotal figure, winning the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, a first for Asia and a source of great pride. Alongside Tagore, Sukumar Roy, D. L. Roy, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sukanta Bhattacharya, Tara Shankar Bandopadhyay, among others, emerged as pioneering writers and poets who enriched Bengali literature. Numerous literary institutions were established in the city to promote and ensure widespread access to Bengali literature for the common man and future generation, are identified.

(Dasgupta. S -2007, Chaudhuri. S. -1990, Dutta.K.-2003, Basu.A-2019)

Examples- *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Rammohun Library, Chaitnya Library, Ashutosh Memorial Institute, Sarat Sahitya Sadan, Rabindra Bharati University*, etc. (Refer Inventory)

• Theme-3- Multi-ethnicity

Foreign Migrants- Kolkata, situated as a port city besides the river Hooghly, has historically drawn migrants from across the globe even before the arrival of British in India. These diverse communities, including Jewish, Armenian, Greek, Parsi, and Chinese settlers, have significantly enriched the city's cultural and historical fabric.

Findings 3.1: They seamlessly integrated into Kolkata's cosmopolitan ethos, contributing to its rich architectural heritage. The city's iconic architectural landscape, notably developed during the 20th century, has earned it the moniker 'City of Palaces', symbolizing the harmonious coexistence and multicultural legacy of its inhabitants. A few illustrative and representative examples are identified as an architectural marvel of the city. (Chaudhuri. S. -1990, Bose.K-2019, Banerjee.D.-2005)

Examples-*Esplanade Mansions (Jewish), Queens Mansions, Stephen Court, Grand Hotel, Nizam Palace, Park Mansions (Armenian), Andrew Yule office, Gillander house, Balmer Laurie house (Scottish), See Ip Temple and Me Kong School(Chinese), Fire Temple (Parsi), Greek Orthodox Church*

(**Greek**), *Bow Barrack* (**Anglo-Indian**) and many more landmark public buildings such as *Victoria Memorial*, *Army Navy Stores*(*Kanak building*) to name a few are from **the British**. (Refer Inventory)

Indian Migrants- Few Indian ethnic Community also came and settled in Kolkata to seek their fortune like, *Punjabis*, *Marwaris*, *Gujratis*, *Biharis*, *Tamils*, *Oriyas*, *North-East region*, etc., which also became a part of Kolkata's heritage. The most prominent and prosperous community is the **Marwari community**, who came and settled here since late 19th century- early 20th century. The well -established Marwari business community in Kolkata are *Birla*, *Jalan*, *Poddar*, *Jhunhunwala*, *Agarwal*, *Kothari*, *Saraf*, *Kanoria*, *Bajoria*, *Goenka* etc. (Chaudhuri. S. -1990)

Findings 3.2- These Migrants from the different parts of India belonged to various religious community, as well and hence they built many prayer halls/temples as per their belief and tradition.

In the post- Independence era, the Marwari community did certain remarkable philanthropic works for the citizens of Kolkata, such as, planetarium, auditorium, technological museum, multi-speciality hospitals, schools, colleges, temples, Dharamshala, etc. They also established **Marwari Relief Society** and **Marwari Hospitals** for the benefit of the lower middle class of their own community to provide medical services at a cheap rate.

Examples- Religious Institutes- *Nakhoda Masjid* from Muslims (Gujrati Bohra & others), *Parshvanatha Temples* (Gujrati/Marwari Jains), *Gurudwaras* (Punjabi Shikhs), *Vaikuntha* (Dravidian)Temples (Hindu Tamils), *Ram Mandir* (Hindu Rajasthani/Marwaris), *Mahabodhi Society* (Buddhist) and various churches (Anglo-Indian Christian) communities. (Refer Inventory)

Philanthropic establishments - *Birla Planetarium*, *Sangeet Kala mandir*, *Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya*, *Modern High School*, *Marwari Hospital*, *Birla Temple*, *Birla Institute of Technology and Museum*, *Bellevue Clinic*, *Kothari Medical Centre*, *B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre* etc. (Refer Inventory)

• **Theme- 4A -Rapid Urbanization and Infrastructure Development**

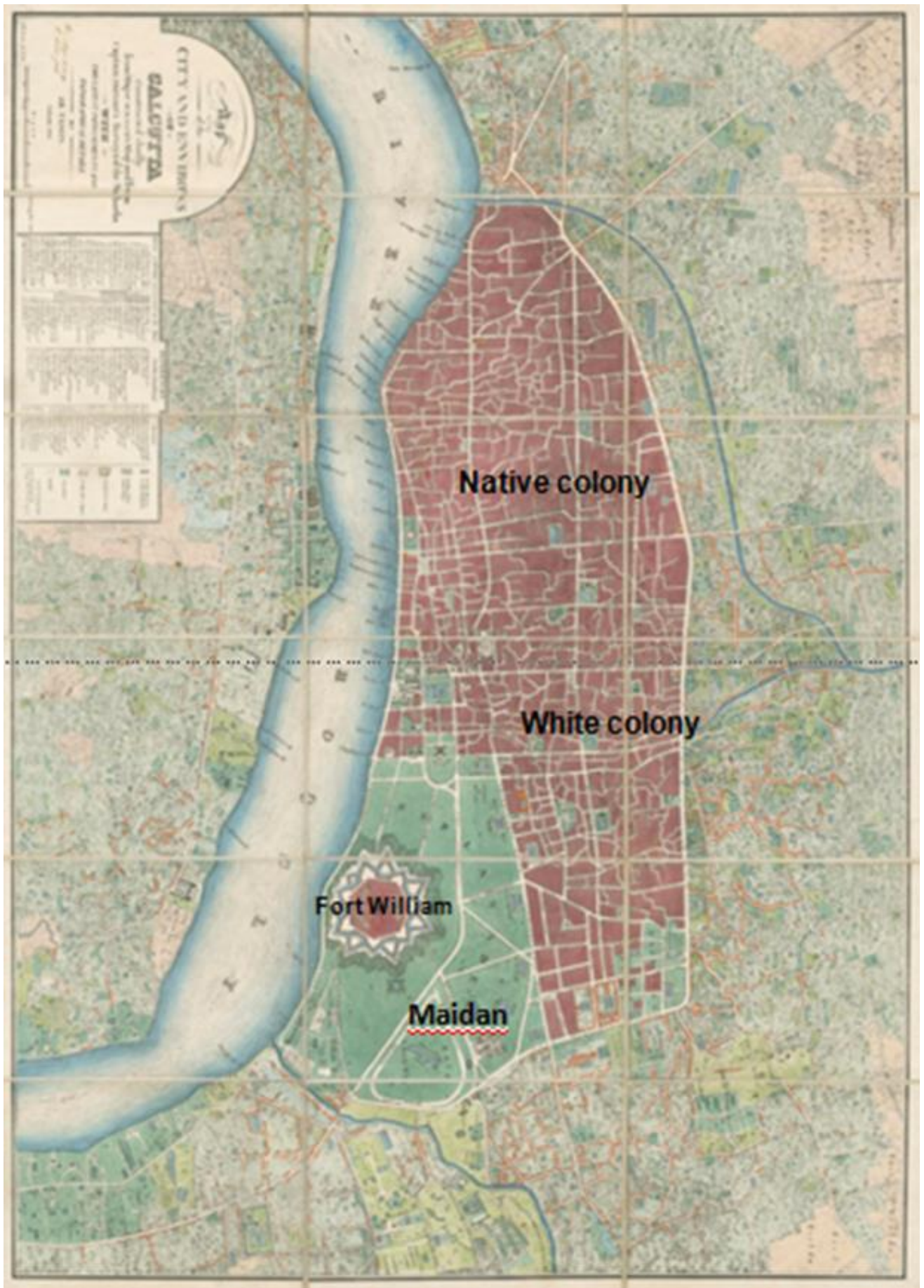
In the 20th century, Kolkata underwent **rapid urbanization**, transforming the city from a small sleepy town to a bustling metropolis. The population of the city in 1901 was 8,47,796 and in 1950 it went up to 46,04,143. At present KMC has 144 Wards and 205 sq. km area with **a population of 1,55,70,7869 (2024)**. (Chaudhuri. S. (1990), <https://medium.com> , <https://worldpopulationreview.com> (Ref: Mukherjee (2011-12)-ARPN Journal of Science and Technology. www.academia.edu/: 'Urban Growth and Spatial Transformation of Kolkata Metropolis: A Continuation of Colonial Legacy')

Kolkata saw a surge in population density due to '**Partition of Bengal**' (1947) and '**Bangladesh War**' (1971) resulting the influx of refugees, leading to unplanned development/ temporary accommodation as **slums and colonies**, in the fringe areas, like Bijoygarh, Bagha Jatin, Netaji Nagar, Gobindapur, Panchanantala, etc.

Findings 4A (i)- Calcutta Improvement Trust took a lead role to **rehabilitate those slum dwellers** cum refugees to **low-cost housing** built under the Government budget after Independence in many places within the city.

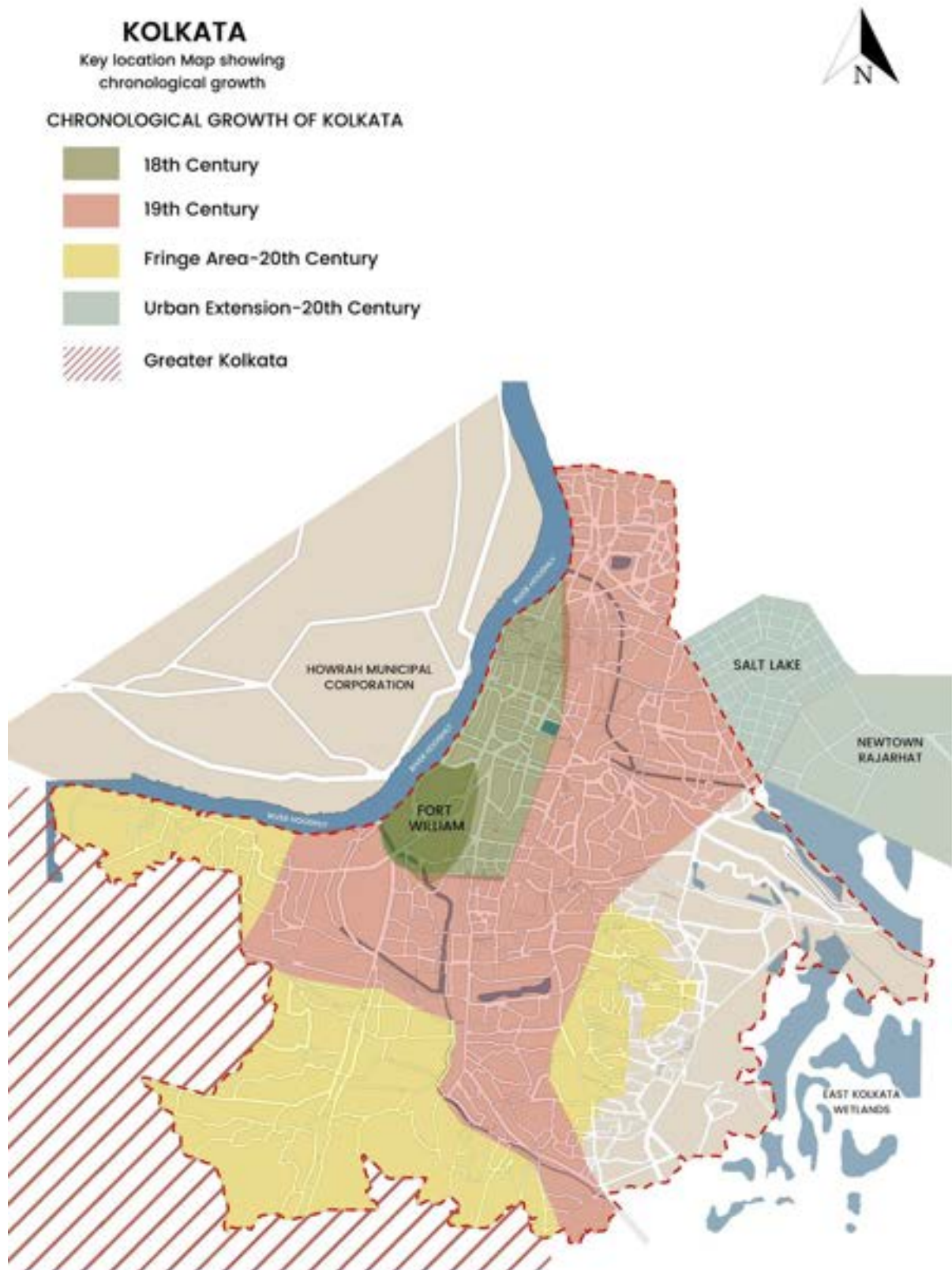
(Ref: Islam. J- (2019)- *Indian Journal of Spatial Science*, Autumn Issue, pp.96 - 100 'A Geographical Analysis of Slums in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Area, West Bengal')

Annexture- 3

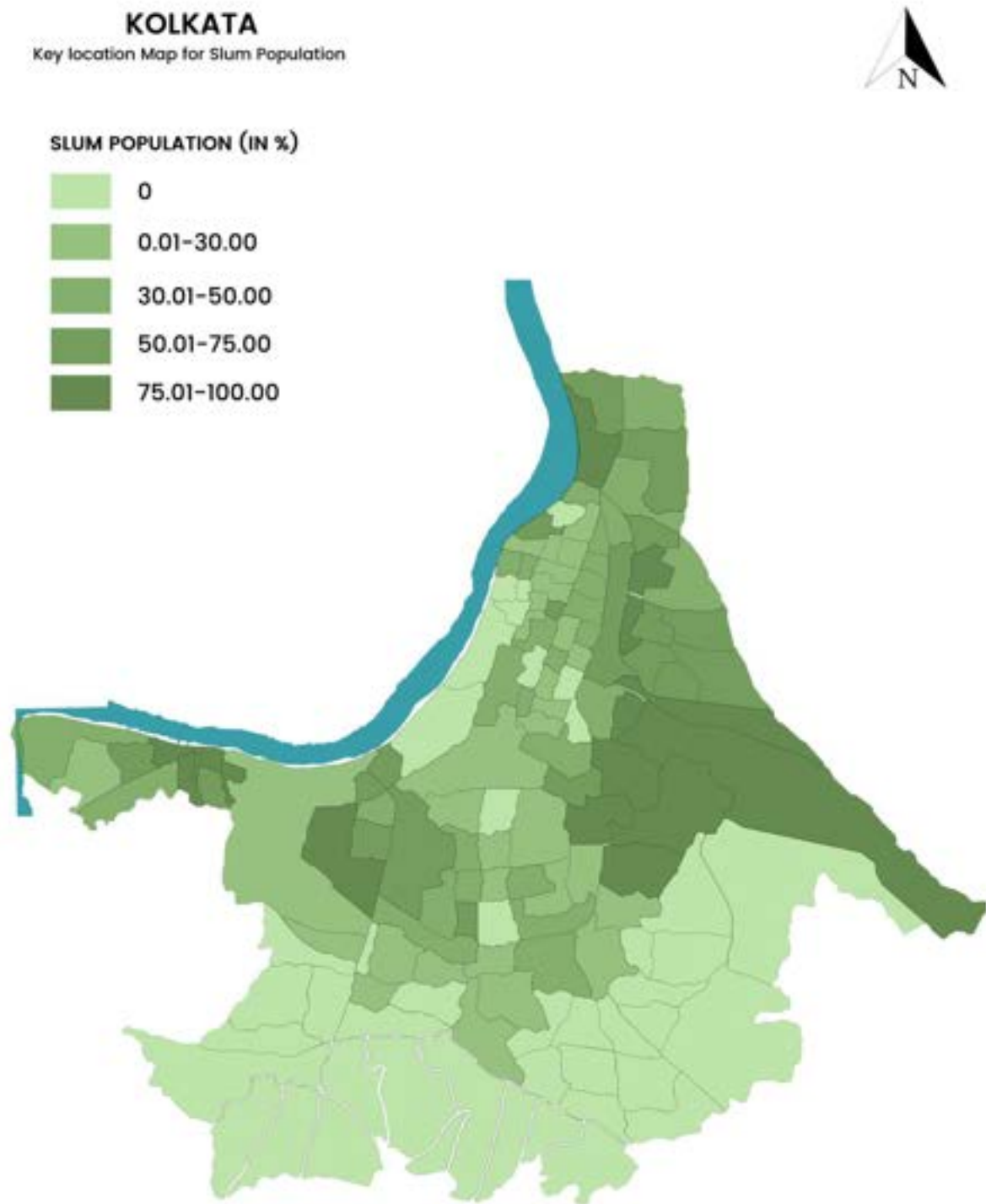


Vintage Map of Kolkata during British Regime

Annexture- 4



Annexture- 5





Slum area at Park Circus, Kolkata



CIT Buildings-Low cost Housing, Beleghata

PC: Dr. Shubhankar Biswas

(Ref. Cox.W (2012) -newgeography. Com -The Evolving Urban Form: Kolkata: 50 Mile City)

Under the tremendous pressure of population explosion, the necessity of **expansion of the city** was felt and the State Government planned for new area development through Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT) /Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).

Findings 4A (ii) - In northern part, the city extended to **Paik Para, Sinthi, Bangur, Lake Town**, etc.

In South- **Jadavpur, Dhakuria, Garia, Tollygunge, Behala, Baishnabghata- Patuli**, etc

In Eastern Part- **Kankurgatchi, Beleghata**, etc.

Finally, to ease the pressure, two satellite township are added as a peripheral development such as, **Salt Lake/Bidhan Nagar** (1958- 65) and **Rajarhat –New Town** (1999-2006).

One of the major boosts was to execute a ring road connecting extreme north end to south end at the periphery of the city in the year 1982, i.e. **‘Eastern Metropolitan By-pass’/EM Bypass**

Findings 4A(iii)- Three major Town planning organisations responsible for improvement of Urban planning in Kolkata- **Kolkata Municipal Corporation(KMC)**, **Calcutta Improvement Trust (CIT)** and **Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority(KMDA)**.

(Chakravarty-(2019)- International Institute for Asian Studies, newsletter-Revisiting the Calcutta Improvement Trust in early 20th century)

Infrastructure Development—

20C Kolkata experienced **huge improvement** in the INFRASTRUCTURE as well, which brought a considerable facility to the city's inhabitants, that transformed Kolkata to a metropolis.

Few major actions taken by British Administration are noted: -

Findings 4A (iv) - Pre Independence era

- a) Laying railway network and construction of **Howrah Station** (1905-1911) for connectivity to the other parts of India.
- b) Establishing City's fire fighting infrastructure, i.e. **Calcutta Fire Brigade** (1921)
- c) Construction of **Howrah Bridge** (1941-43) to connect both the banks of River Hooghly
- d) Construction of **Tala Tank** (Overhead Water Reservoir- 1911) for potable Water Supply

e) Formation of the **Calcutta Improvement Trust** (1911) through an Act. Over the next forty years, the CIT laid over a hundred of road network for expansion, area development, slum rehabilitation, etc to ease the pressure of influx.

f) **Laying of Road network** - Connecting CBD area to the northern part i.e. Shyam bazar by creating *Central Avenue* (renamed as Chittaranjan Avenue). The other important road created are- *Beleghata CIT Road, Entally CIT Road at East, Rash Behari Avenue, Southern Avenue at South, Vivekananda Road, B.K. Pal Avenue, MG Road at Central* and extension of *Jessore Road* from Belgatchia to Dumdum Airport at North.

- g) **Electrification of Street lights** (from late 19th century - early 20 th century) in place of Gas lamps in the major roads
- h) **Introduction of Electric Tram** (1902) as a mode of public transport in lieu of Horse driven Tram,
- i) Establishment of **All India Radio Station** for Kolkata (1936)
- j) **Calcutta Telephone** was taken over (1943) by the Indian Post & Telegraph Department
- k) Establishing Air-services from **Calcutta Airport** (1924)
- l) establishing **Kidder pore Dock-II** (1902) and **King George's Dock** (1928) renamed as Netaji Subhas Dock etc.
- m) Other than maintaining the **Calcutta Maidan** as the City's largest open space, CIT paid attention for **creation of parks, playgrounds, waterbodies**, like, *Minto Park, Deshapriya Park, Deshbandhu Park, Rabindra Sarovar*, etc for beautification - thus making a genuine effort to improve the environment.

Examples – Buildings/Structure identified- *Howrah Station, Howrah Bridge, Calcutta Fire Brigade, Tala Tank, Victoria House (CESC), Akash bani Bhavan*, etc. (Refer Inventory)

Post- Independence era- there is also a notable development took place in respect of Infrastructure development for Kolkata.

Findings. 4A (v): Introduction of Electrically operated **suburban train services** (1957), **Calcutta Telephone**, underground **Metro Rail network** (1980- First in India), Construction of **2nd Hooghly Bridge** (Vidyasagar Setu-1992), Riverfront Development-**Millenium Park** (2000), **Door Darshan Kendra** (1975), few Sports facilities, like, large scale renovation and **re-construction of Eden Garden Stadium & Club House** (1987), **Netaji Indoor Stadium** (1975), **Yuba Bharati Stadium** (1984) at Salt Lake, etc.

Examples- *Vidyasagar Setu, Yuba Bharati Stadium* (Refer Inventory)



Howrah Bridge (Pre- Independence era-1943)



*Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation(1933)
PC- CCA-SA-2.0*



Howrah Station (Post- Independence era-1911)



2nd. Hooghly Bridge (1992) - Post Independence era - Calcutta Metro Rail(1980)

- **Theme- 4B- Built- Heritage-**

Findings 5. explained in the succeeding paragraphs under **Objectives 2& 3 with examples**

- **Theme- 5- Socio- Economic**

Kolkata's economic decline began when the British shifted the capital to Delhi in 1911. Mid-20th century events, such as the Partition of Bengal, the freedom movement, and influx of refugees, further aggravated the downfall of city's economy. Jute Industry suffered due to Partition of Bengal, Port's activity decreased due to the declining nature of navigability of River Hooghly and many foreign based companies shifted their business, when India achieved Independence

Findings 6: Revival of Economy- Despite challenges, Kolkata's economy thrived with investments from Indian conglomerates **in the private sectors**, such as Tata Group, Birla Brothers, Kanoria, Bajoria, Kothari, Saraf, Bangur, Dalmia, Goenka and others. These Marwari business groups acquired British-owned Jute Mills and Tea Gardens, while others diversifying into sectors like Real Estate and Pharmaceuticals. Tata Group played a pivotal role, dominating iron mining and establishing steel plants across Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, with Kolkata serving as their corporate hub for production control. (Source: Chaudhuri. S. (1990) Calcutta the Living City (Vol.II)

Examples: Identified buildings are- *Tata Centre, Industry House (Birla GP), Victoria House/CESC (Goenka), Gillander House (Kothari), Balmer Laurie (GOI), Martin Burn Building (Fatepuria), Verginia House (ITC Ltd) etc* (Refer Inventory)

Nationalisation of Banking/Insurance/Colliery

Finding 7. - National policy formed after Independence on nationalisation of Bank, Insurance and Coal Industry helped to generate **employment opportunity in the Government Sector** for the middle class in 20C. Banking sector got tremendous impetus by reaching door to door service to rural population. Many office buildings were constructed for various Banks and Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Examples: *Reserve Bank of India, Alipore Mint, UCO Bank, United Bank of India, State Bank of India, Bank of India, Jeevan Deep (LIC) Hindustan Building (LIC.), Coal Bhavan (GOI), etc. (Refer Inventory)*

Ship Building Industry

Finding 8: Garden Reach Ship Building Industry is one of the major Industry of Kolkata, located at extreme South- west part on the bank of River Hooghly. Netaji Subhas dockyard at Kolkata Port continued Kolkata's legacy of maritime activity maintaining its export/import business. **Kolkata Port Trust has the largest dry dock facility in India.**

(<https://smporkolkata.shipping.gov.in>, <https://www.grse.in>)

Examples: *Kolkata Port- Kidder pore Dockyard, Garden Reach Ship builders*

Indian Railway

The first railway system in India began operating in 1854 with a single track and platform, stretching from Howrah to Hooghly as **East Indian Railway**. Thereafter, **Bengal Nagpur Railway (BNR)**, established in the mid-19th century and by early 20th century, which was subsequently taken over by British Govt later renamed **South-Eastern Railway**, whose HQ is located at Garden Reach and still functioning from the same location. (Bose.S.-(2007)-Garden Reach- a Railway Story, SER Publication, <https://www.ser.indianrailway.gov.in>)

Finding 9: Indian Railway created employment opportunity for the citizens in Government Sector and thus has a direct impact on 20 C socio-economy of Kolkata

- **Howrah Station**, inaugurated in 1911, remains Kolkata's primary gateway to the nation, symbolizing India's rich railway history.
- **The Metro Rail**, launched in 1984 as India's first underground railway network, revolutionized Kolkata's lifestyle, marking another significant contribution by Indian Railways to the city.
- Post Independence **Suburban Railway network** from Howrah and Sealdah Station eased the life of daily passengers of students and service class from mufassil. An indirect benefit on economy.

Examples: Identified buildings-*Howrah Station, SE Railway HQ/BNR Building* (Refer Inventory)

Real Estate Development

Calcutta was famous as '**City of Palaces**'. During the British era, apart from the British, ethnic communities like Jewish, Armenians, and Scottish significantly contributed to shaping Kolkata's urban landscape. Despite rising land prices, in the post- Independence era, Kolkata's real estate industry continues to thrive with sustained demand in the housing sector.

Findings 10: Martin Burn & Co, led by Bengali entrepreneur Sir R.N. Mookherjee, constructed many grand buildings including the iconic *Victoria Memorial*. (Rana, T. (2000) Mukherjee's of Martin Burn- A forgotten Legend)

Post-Independence, government agencies such as **Central PWD, State PWD, Post & Telegraph Dept, MES**, and private firms like **Balladries Thomson & Mathew (BTM), Chatterjee & Polk, Hindustan Corporation, Bengal Ambuja, Peerless Group, Emami Group** emerged as major players in Kolkata's construction sector.

Examples: Buildings identified- *Victoria Memorial, Grand Hotel, Gillander House, Stephen Court, Park Mansion, Hindustan Building, New Secretariate, Joga jog Bhavan, High Court Annexe, Yuba Bharati Stadium, Eden Garden Club House, Akash Vani Bhavan, Mahajati Sadan, Birla Planetarium, Rabindra Sadan*, and many more multi-storied office buildings and apartment houses. (Refer Inventory)

Film Industry-20 th century was the ‘Golden period’ of this Industry when, New Theatres Pvt Ltd, Arora Film Corporation, Chandi Mata Fims Ltd, Indian Film Laboratories Pvt Ltd, R.D. Bansal & Co, and many others ventured into this entertainment business to set an example how business could reach to the height of creativity with commercial success! Bengali Film Industry produced not only award-winning films but also built many Studios for film making, i.e. **New Theatres -1&2, Indra Puri, Technicians Studio-1&2, Radha Studio**, etc. at Tollygunge area, which was famous as ‘Studio para’ and fondly called by the citizens as ‘**Tollywood.**’ The saddest part of it, **once a flourishing Industry of Kolkata is dying down** due to the severe transformation in the attitude of the society with an advent of multiplex, television, internet, OTT etc

(<https://madantheatres.com>, <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/westminsterresearch-A> Ph.D. thesis by Chatterjee. R (2011) - Journeys in and Beyond the City: Cinema in Calcutta 1897 –1939)

Findings 11: Many landmark and popular Cinema halls built by great entrepreneurs, like, J.F. Madan of Madan Theatres Ltd, Aratoon Stephen, Metro Goldwyn Mayers, Humayun Properties for e.g. *Metro, Elite, New Empire, Light House, Roxy, Regal, New Cinema, Paradise, Orient, Tiger, Mitra, Uttara, Radha, Indira, Purna, Prachi*, etc. Most of the Cinema Halls built by them, however, were either demolished or retrofitted for some other purpose. A handful single screen Cinema Halls are only surviving to date in the Bengali infested neighbourhood area, such as -*Basu Sree, Bijali, Priya, Menoka, Minar, Naveena*, etc.

(<https://www.anandabazar.com/west-bengal/kolkata/roxy-cinema-is-in-a-controversy-with-hundred-years-old-tomb-> by Ghorai.D-(2018), <https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/rise-and-fall-of-dream-theatres-2012>)

Examples: identified few historic Cinema halls of 20C - *Metro* (retrofitted for new purpose with multiplex), *New Empire* (partly survived), *Roxy*(closed), *Basu Sree* (still in a running condition). (Refer Inventory)



Metro(Central) – retrofitted



New Empire(Central)- partly survived



Basusree – still surviving

Gold Jewellery Business - In the 20th century, Bow bazar, Kolkata became renowned as a 'Gold Jewellery Hub' due to pioneers like **B. Sirkar & Sons** (est. 1905). Although their original shop closed in 1955, family members continue in the trade under names like **B. Sirkar Johuree, M. Sirkar & Sons, A. Sirkar, Anjali Jewellers**, etc (all are siblings and branches of the same family). **P.C. Chandra Jewellers** (est. 1939) and **Senco Gold** (est. 1938) further solidified the area's reputation.

Findings 12: Kolkata's handcrafted gold jewellery now prized globally as a significant export item, contributed as a **foreign exchange earner** to the nation.

Example: ‘*Guinea House*’, once the residence and showroom of B. Sirkar and Sons, the pioneer company in Gold Jewellery business, stands as a historically significant landmark in Bow bazar. The building holds a heritage value not only as a pioneer in the jewellery business and but also has ties to India's freedom movement, including INA and Netaji. Presently owned by LIC, and being unused. (Refer Inventory)

Bara Bazar- Bara Bazar's history is intriguing, with Sutanuti r Hat- a trading centre, once owned by local Bengali traders like Setts and Baysacks, prior to arrival of British. Today, it is basically a wholesale market of each and everything of daily livelihood and trading is the key word there. The area is divided into zones or markets (Pattys) specializing in goods like Lohapatty, Sonapatty, Folpatty, Sutapatty, Masalapatty, and so on, stretching from Chitpur Road to Strand Road. (Source: Chaudhuri. S. (1990) Calcutta the Living City -Vol.II, <https://www.kolkataonline.in/>)

Findings 13: Initially led by Bengali communities, but economic dominance shifted over a period of time to Marwari migrants. **Today, Bara Bazar thrives as Kolkata's bustling epicentre of trade**, firmly under Marwari influence, shaping the city's economic landscape predominantly through commerce. It is city's most congested and unorganised area, so far city planning is concerned. (<https://www.kolkataonline.in/>)

Examples- few landmark buildings of Bara bazar area



Dharamshala , Barabazar



representative example of Residential Buildings, MG.Road, Barabazar



Street view on a busy day



SutaPatty, Bara Bazar



Swetambar Jain Temple, Barabazar

PC: Wikimedia Commons CCA-SA-3.0

Objective-2 - Built- Heritage with significance for protected and unprotected category

In 19th-century colonial Calcutta, public architecture predominantly featured Neo-Classical styles, reflecting Imperial power, and this trend persisted into the mid-20th century. Private buildings in the city also embraced European Classicism, with the Bengali rich zamindar class incorporating European elements into their homes while retaining traditional features such as the 'Bahir Mahal' and 'Andar Mahal' layout, courtyards, and thakurdalan. This fusion created a distinctive style known as 'Bengal Baroque.' During the nationalist movement, a 'Revivalist' style emerged, integrating Indian motifs and architectural elements from Rajasthan, Ajanta, and Ellora influences to assert Indian identity. The introduction of 'Art Deco' followed, aligning with global contemporary architectural trends by the Bengali elite upper middle class in contrary to create big mansions of North Kolkata. Post-independence, modern architecture took precedence due to technological advancements. While the

Kolkata Municipal Corporation has enacted a heritage conservation act and listed several graded heritage buildings, many deserving sites remain unrecognized and unprotected.

Findings 14: This research aims to identify and advocate for these unacknowledged structures, considering their value from 1900 to 2000. These structures are notable not only for their architectural excellence but also for their historical significance in Kolkata's political, economic, and cultural development. They encompass both protected and unprotected categories. **The 20th century stands out as a transformative period in Kolkata's history, marking a shift from colonial influences to embrace the global culture,** evident across all facets of life, including architecture.

Examples: An **Inventory** has been prepared with **appx 93 identified buildings (1900-2000)**, which will provide a detail information on their merits and present status.

(Refer List of Buildings with their Timeline)

Findings 15: Evolution of various architectural style in the 20C Kolkata - In this research, it is observed there are major **8 types of architectural style** flourished during this period namely -

- 1) **Colonial**, under 3 sub-category, i.e. Neo-Classic, Neo- Baroque, Neo- Gothic
- 2) **Indo- Saracenic**- influence of Islamic style
- 3) **Mixed/Fusion Architecture**- under 4 different variety, i.e.-
 - i) Red exposed Brick
 - ii) Bengal Baroque,
 - iii) Buildings with C.I. Ornamental Grill work in projected Balconies,
 - iv) Buildings with entrance Portico (Gari Veranda)
- 4) **Art Nouveau**
- 5) **Revivalist**- with Indian /Oriental motifs and Rajasthani elements
- 6) **Art- Deco/Indi- Deco**
- 7) **Modernism**
- 8) **Post- Modernism**

Examples- Photographic Illustrations on 'Evolution of Architectural styles of 20C' are attached.

Findings 16: This **Mixed style of architecture** is typically regional in character and bears the stamp of Kolkata - the spirit of Bengal- Those are the most lucrative 'prey' for the real estate giants for their prime locations and larger size of plots, to takeover and demolish for the sake of modern development. The owners are helpless for not been able to maintain these assets for various socio- economic reasons.

Findings 17: The research identifies and includes representative samples of **both protected and unprotected significant buildings** from the pre-Independence era (1900-1947) and the post-Independence era (1948-2000) in the Inventory. This will aid in formulating conservation strategies, acknowledging that while pre-Independence buildings are often categorized as heritage, many post-Independence buildings are overlooked due to their age or pending consideration by authorities.

Examples- Please refer the **Inventory** prepared under this research, where status and significance are specified to ease the process of Listing them as heritage assets of 20C by the competent authority

Objective – 3 – Post Independence Modern Architecture and its significance

Modern Architecture, also referred as '**Modernism**', emerged in the 20th century between Art Deco and post-modernism. Over and above the urge for gaining a status of a new nation in the global scenario,

Modern Architecture gained importance in India and Kolkata was also no exception to that. (Britanica.com, Wikipedia, architecturaldigest.com)

Findings.17. High population density after partition and limited land spurred **multi-story designs** with minimal ground coverage were the order of the day after Independence

Examples: *Reserve Bank of India (by John Ritchie), New Secretariate, Jeevan Deep, Tata Centre, Industry House, Nilhat House, Air India Office, Joga jog Bhavan, etc. and an early example of multi-storied apartment houses as Tivoli Court at Ballygunge Circular Road, etc.* (Refer Inventory)

Post Modernism- Post-modern architecture emerged in the late 1950s as a reaction against the austerity and uniformity of modern architecture.

(Ref: Mukherjee. Dr. Arjun and Basu. Dr. Sanghamitra (2011)- https://www.academia.edu/A_Search_for_Post_Modernism_in_Indian_Architecture)

Findings.18. Post-modernism encouraged abstract sculptural forms and material experimentation. It came into existence in Kolkata from the 1990s onwards.

Examples: *Rabindra Sadan, Academy of Fine Arts, Nandan, Kala mandir, Science City, Management Centre for human value (IIM-Joka), Don Bosco Church, (Kalyani), Ffort Radisson Hotel (Rai chalk), Babylon Apartments, etc.* (Refer Inventory)

Photographic Illustrations on ‘Evolution of Architectural styles of 20C’ are attached-

Objective -4- Contextualisation of the sites concerning the history of the city

A Zone/precincts is required to be preserved or conserved for historical, architectural, aesthetic, cultural, environmental, or ecological reasons that is unique and irreplaceable source of life and inspiration. It represents a legacy from our past and is thought to encompass not only tangible built heritage but also intangible cultural heritage or even natural heritage. (*Definition of Heritage Precincts by UNESCO*)

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is actively expanding its focus on heritage conservation to include various neighbourhoods, not just individual buildings. A group of heritage enthusiasts, along with the INTACH Kolkata chapter, has appealed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal to officially designate Dalhousie Square and College Square as Heritage Precincts. Additionally, they are proposing that Hindustan Park, Dover Lane, and Lake Temple Road be recognized also as Heritage Zones for their Art Deco buildings. A proposal in that respect has been submitted to the KMC for review and ratification by the KMC Commissioner and Mayor. (<https://www.thehindu.com/>, <https://www.telegraphindia.com/>)

Findings 19: In the British regime, Calcutta had a sharp difference of various locality, like - *White Town, Native Town & Grey Town*. ‘White Town’ depicts - where mostly Europeans’ settlements were dominating. Whereas ‘Native Town’ meant for locals with narrow lanes, by-lanes, unplanned, unorganized, congested area of the residences of rich native business class and ordinary middle class. The important aspects of these Native towns are, they truly represent a spontaneous development with indigenous lifestyle. ‘Grey town’ is mostly those areas where other ethnic communities used to reside. During this research, it has been found, that **many precincts of Kolkata are potential to be declared as ‘Heritage Precincts’**. **Three sample precincts are identified** in this research, each one from North, Central and South part of the city, such as- **Dorjeepara** (North), **Chittaranjan Avenue/C. R. Avenue** (Central) and **Purna Das Road** (South)

- A. Dorjeepara (North Kolkata)-** It is a residential zone mostly occupied by **Bengali community** since the beginning of the expansion for the city. We ought to reflect on certain important aspects of town planning and the courtyard houses of Dorjeepara (North Kolkata), as that was the representative samples of the typical urban fabric belonged to 20C Kolkata.



White Town- Dalhousie Square & Dharmatala (in 1930-40)

Grey Town- Park Street (1930)



Native Town- Lanes and By lanes of Dorjeepara

Findings 20. Open to sky ‘**Courtyard**’ with wide veranda, cross- ventilation, ‘**Kharkhori**’ (adjustable louvers) windows, ‘**Rowaks**’ at the entrance, **ornamental C.I grillwork** at balcony are the key components of architectural design of these buildings. ‘**Thakurdalan**’- the space for celebration of religious functions is inseparable part of larger buildings of opulent class. In general, the buildings of these area are mostly double storied loadbearing brick structures and situated at narrow winding, cozy lanes/ by lanes. Externally those followed influence of the colonial architecture, whereas internally followed indigenous style to suit the conservative culture of the then society.

Examples: *Dutta Bari, Roy Bari, Vimal Bhaban (Dorjeepara) (Refer Inventory)*



Influence of Colonial architecture externally-Duttabari & Vimal Bhavan, Dorjeepara



Courtyard (Mallik Bari, Shyam bazar) and Thakurdalan (Roy Bari, Dorjeeparai) – with Indian motif

Findings 21. During this study and field survey, it has been observed - the ‘Para’ culture or the neighbourhood feeling of these areas play an important role in the life of the residents. Inter mixing within the community allows a healthy upbringing and inculcates a fellow-feeling, which was a prevalent characteristic of old Kolkata. People habitually indulge in ‘Adda’ or leisurely chat, to exchange their views freely using these ‘Rowak’ areas, - a typical outdoor space of heritage buildings of north Kolkata. ‘Adda’ is an inseparable part of ‘Para Culture’, which has been proved as a healthy atmosphere to maintain peace, security and harmony within the zone.



‘Rowak’ areas, - a typical outdoor space of heritage buildings of north Kolkata.



Location Map of Dorjeepara with identified buildings

B. Chittaranjan Avenue /C. R. Avenue (Central Kolkata)

CR Avenue forms one of the major north-south connectors of the city, with dense mixed-use of establishments, largely commercial at ground floor and residential at upper floors. Central Avenue's construction commenced shortly after the **Calcutta Improvement Trust** was established in 1911. The segment from Beadon Street to Bow Bazar was finished by 1926, with the remainder completed by 1934. In 1935, it was renamed **Chittaranjan Avenue** in honour of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, the first mayor of Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the legendary figure of Freedom movement of India. Built during the dawn of Independence, Central Avenue showcased many examples in the 'Revivalist' style championed by Siris Chandra Chattopadhyay. (*Nair, P.T (1987). A History of Calcutta's Streets*)

Between, 1925-50, CR Avenue became the first choice for the **Marwari Community** to build their new residences as well as business place. After 1970's and specially during the Metro rail construction in 1975-80, the original owners are mostly dispersed from C R Avenue and spread to other locations of Kolkata, the top rich Marwari business community built their new houses at plush area, like, Alipore, New Alipore, Camac Street, Theatre Road, Southern Avenue, Ballygunge Circular Road, etc, whereas the next grade of Marwaris shifted to Vivekananda Road, Lake Town, Bangaur Avenue, Salt Lake, etc.

However, C R Avenue still continues as its legacy of Marwari infested zone, as the working class of Marwaris occupied as tenants, in those houses which were vacated by the original owners. As per the view of *Mr. Kamal Beriwal* (who is still living in CR Avenue as one of the few original settlers) of Beriwal House (Built in 1925), almost 90% or more are still from the Marwari community occupies the houses at C. R. Avenue. (*Source: Interview with Mr. K. Beriwal by I. Sarkar on 02.08.2024*)

Findings 22. The utilisation of CR Avenue can be divided broadly in **three zones**, **a) From Victoria House to Air India Office-** mostly multi-storied Office buildings for Commercial use with 'Art- Deco'/'Modern' style, **b) from Air-India Office to Bedon Street junction** – Mostly G+4 Residential buildings and shops for retail business with 'Bengal Baroque', 'Rajasthani' and 'Art- Deco' Style **c) from Bedon Street Junction to Shyam bazar Five point crossing** - mostly G+1 or G+2 storied residential buildings in 'Mixed/Revivalist' style.

Examples: a) *Hindustan Building*, b) *Gopal Bhawan*, c) *Pre. 39, Jatindra Mohan Avenue*

Findings 23. During Central Avenue's construction, Marwari families from Bara bazar and nearby areas chose to build homes along the new road. This led to a fusion of **classical architecture** mingled with Indian influences of **Rajasthani architectural style**, seen from Vivekananda Road to Mahajati Sadan. Presence of 'Bengal Baroque' styles visible on few landmark buildings i.e., triangular pediments, Corinthian column. It is also to be noted almost all the buildings are made with courtyard concept for introvert lifestyle and cross- ventilation. Notably, most of the structures are of load bearing brick structures with four to five storeys high in contrary to North Kolkata's double-storied residences. C R Avenue buildings are designed for mixed-use with commercial spaces on the ground floor and residential above, likely for the convenience of the business community.

(<https://www.telegraphindia.com- Rajasthan-meets-Attica> (2003))

Examples: a) 'Gopal Bhawan' is a significant 'Bengal Baroque' building in this stretch, showing a mix of traditional and European architectural elements. A striking element of this building is, the idols of 'Ganesha' with 'Riddhi and Siddhi' located on either side on a typical European ornamental pediment atop. Built in 1926, Gopal Bhawan was erected by Rameshwar Nathwani, a rich businessman of the then society. However, at present, probably, part of this building has been sold, and the new owner without any sensitive idea spoiled the elegance of the façade by covering partly with structural glazing- a total contradictory concept. (Refer Inventory)



*Gopal Bhawan- (Ownership-Private, Status- **Unprotected**) -The Pediment with Ganesha, Riddhi & Siddhi
Bengal Baroque style*



Beriwala House (1925) -167, C.R.Avenue- view of Court yard (PC: Mukul Agarwal)



Fusion Architecture- Pre-No.126, CR Avenue

b) **Ram Mandir** (Refer Inventory) and the residential building at **Pre.no. 42, CR Avenue**- typical examples of **Rajasthani architecture** with Jharokha type balcony, Jali and multifoliate arch etc.



*Ram Mandir – CR Avenue
Status-**Unprotected***



Rajasthani Style

*Pre. No. 42, CR Avenue
Status-**Unprotected***

b) **Mahajati Sadan, Hindu Mutual Fund**- A striking examples of **Revivalist architecture** mixed with Art-Deco features combined with Bengal's 'At Chala' concept, Indian motifs etc. These buildings showcase 20th-century new wave of architectural styles on C R Avenue. (Refer Inventory)



*Hindu Mutual House -14, Madan Street- **Revivalist style**
Status- Closed, **Protected***



*Mahajati Sadan- Pre. No.166,CR Avenue
Status- **Protected***

Findings 24: After 1960, **Art Deco** buildings gained popularity in Kolkata as the newly affluent class opted for their own homes and offices, moving away from the colonial style prevalent in northern part of Kolkata. This marked a remarkable period when these individuals sought to establish unique identities, often avoiding the traditional Art Deco features and develop something a new what is now known as Indie-Deco. The streetscape of CR Avenue exhibits many such examples. The stretch of CR Avenue from Mahajati Sadan to Victoria House, there are many buildings adopted Art-Deco styles for office buildings. (<https://iamkolkata.co.in/-Kolkata's Art Deco Legacy> (2023))

Examples- *Hindustan Building (LIC), Victoria House, Laha Paint House and many more private residential houses.* (Refer Inventory)



Hindustan Building(LIC)- Protected - Art Deco



Laha Paint House([PC;https://economicstimes.com](https://economicstimes.com))



Pre. No. 43, CR avenue-Mixed style- Ownership- Private, Unprotected- Interior view of Courtyard



Air- India House - Modern - Ownership- Public



Jogajog Bhavan



Lakshmbilas Bhavan- Private



Residential Houses - Art-Deco style



Ownership - Private- Status- Unprotect



271, CR. Avenue – Private- **Mixed style- Unprotected** – Seksaria House- Pre No.213, C R Avenue

Chittaranjan Avenue/Central Avenue- 4 pockets with identified buildings



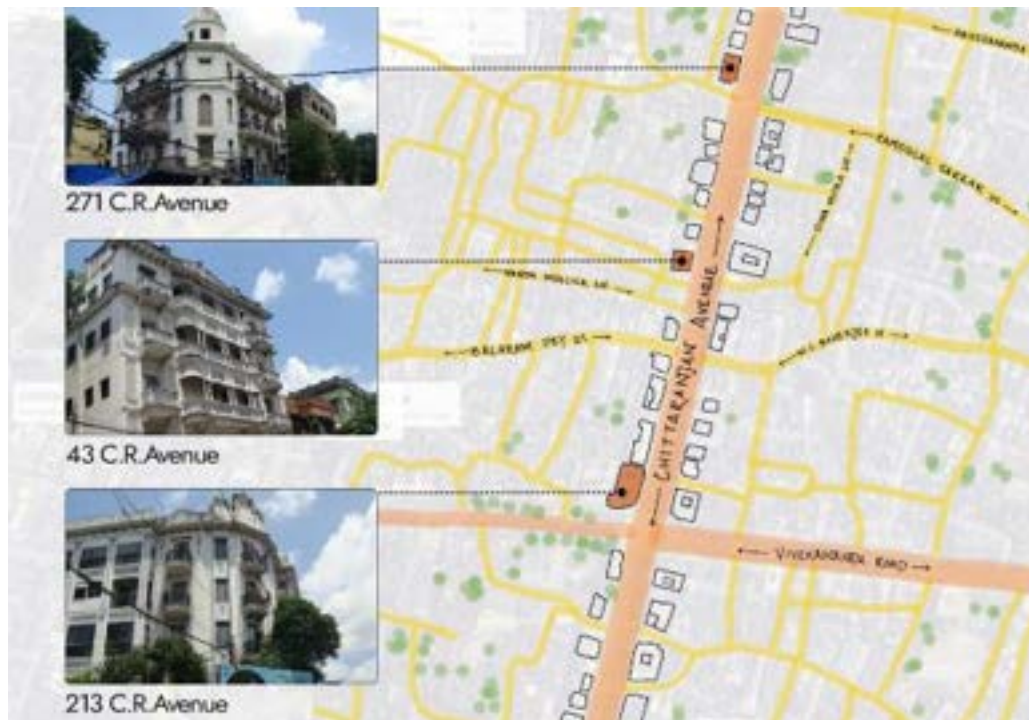
Location Map- Pocket 1



Location Map- Pocket 2



Location Map- Pocket 3



Location Map- Pocket 4

C. Purna Das Road (South Kolkata)

Originally known as ‘Manohar Pukur Road’, this road was renamed as **Purna Das Road** in 1957. Purna Das was a revolutionary of Bengal, born in 1889 in today’s Bangladesh. During Post Independence era, Das settled in Calcutta and served as a member of the Refugee Rehabilitation Board. In 1956 he was stabbed to death by an ex- revolutionary at the crossing of Hindustan Road and Rash Behari Avenue after which this road was named after him.

Findings 25: Many structures on Purna Das Road date back to the 1930s, but most were built after 1950 in the Art Deco style. This shift from Kolkata’s traditional architecture reflects broader socio-political and economic changes, including increased urbanization. By the 1960s, Art Deco became popular as a modern alternative to the elaborate, massive buildings of earlier times. The style gained admiration in South Kolkata, attracting professionals from North Kolkata and East Bengal who sought affordable housing as the city’s economic and social landscape evolved. These Art Deco buildings, which often incorporated Indian elements like sunrise Jafri, came to symbolize both modernity and Indian influence affectionately termed ‘Indie-Deco.’ (Source: Thankappan Nair, P. (1987). *A History of Calcutta’s Streets. India: Firma KLM, Sircar. Jawahar. (2020)-Celebrating Kolkata’s Architectural Heritage- <https://www.jawharsircar.com>*)

Findings: 26. The structures on PD Road are mostly rectangular in plan, ranging from G to G+3 storied structures. Largely built in the Art Deco style, the buildings have balconies with streamlined edges, eyebrows running above openings also with rounded edges, circular monolithic columns without a separate base and capital, railings with geometrical patterns showcasing common Art Deco motifs. Minimal decoration on facades with only horizontal and/or vertical bands. Most buildings continue to have rectangular window and door openings with louvered timber shutters. The other important feature is the ‘Metro’ pattern central staircase block. Art Deco motifs are also seen in the main gates to the houses. (Refer Inventory)

Examples: various buildings made a streetscape pattern, ownership- Private, Status -unprotected



Pre. No. 53, P.D. Road



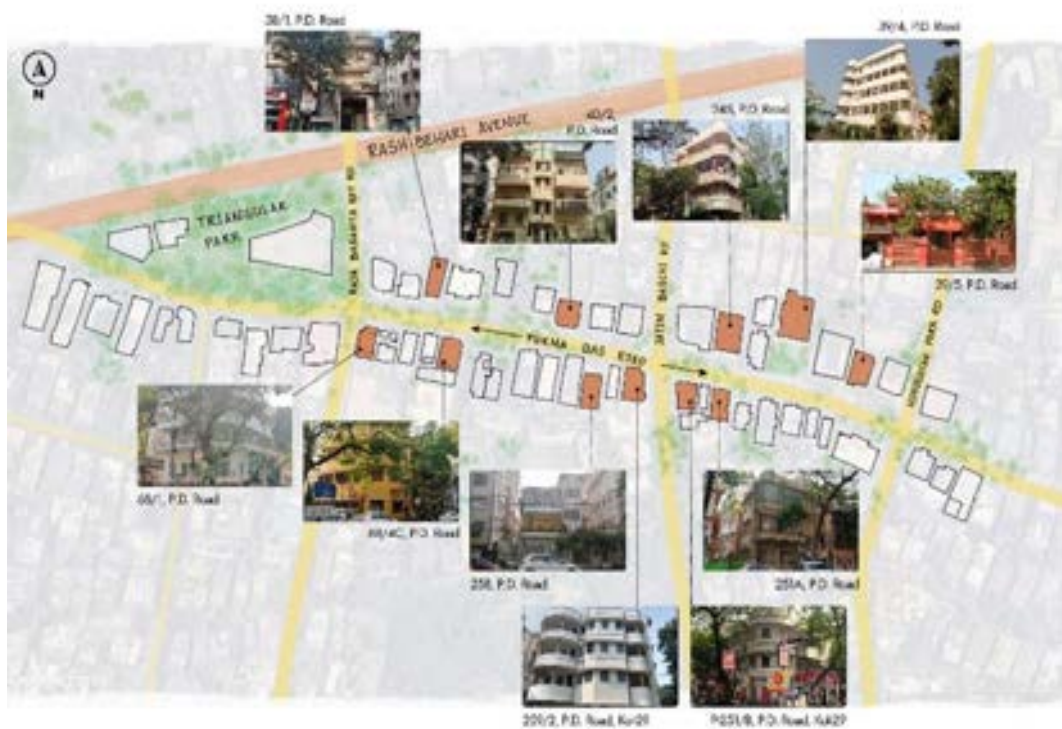
Pre. No 251/B, P. D. Road



Pre. No.251/A ,P.D.Road



Pre. No. 39/4, P.D.Road



Location Map with identified buildings



Pre. No 259/2. P. D. Road

Findings27: It is also to be noted this Art- Deco style not only found in Purna Das Road, but also spread all over Kolkata, specifically on those area, which has grown up after Independence, like Dover Lane, Hindustan Road, Hindustan Park, Jodhpur Park, Southern Avenue at South Kolkata, Entally C.I.T. Road, Belegghata C. I. T. Road at East Kolkata, C .R .Avenue in Central Kolkata and Paik para, Lake Town, Bangur Avenue at North Kolkata.

What is remarkable is that no two houses are identical; each one is a unique experiment by self-styled architects. This results in an unprecedented variety within a single lane or neighbourhood. The style is genuinely innovative, modern, and aesthetically pleasing, reflecting the Bengali middle class. Although these houses have not yet been recognized as heritage structures, their loss due to development pressures would erase a significant part of 20th-century middle-class history. (Chowdhury. Amit. (2015)- *theguardian.com/cities- "Calcutta's architecture is unique. Its destruction is a disaster for the city"*)

Examples: 20C Heritage @ Risk



Oriental Assurance Building(1914), Usage- Office
Pre. No. 2, Clive Row, BBD Bagh(land value- very high)
Ownership- LIC, Status- **Protected**
Condition- dilapidated, trees have come up on roof



Guinea House,(1917-20) Usage- abandoned
Pre. No. 131, Bowbazar Street(land value- high)
Ownership- LIC, Status- **Unprotected**
Condition- Front façade mutilated, interior- retained



Jahaj Bari (1960-65), Usage- Residential
Pre. No. Elgin Road, (Land value- High)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**
Condition- Poor, waiting for its turn to be demolished



Early 20th century, Usage-Residential/Commercial
Pre. No.117B, C.R. Avenue (Land value- High),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**
Condition- Poor, waiting for its turn to be demolished



Gopal Bhavan, (1926), Usage- Residential/ Commercial
Pre. No.177B, C. R. Avenue (Land Value- High)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**
Condition- Left side sold and the faced is mutilated with structural Glazing

Successful Conservation Efforts: Examples



Metropolitan Building, Esplanade– Before (2006) (PC: <https://www.wikiwand.com>) and after (2011)



Park Mansions, Park Street (pc: www.apeejayrealestate.com) - Before (1999) and after restoration (2010)

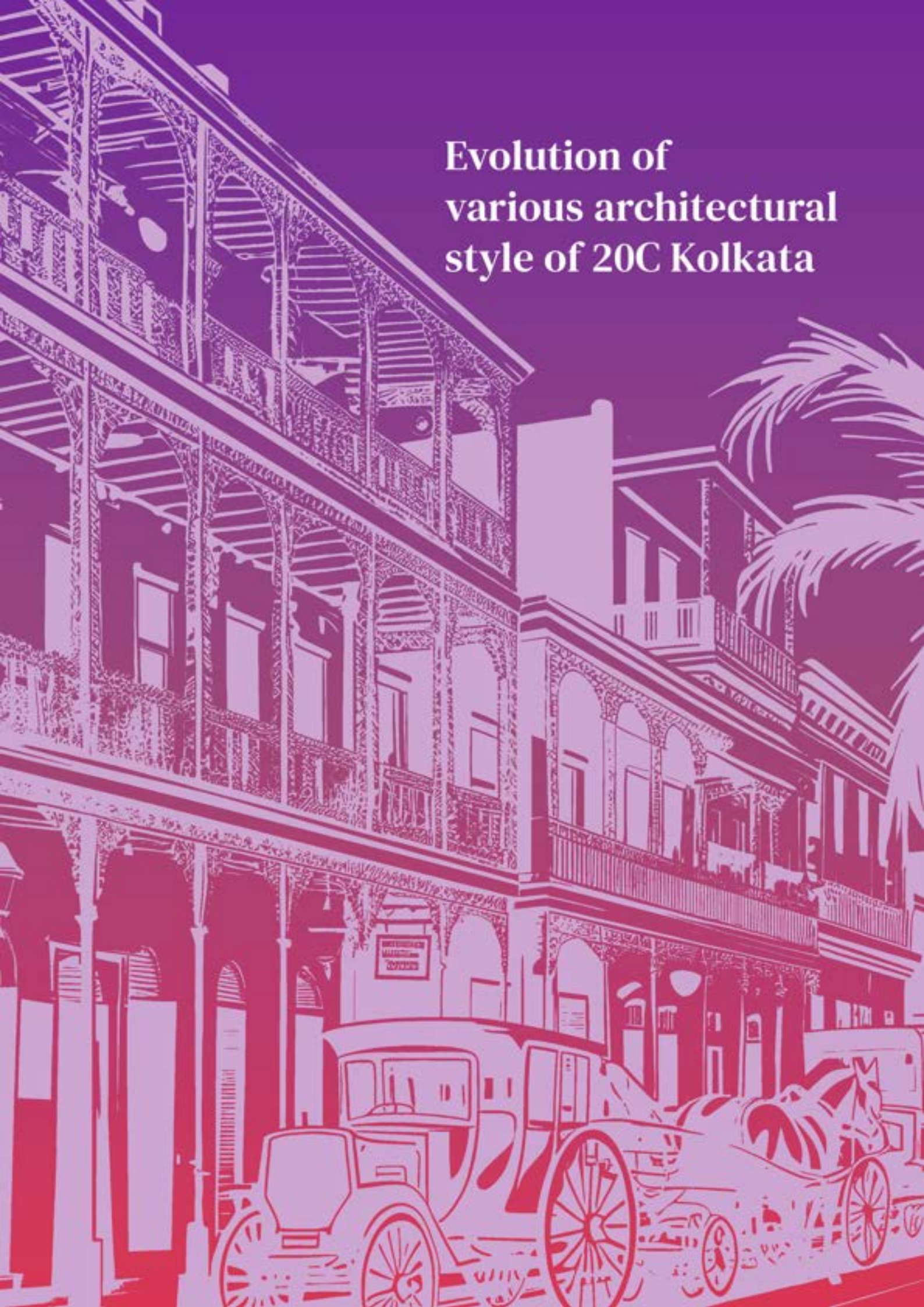


Before (PC: [fb page](#))- Red Bari- an example of adaptive re-use – residence to Cafeteria- after restoration



Before (pc; [wikimedia.commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sister_Nibedita's_House.jpg)) – Sister Nibedita's House- after -example of adaptive re-use as museum

Evolution of various architectural style of 20C Kolkata



Evolution of various architectural style of 20C Kolkata

1. Colonial Architecture-Neo- Classical/ Neo - Baroque



Metropolitan Building (1905), Neo- Baroque, Usage-Commercial/Residential
Pre. No.140, S.N.Banerjee Road, Dharamtala (Central Kolkata) Ownership-Public, Status- **Protected**



Grand Hotel (1911), Neo- Classical, Usage- Hotel
Pre. No.15, J. N. Road, Chowringhee, (Central Kolkata),Ownership- Private, Status- **Protected**

Colonial- Contd...



Army/Navy Stores / Kanak Building (1901), Neo- Classical, Usage- Office
Pre. No.41, J.N. Road, Chowringhee,(Central Kolkata) Ownership- Private, Status- **Protected**
PC: [Creative Commons SA-4.0](#)



Central Watch Tower, Alipore Jail(1906), Neo- Gothic
Usage- previous use as Watch Tower, presently as Museum
Pre No.17, Judges Court Road,(South Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status- **Protecte**

2. Indo -Saracenic Architecture



SE Railway HQ- BNR Office (1907-08), Usage - Office
Pre. No.11, Garden reach Road (West Kolkata), Ownership – Public, Status-**Protected**
Designed by - Ar. V. J. Esch, Constructed by- Martin & Co.
(PC: [Creative Commons-SA-4.0](#))



Victoria Memorial (1906-21), Usage- Museum
Pre. No.-1, Queens Way, Calcutta Maidan, (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status-**Protected**
Designed by- Ar. Sir William Emersons, constructed by – Martin Burn & Co.
The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, designed by Vincent Esch also has Indo-Saracenic features, possibly inspired from the Taj Mahal.
(PC: [Creative Commons A-SA-4.0](#))

3. Mixed Style-

i) Red Exposed Brick Buildings



Duttabari (1905-1910), Usage- Residential
Pre No. 8B, Jagannath Sur Lane, Dorjeepara (North Kolkata),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Residence (Between 1910- 1934), Usage – Residential
Pre. No.47, Keshub Sen Street (North Kolkata),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

i)Red Exposed Brick Buildings- contd...



Residential House (1905)

Pre. No. 93/3A/1, A P C Road (North Kolkata),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Protected**



Residential House

Pre. No. Hindusthan Park (South Kolkata)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

i)Red Exposed Brick Buildings- contd...



SE Railway Officer's quarters (Godfrey Mansions) (left-1923, right- 1909)
Pre. No.11, Garden reach Road, Kolkata
Ownership- Public, Status-**Unprotected**



Residential Building(mid 20th century),
Pre. No. 22B, Hemendra Sen Street(Dorjeepara- North Kolkata),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

3. Mixed Style - contd.-ii) Bengal Baroque-Private Residences- Unprotected



Ballav Bari, Shyambazar (Early 20th century), Usage- Residential
Pre, No.Canal West Road (North Kolkata),Ownership – Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Residential House, Usage- Residential cum commercial
Pre No.83A, J.L.Nehru Road (South Kolkata), Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

3.Mixed Style - contd. -ii) Bengal Baroque-Private Residences- Unprotected



Front View (Part) – with Baroque ornamentation



A common element of traditional house
the 'Rowak'



Exquisite ornamental stucco work on the exterior face

Tandon Bari, Usage- Residential

Prem No. Banarasi Ghat Road, Pathuriaghata Central Kolkata)

Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**

3. Mixed Style- ii) Bengal Baroque-Contd...Private Residences- Unprotected



‘Bimal Bhavan’, Dorjeepara (North Kolkata)



C.R.Avenue(Central Kolkata)



‘Roy Bari’ (1929) (Dorjeepara, North Kolkata) – exterior with colonial influence, interior with Indian motifs



‘Gorachand Bhavan’ with Venetian windows
(Dorjeepara, North Kolkata)



‘Gopal Bhavan’ with ‘Khorkhori’ windows

3. Mixed Style– iii) various type of balconies with ornamental C.I. Grill work



Residential House, Early 20th century,
Pre. No. 42A, Keshub Sen Street (North Kolkata), Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**



Front View



Rear View

Residential House, Early 20th century,
Pre. No. 33/1, Abhedananda Sarani/Bedon Street (North Kolkata),
Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**

3.Mixed Style-iii) various type of balconies with ornamental C.I. Grill work- contd..



House of B. Sircar Johuree (1937-45), Usage- Residential
Pre. No.131 B, Bowbazar Street, (Central Kolkata), Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**
With C.I. Grill and wooden fixed louvers (Jhilli)- a typical feature



Naskar Bari (mid-20th century), Usage – Residential
Pre. No. 72, Belegkata Main Road (East Kolkata), Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**
With C.I. Grill and wooden fixed louvers (Jhilli)- a typical feature

3.Mixed Style- iii) various type of balconies with ornamental C.I. Grill work-contd...



Red Bari (1930's), Usage- Residential (Past)/Commercial (Present)
Pre. No.18, Sadananda Road (South Kolkata), Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**



Mid-20th century Rashbehari Avenue(South Kolkata), Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Rali Castle, post-Independence era, Usage- Residential
Pre.No. 12, Allenby Road, Chakraberia (South Kolkata)
Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Unprotected**

3.Mixed Style- iii) various type of balconies with ornamental C.I. Grill work- contd..



Residential Building (Early 20th Century)
Pre. No. 5, Gaur Ghosh Road, Bhawanipore (South Kolkata),
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**
Utilisation of corner plot with circular veranda at first floor



Bankim Chatterjee Street (North Kolkata)
Ownership – Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Akshay Duta Sarani(North Kolkata)

4. Art – Nouveau



Esplanade Mansion (1910), Usage- Commercial/ Residential ([PC: Wikimedia Commons](#)) at the crossing of Esplanade East (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status- **Protected**

5.Revivalist-a combination of Neo-classical with Art- Deco style- precursor to Modern



Gillander House (1909), Usage- Office
Pre. No.8, N. S. Road, B.B.D.Bagh,(Central Kolkata) Ownership- Private, Status- **Protected**

5.Revivalist - with Indian architectural style & Motifs



Mahajati Sadan (1939-1949), Usage- Auditorium
Conceptualised by – **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

Pre No.166, CR Avenue, (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status- **Unprotected**
(An indigenous architectural style evolved with special emphasis on Bengal's Atchala temple)



Birla Planetarium (1963), Usage- Planetarium/Educational Institute
Designed by-**Ar. J. K. Gora of BTM**

Pre. No.96, J.N.Road, Maidan(Central Kolkata),
Ownership- M.P.Birla Trust, Status- **Unprotected**

(The planetarium's architecture draws inspiration from the 'Sanchi Stupa'. It features a large circular dome atop with a Vedika at the dome's base and a Harmika above. [PC: CCA-SA-2.0](#))

Revivalists- contd..



Akashvani Bhavan (1958), designed by -William B. Ker, Usage- Radio Station (Kolkata) Ghostopal Sarani, Eden Garden (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status- **Protected** (an influence of Art- Deco mixed with Indian elements like, central bay displays five tall pillars with capital of lotus motifs, two cupolas on each side and Rajasthani Jafris, with sloped eaves at the top level)



Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, (1960), Usage- Institutional Gariahat Road, Goal Park(South Kolkata), Ownership- Trust Property, Status- **Protected** (Indian architectural style amalgamated with Art Deco features)

5.Revivalists- Influence of Rajasthani Architecture



Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya (1949), Usage – School
Pre. No.20, Bidhan Sarani/College Street (North Kolkata),
Ownership- Trust Property, Status- **Protected**
(Various architectural details are evident, including Jhoroka type balconies,
corbelled arches, ornamental jali, decorative parapets, corner chhatris, etc.
showcases influence of traditional Rajasthani-style)



Kalachand Temple (1929), Usage- Hindu Temple
Ramdulal Sarkar Street, Hedua(North Kolkata),
Ownership- Trust Property, Status- **Unprotected**



Residential Building, Usage- Commercial (Present)
42, Chittaranjan Avenue,(Central Kolkata)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

6.Art - Deco



Metro Cinema (1935)-one of the most iconic buildings of Kolkata

Usage- Cinema Hall (Past) Cinema Hall cum Shopping mall (Present)

Designed by – **Ar. Thomas W Lamb**, USA, Redesigned by- Ar. Subir Bose & Associates

Pre. No. 5, J.N. Road, Esplanade (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Private, Status-**Protected**



‘Metro pattern’ house- during 20th century

Usage- Residential, Dover Road, (South Kolkata),

Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotect**

6.Art- Deco- Contd...



Hindustan Building (Mid-20th century), Usage- Office
Pre. No. 4, C.R. Avenue, (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Public, Status- **Protected**



House of Dr. Nilratan Sircar, (Mid-20th century),
Usage- Residential (Past), Commercial (Present)
61, MG Road (Central Kolkata), Ownership- Trust Property, Status- **Unprotected**

6.Art- Deco- Contd..



Residential Building (1960-70)
Pre. No.39/4, Purna Das Road (South Kolkata)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Residential Building (1960-70)
Pre. No.25/1 B, Purna Das Road (South Kolkata)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Residential Building (1960-70)
Pre. No. , Purna Das Road (South Kolkata)
Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**

7. Modern Architecture



Taj Bengal (1989), Usage- Hotel

Designed by American architect **Bob (Robert) F. Fox, Jr.**, assisted by local architects **Ajay Chowdhury** and **Ranjit Sabeki**.

Pre. No.34B, Belvedere Road, Alipore (South Kolkata)

Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



New Secretariate (1954), Usage- Administrative Building

Designed By- **Ar. Habib Rahman**

Pre. No. 1. Kiran shankar Roy Road (Strand Road), Central Kolkata

Ownership- Public, Status -**Unprotected**

7. **Modern** – contd..



Jogajog Bhavan (1980's), Usage- Office
Designed by –**Ar. S.N.Roy & Ar. Ashis De**
Pre No.36, C R Avenue (Central Kolkata)



Tata Centre (1963), Usage- Office
Designed by- **Holabird and Root, USA**
Pre.no.43,JL Nehru Road(South Kolkata)



Babylon Apartment, (1988), Usage- Residential
Pre. No. 2/1A& B, Alipore Road, (south Kolkata), Ownership- **Private**, Status- **Protected**

8. Post-Modernism



Science City(1994-96),Usage- Science Museum/ Entertainment Zone
Designed by-Devolopment Consultant Ltd
Pre. No. JBS Haldane Avenue, Mirania Gardens, Topsia(East Kolkata)
Ownership- Public, Status- **Unprotected**



Management Centre of Human Value, (1995) Usage- a meditation centre
Indian Institute of Management, Joka (South Kolkata)
Ownership- IIMCalcutta, Status- **Unprotected**

8. Few examples of Post- Modernism by eminent Architects in and around Kolkata



Residential House designed by **Ar. Charles Correa** (1971-75)
Ballygaunge Circular Road (South Kolkata) Ownership- Private, Status- **Unprotected**



Don Bosco Church, Kalyani (1989-91),
by **Ar. Dulal Mukherjee** (**Unprotected**)



Gandhi Ghat, Barrackpore(1949),
by-**Ar. Habib Rehman** (**Protected**)



Ffort Radisson, Raichalk- by **Ar.Prabir Mitra**
Status -**Unprotected**



Revival of Exposed Brick construction

Originally constructed as a naval fort during the colonial era to oversee the River Hooghly, the structure fell into disrepair and neglect for many years. In 1996, it was revitalized and transformed into a luxury resort. Mitra's design preserved the fort's character, with exposed brick exterior including a surrounded moat, while integrating modern interior layouts and landscaped gardens.

Constraints:

1. During this research it has revealed, that Kolkata possesses **innumerable heritage assets**, and most of them are owned by private owners. Those owners though inherited huge property with significant values, but **unable to maintain it due to financial crisis** in the post- Independence era.
2. Kolkata currently has an **extremely high population density** of 24,000 people per square kilometre, making it one of the most densely populated cities in the world. In 1950, Kolkata's population was 4,604,143. As of 2024, the population has surged to an estimated 15,570,786. This rapid growth has led to **a dramatic increase in land prices**, which now range from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per square foot, depending on the location.

(Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com>,
<https://www.99acres.com/property-rates-and-price-trends-in-kolkata>)

3. The **above may be one of the few reasons** for disposing off the heritage assets by the owner lured by the promoter cum developer. People are **reluctant to use heritage tag** on their property, with an idea that it may reduce their property value in the market.
4. **Other factors** contributing to the situation include **legal disputes among co-owners** of joint properties and **ongoing long pending court cases between property owners and tenants**. Many property owners are senior citizens whose **siblings live abroad and have little interest in returning to India** due to limited employment opportunities. As a result, even though the original owners are often reluctant to sell their properties, they are compelled to do so under the circumstances.
5. Even **for Public properties, Govt resources are not enough** to maintain huge heritage assets spread all over the city, and thereby many of them are in dilapidated condition.
6. In such **a difficult situation, it is a critical issue, to initiate 'ideal conservation policy'** to safeguard these priceless assets.
7. Few solutions to the problems are thought about, such as, the **fund for restoration** may be generated either through **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** mode or through **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR Fund)**. It is being a social issue; it is hoped **Central Govt may also provide a budget allocation** to save our cultural and architectural assets as a **'Heritage Grant'** or may be **Bank loan** is made available to the owner at a cheaper interest rate.
8. The **marketing policy of these property** also requires to be re-generated inspired by **'heritage tourism'** and **'self- sustainable proposals'** which are some of the other options can be thought about for its preservation.
9. Needless to mention, a significant point to be noted, in spite of all the above difficulties, Kolkata **was successful in its efforts to some extent** to safeguard its legacy through collaborative efforts between private and public sectors to preserve the city's heritage through **adaptive reuse**. Even some of the private owners found out solutions on their own for survival.

Conclusion

- The aim of this research is to find out **the significance of the 20th century built- heritage**, not only on architectural merit but as per their historical/cultural value which will highlight the uniqueness of the then society. History of 20th century Kolkata is really amazing, as it experienced a phenomenal reform in the lifestyle of the citizen.
- It has been observed, that more than thousands of heritage assets related to 20th Century history of Kolkata still exists, which require conservation, but with its limited resources, **the team has surveyed a handful of the ‘value- based buildings’, which are representative examples, but not exhaustive.**
- Attempt has been made to identify those examples, through which strategies can be developed to make further research to frame the policies on its recognition as heritage asset and to develop the necessary Conservation process for its survival. It is hoped that the **‘Inventory’ made of Identified buildings** with various parameters will help as a tool for the purpose.
- This research may be an initiative to start the ball roll on, over a period of time it is hoped this will definitely open the floodgate for various research in future.

List of Identified buildings (as Value-based Heritage -1900-2000)

Sl. No	Name of the Building	Year	Theme	Page No.
1.	‘Bande Mataram’ Office	1906-08	Socio- Political	157
2.	Secret office of Anushilon Samity	Not known	Socio-Political	159
3.	Bharat Sabha Office	1912-15	Socio-Political	160
4.	Guinea House	1917-20	Socio-Political	161
5.	Arya Samaj Mandir	1910	Socio- Political	163
6.	Alipore Central Jail	1906	Socio- Political	164
7.	Netaji Bhavan	1909	Socio-Political	166
8.	Gandhi Bhavan	1923	Socio-Political	167
9.	Hideout for Anushilon Samity	Not Known	Socio-Political	168
10.	Ballygunge Government School for Boys’	1927	Socio-Cultural (Education)	169
11.	Sister Nibedita Girls’ High School	1922	Socio-Cultural (Education)	171
12.	Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya	1949	Socio-Cultural (Education)	173
13.	Moulana Azad College	1924	Socio-Cultural (Education)	175
14.	Asutosh College	1916	Socio-Cultural (Education)	177
15.	R G Kar Medical College	1902-04	Socio-Cultural (Education)	178
16.	Science College	1914	Socio-Cultural (Education)	179
17.	Bose Institute	1917	Socio-Cultural (Scientific Research Institution)	180
18.	Aurobindo Building (Jadavpur University)	1922-24	Socio-Cultural (Education)	182
19.	Rammohun Library	1913	Socio-Cultural (Literary Institution)	184
20.	Bangiya Shaitya Parishat	1908	Socio-Cultural (Literary Institution)	185
21.	Vivekananda Society	1966-67	Socio-Cultural (Literary Institution)	186
22.	Indian Coffee House (Albert Hall)	1929 (1876)	Socio-Cultural Socio-Political	187

Sl. No.	Name of the Building	Year	Theme	Page No.
23.	Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture	1960	Socio-Cultural (Literary Institution)	189
24.	University Institute Hall	Rebuilt-1972	Socio-Cultural (Literary Institution)	191
25.	Baikuntha Temple	1960-62	Socio-Cultural (Hindu Religion)	192
26.	Ram Mandir	1941	Socio- Cultural (Hindu Religion)	194
27.	Birla Mandir	1970-71	Socio- Cultural (Hindu Religion)	196
28.	Mahabodhi Society	1920	Socio-Cultural (Buddhist Religion)	198
29.	Nakhoda Masjid	1926-34	Socio-Cultural (Muslim Religion)	200
30.	Parsvanatha Temple	1914	Socio-Cultural (Jain Religion)	202
31.	Academy of Fine Arts	1933-59	Socio-Cultural	204
32.	Rabindra Sadan	1961-67	Socio- Cultural	206
33.	Nandan	1980-85	Socio- Cultural	208
34.	Sangeet Kala Mandir	1968	Socio- Cultural	210
35.	Akashbani Bhavan (All India Radio)	1958	Socio-Cultural (Infrastructure)	212
36.	Nirmal Hriday	1952	Socio-Cultural (Philanthropy)	213
37.	Bharat Sevashram Sangha	Mid-20 th century	Socio-Cultural (Philanthropy)	215
38.	New Empire Cinema Hall	1932	Socio-Cultural Multi-ethnicity Architecture	217
39.	Roxy Cinema Hall	1908	Socio-Cultural Multi-ethnicity Architecture	218
40.	Metro Cinema	1935	Socio-Cultural Multi-ethnicity Architecture	220
41.	Minerva Theatre	1925	Socio-Cultural Architecture	222

Sl. No.	Name of the Building	Year	Theme	Page No.
42.	Sea IP Temple	1905	Multi-ethnicity (Chinese)	224
43.	Maneckji Rustomji Dharamshala	1909 / 1936	Multi-ethnicity (Parsi)	226
44.	Byramjee Mehta Zoroastrian Atash Adaran Fire Temple	1912	Multi-ethnicity (Parsi)	228
45.	Bow Barracks	Early 20 th century	Multi-ethnicity (Anglo-Indian)	230
46.	Mei Kong School	1932	Multi-ethnicity (Chinese)	232
47.	Neveh Shalome Synagogue	1910	Multi-ethnicity (Jewish)	234
48.	Calcutta South Indian Club	1960	Multi-ethnicity (South Indian)	236
49.	Saifee Masjid	1921	Multi-ethnicity (Bohra- Gujrati Muslim)	237
50.	Park Mansions	1910	Multi-ethnicity (Armenian) Architecture	238
51.	Esplanade Mansions	1910	Multi-ethnicity (Jewish) Architecture	240
52.	Grand Hotel	1911	Multi-ethnicity (Armenian) Architecture	241
53.	Stephen Court	1919	Multi-ethnicity (Armenian) Architecture	243
54.	Greek Orthodox Church	1924	Multi-ethnicity (Greek) Architecture	245
55.	Nizam Palace	1933	Multi-ethnicity (Armenian) Architecture	246
56.	Marwari Hospital	1919	Multi-ethnicity (Indian-Marwari)	247
57.	Birla Planetarium	1963	Socio- Cultural Architecture	249
58.	Mahajati Sadan	1939-49	Socio- Political Socio- Cultural Architecture	250
59.	Howrah Station	1905-11	Infrastructure Architecture	252
60.	Royal Insurance Building	1902-1905	Socio-Economic Architecture	254
61.	Kanak Building	1901	Socio-Economic Architecture	256

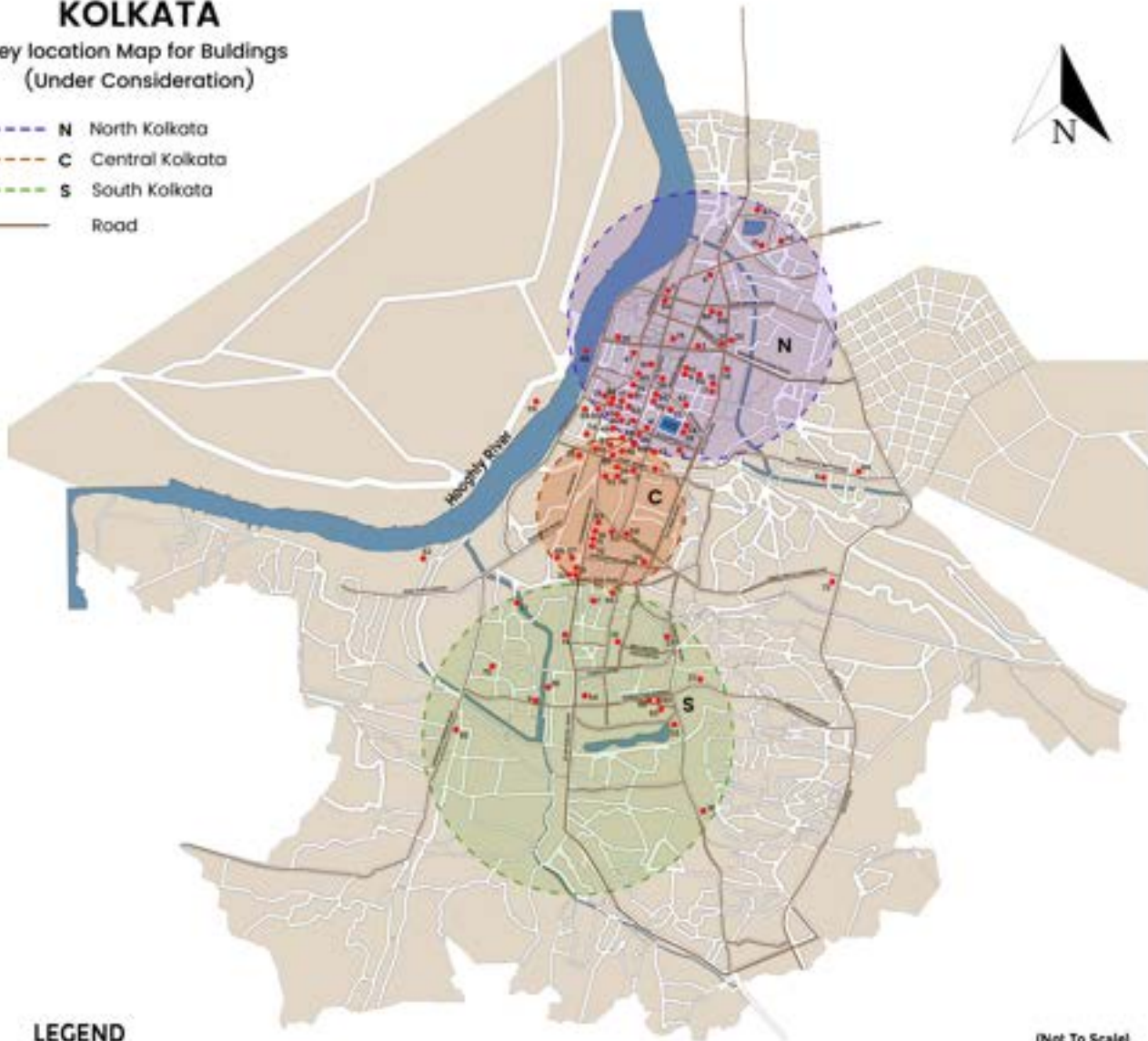
Sl. No.	Name of the Building	Year	Theme	Page No.
62.	SE Railway HQ /BNR House	1907-08	Architecture Infrastructure	257
63.	Residence of Dr. Nilratan Sircar	Mid-20 th Century	Architecture	260
64.	Naskar Bari	Early 20 th century	Architecture	262
65.	Victoria Memorial	1906-21	Architecture	264
66.	Hindustan Building	Mid-20th century	Socio-Economic Architecture	266
67.	Tower House	Late 1930s	Socio-Political Architecture	267
68.	Victoria House	1933	Architecture Infrastructure	269
69.	New Secretariate	1954	Architecture (Administrative)	270
70.	Tata Centre	1963	Architecture Socio- Economic	271
71.	Jeevan Deep	1958	Architecture Socio-Economic	273
72.	Taj Bengal Hotel	1989	Architecture	275
73.	Science City	1994-96	Architecture Socio-Cultural (Science & Technology)	277
74.	Centenary Building (Calcutta High Court)	1977	Architecture (Administrative)	279
75.	Babylon Apartment	1988	Architecture	280
76.	Kalachand Temple	1929	Architecture	282
77.	Oriental Assurance	1914	Architecture Socio-Economic	284
78.	Balmer Lawrie & Co	1924	Architecture Socio-Economic Multi-ethnicity (Scottish)	286
79.	Coal Bhavan	1904	Architecture Socio-Economic	288
80.	Gillander House	1909	Architecture Socio-Economic Multi-ethnicity (Scottish)	289
81.	Martin Burn Limited	1946	Architecture Socio-Economic	291
82.	UCO Bank	1943	Architecture Socio-Economic	292
83.	Virginia House	1928	Architecture Socio-Economic	293

Sl. No.	Name of the Building	Year	Theme	Page No.
84.	B.K. Pal's Medicine Shop	1904	Socio-Economic Architecture	294
85.	Metropolitan Building	1905	Architecture	296
86.	Calcutta Fire Brigade	1921	Infrastructure	298
87.	Tala Tank	1909-11	Infrastructure	299
88.	Howrah Bridge	1941-43	Infrastructure	300
89.	Dutta Bari	1905-10	Precinct-Dorjee para	302
90.	Roy Bari	1929	Precinct-Dorjee para	304
91.	Gopal Bhavan	1926	Precinct CR Avenue	306
92.	259/2, Purna Das Road	1960-70	Precinct Purna Das Road	307
93.	251/B, Purna Das Road	1960-70	Precinct Purna Das Road	308

Annexture- 6 (with identified buildings)

KOLKATA Key location Map for Buildings (Under Consideration)

- N North Kolkata
- C Central Kolkata
- S South Kolkata
- Road



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bande Mataram Office | 27. Biria Mandir | 51. Esplanade Mansions | 78. Balmer Lawrie & Co. |
| 2. Secret office of Anusheelon Samity | 28. Mahabodhi Society | 52. Grand Hotel | 79. Cool Bhavan |
| 3. Bharat Sabha Office | 29. Nakhoda Masjid | 53. Stephen court | 80. Gillander House |
| 4. Guinea House | 30. Parswanath Temple | 54. Greek Orthodox Church | 81. Martin Burn & Co. |
| 5. Arya Samaj Mandir | 31. Academy of Fine Arts | 55. Nizam Palace | 82. UCO Bank |
| 6. Alipore jail | 32. Rabindra Sadan | 56. Marwari Hospital | 83. Virginia House |
| 7. Netaji Bhawan | 33. Nandan | 57. Biria Planetarium | 84. B.K.Pal house |
| 8. Gandhi Bhavan, Belegghata | 34. Sangeet Kalamandir | 58. Mahajati Sadan | 85. Metropolitan Building |
| 9. Hideout of Anusheelon Samity | 35. Akashbani bhawan | 59. Howrah station | 86. Calcutta Fire Brigade |
| 10. Ballygaunge Govt School | 36. Nirmal Hriday | 60. Royal Insurance Building | 87. Tala tank |
| 11. Sister Nibedita Balika Vidyalaya | 37. Bharat Sevashram Sangha | 61. Kanak Building | 88. Howrah bridge |
| 12. Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya | 38. New Empire | 62. SE Railway HQ-BNR | 89. Duttabari Dojeepara |
| 13. Mulana Azad College | 39. Raxy Cinema | 63. N.R.S residence | 90. Roybari, Dorjeepara |
| 14. Asutosh College | 40. Metro Cinema | 64. Naskar Bari | 91. Gopal Bhavan, CR Avenue |
| 15. R.G. Kar Medical College | 41. Minerva Theatre | 65. Victoria Memorial | 92. 259/2 Purna Das Road |
| 16. Science College, Rajabazar | 42. Sea Ip Temple | 66. Hindustan Building | 93. Charukutir, Purna Das Road |
| 17. Bose Institute | 43. Maneckjee Rustomjee Dharamshala for Parsi travelers | 67. Tower house | |
| 18. Aurobindo Building, JU | 44. Byramjee Mehta Zoroastrian Atash Adaran Fire Temple | 68. Victoria House (Cesc) | |
| 19. Rammohun Library | 45. Bow Barracks | 69. New Secretariate | |
| 20. Bangliya Sahitya Parishad | 46. Mei Kong School and Choongh Ye Thong Temple | 70. Tata centre | |
| 21. Vivekananda Society | 47. Neveh Shalom Synagogue | 71. Jeevandeep Building | |
| 22. Indian Coffee House | 48. Calcutta south Indian Club | 72. Taj Bengal Hotel | |
| 23. Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture | 49. Sailee Masjid | 73. Science City | |
| 24. University Institute Hall | 50. Park Mansion | 74. High Court Annexe | |
| 25. Balkuntha Temple | | 75. Babylon Apartment | |
| 26. Ram Mandir | | 76. Kalachand Temple | |
| | | 77. Oreintal Assurance | |

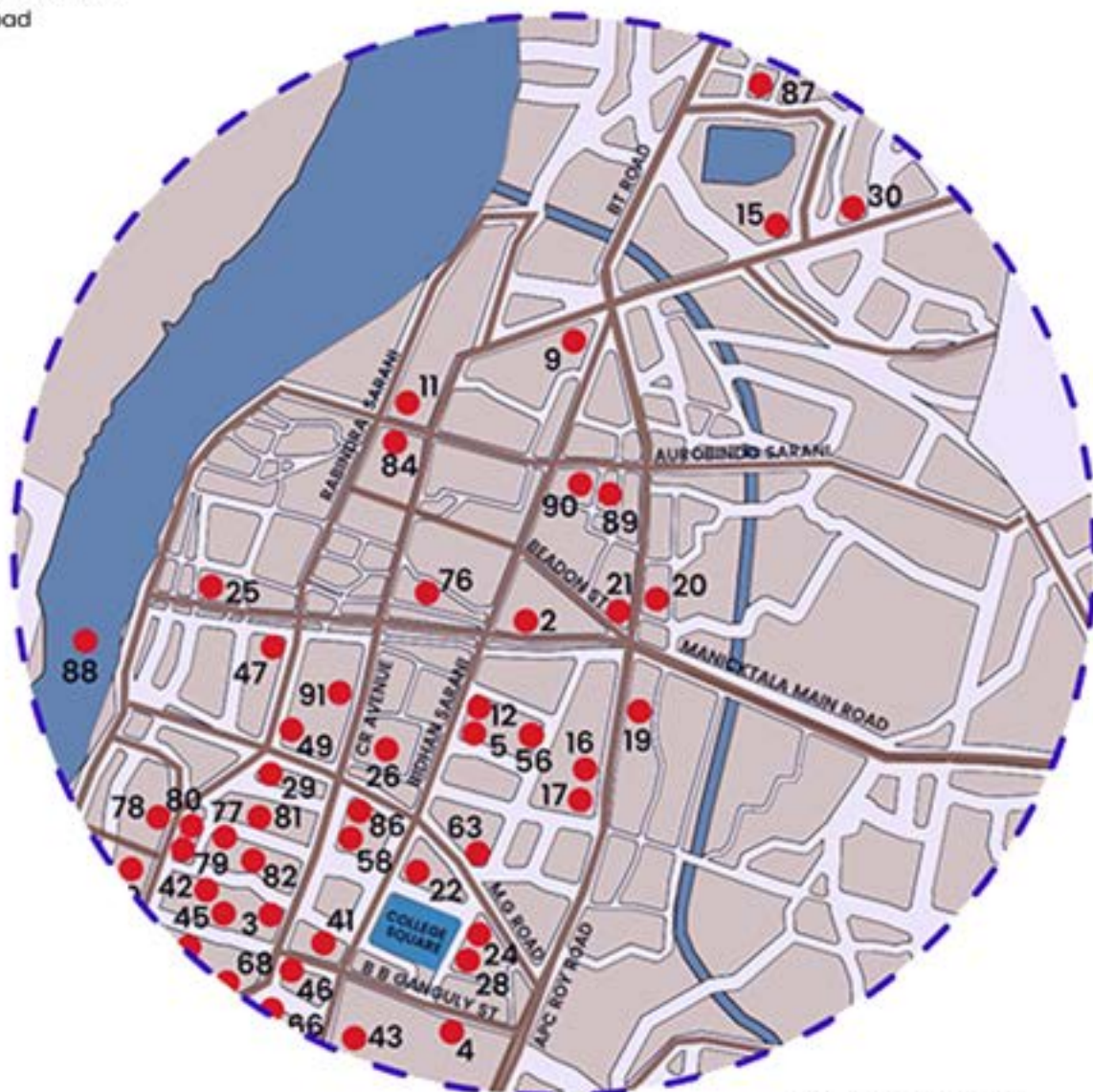
(Not To Scale)

KOLKATA

Key location Map for Buildings
(Under Consideration)



- North Kolkata
- Road



Blow-Up Map: North
(Not To Scale)

LEGEND

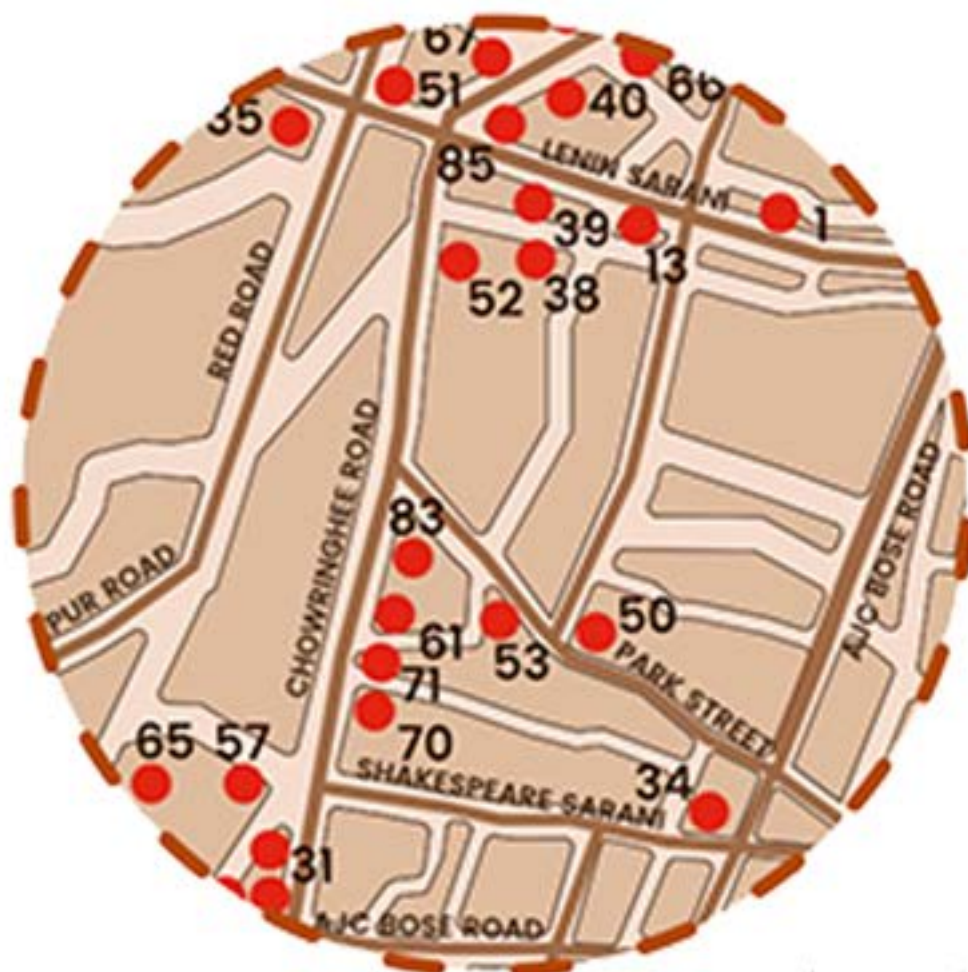
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2. Secret office of Anusheelon Samity | 28. Mahabodhi Society | 76. Kalachand Temple |
| 3. Bharat Sabha Office | 29. Nakhoda Masjid | 77. Oreintal Assurance |
| 4. Guinea House | 30. Parswanath Temple | 78. Balmer Lawrie & Co. |
| 5. Arya Samaj Mandir | 42. Sea Ip Temple | 79. Coal Bhavan |
| 9. Hideout of Anusheelon Samity | 43. Maneckjee Rustomjee Dharamshala for Parsi travelers | 80. Gillander House |
| 11. Sister Nibedita Balika Vidyalaya | 44. Byramjee Mehta Zoroastrian Atash Adaran Fire Temple | 81. Martin Burn & Co. |
| 12. Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya | 45. Bow Barracks | 82. UCO Bank |
| 15. RG Kar Medical College | 46. Mei Kong School and Choongh Ye Thong Temple | 86. Calcutta Fire Brigade |
| 16. Science College, Rajabazar | 47. Neveh Shalome Synagogue | 87. Tala tank |
| 17. Bose Institute | 49. Saifee Masjid | 88. Howrah Bridge |
| 19. Rammohun Library | 56. Marwari Hospital | 89. Duttabari, Dojeepara |
| 20. Bangiya Sahitya Parishad | 60. Royal Insurance Building | 90. Roybari, Dorjeepara |
| 21. Vivekananda Society | 63. N.R.S residence | 91. Gopal Bhavan, CR Avenue |
| 22. Indian Coffee House | | |
| 24. University Institute Hall | | |
| 25. Baikuntha Temple | | |

KOLKATA

Key location Map for Buildings
(Under Consideration)



--- C Central Kolkata
— Road



Blow-Up Map: Central
(Not To Scale)

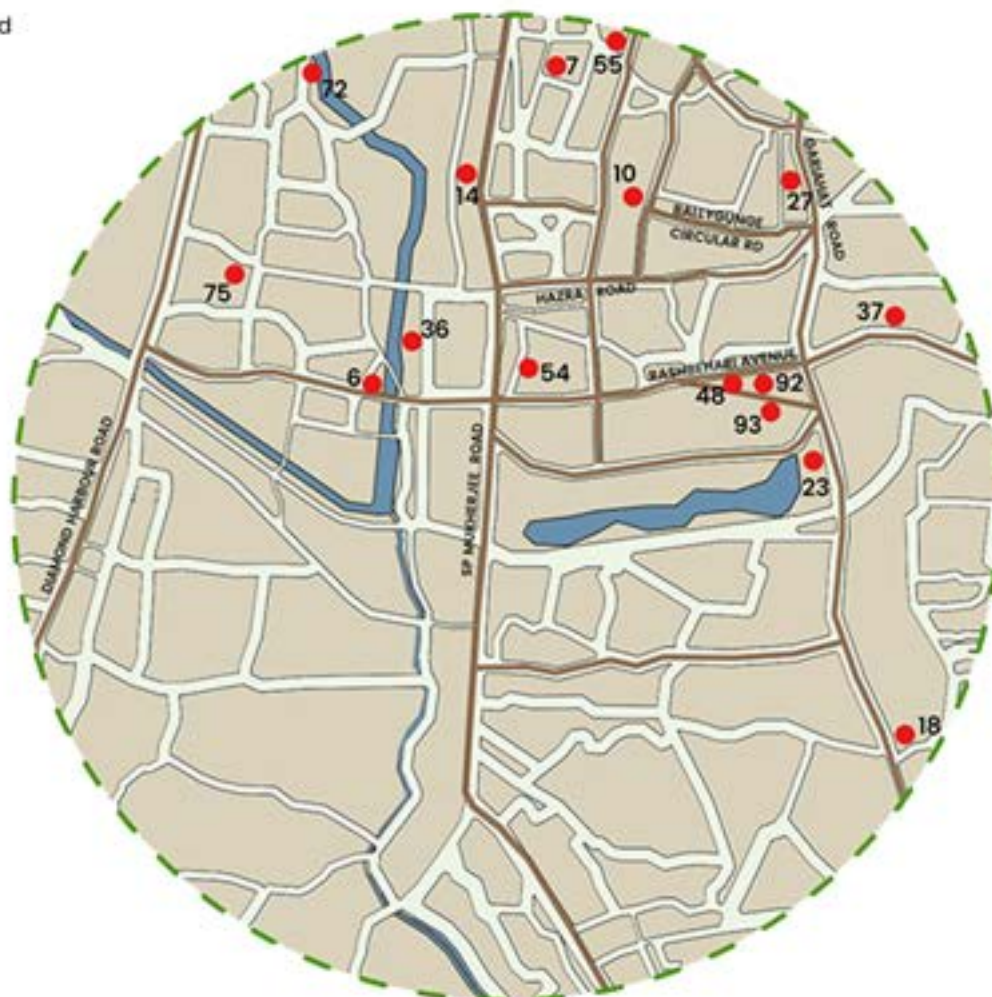
LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 13. Mulana Azad College | 53. Stephen court |
| 34. Sangeet Kalamandir | 57. Birla Planetarium |
| 35. Akashbani bhawan | 61. Kanak Building |
| 38. New Empire | 65. Victorial Memorial |
| 39. Roxy Cinema | 66. Hindusthan Building |
| 40. Metro Cinema | 67. Tower house |
| 50. Park Mansion | 70. Tata centre |
| 51. Esplanade Mansions | 71. Jeevandeep Building |
| 52. Grand Hotel | 85. Metropolitan Building |

KOLKATA

Key location Map for Buildings
(Under Consideration)

- S South Kolkata
- Road





Blow-Up Map: South
(Not To Scale)

LEGEND

- 6. Alipore Jail
- 7. Netaji Bhavan
- 10. Ballygunge Govt School
- 18. Aurobindo Bhavan, JU
- 23. Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture
- 27. Birla Mandir
- 36. Nirmal Hriday
- 48. Calcutta South Indian Club
- 54. Greek Orthodox Church
- 55. Nizam Palace
- 72. Taj Bengal Hotel
- 75. Babylon Apartment

Inventory



Sr. No. 01		BANDE MATARAM OFFICE			
					
Past Name	House of Mallik's- Bande Mataram Office				<p>‘Bande Mataram,’ a literary magazine launched on August 5, 1906, from this house, was helmed by Biplabi Bipin Chandra Pal as an Editor and Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, as the Jt. Editor. Sri Aurobindo's thought-provoking articles on Freedom, Swaraj, and the Nationalistic Movement catapulted ‘Bande Mataram’ to unprecedented popularity in Bengal. Being published in English, the magazine's influence resonated across the nation, championing Sri Aurobindo's original vision of fostering nationalistic fervour. Even it created a sensation amidst British. The British Administration was perturbed but couldn't implicate Sri Aurobindo due to his masterful journalism. It stirred Bengal and the nation, in the early 20th century, reflecting Sri Aurobindo's aim to foster national consciousness amongst Indian.</p>
Address	2/1, Creek Row, Kolkata 700013				
Geographic Coordinates	22.563396 N, 88.360330 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1906-08				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Raja Subodh Ch Mallik (original owner) Present Owner- not known				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Residential			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20th century-built heritage)	A three storied building and two storied at rear with arched wooden windows all round and balconies with grill at front.
Property Past Use	Residence				
Property Present Use	Residence				
State of Protection	Unprotected Delisted from KMC Heritage building list				
Property site and surroundings	Located in a dense residential area of Central Kolkata, behind Subodh Ch. Mallick's residence at 12, Wellington Square.				
Architectural Style	Colonial			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	Socio-Political			Threats to property	Lack of Maintenance.
				Condition Description	Approach to interior is restricted. Probably the house belonged to <i>Basu Mallik</i> family of Raja Subodh Chandra Mallik and a Plaque was erected to commemorate the association of the then firebrand magazine ‘Bande Mataram’ office and <i>Sri Aurobindo</i> .
Statement of Significance: ‘Bande Mataram’ magazine was a mouthpiece of ‘Anusheelon Samity’ conceived to infuse the spit of nationalism amongst the people. It played a significant role in the freedom movement of India and having an associated value with the great leader like, Sri Aurobindo .					
Historical	High	Architectural	Low		
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Socio-Political	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	www.sriurobindoinstitute.org www.sri aurobindotrust.org

Additional Photographs: -



Once this was the office of 'Bande Mataram'



Commemorative Plaque




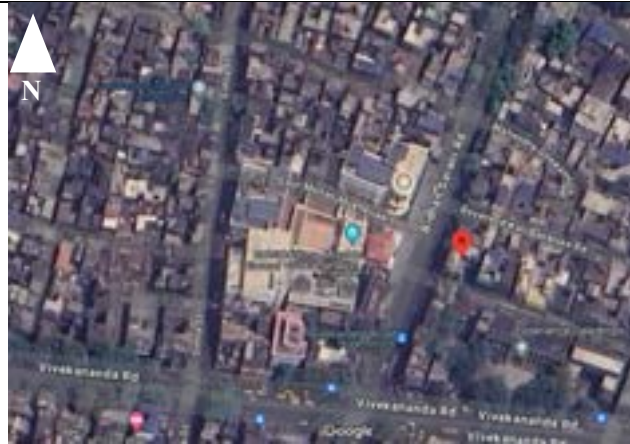
Bande Mataram office-archival photo







A very popular News magazine of Nationalistic Movement circulated nationwide



Sri Aurobindo Ghosh – the editor of 'Bande Mataram'

Sr. No. 02		SECRET OFFICE OF ANUSHEELON SAMITY			
					
Past Name	45, Cornwallis St.		History and Evolution	<p>‘Anushilon Samiti’, an Indian fitness club, covertly served as an underground hub for anti-British revolutionaries across Bengal in the early 20th century. Originating from youths practicing physical fitness in a Bayam Samity (akhara) in Bengal in 1902, it bifurcated into Dhaka Anushilan Samiti in East Bengal and the Jugantar group in West Bengal. Inspired by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's writings, Kolkata harboured three concurrent secret societies by 1902, led by Satish Chandra Basu, Barrister Pramathanath Mitra, and Biplabi Aurobindo Ghosh with his brother Barin Ghosh.</p> <p>This structure served as the clandestine headquarters and sanctuary for Anushilon Samity members.</p>	
Address	49, Bidhan Sarani Rd., Kolkata, West Bengal 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.586470 N, 88.368019 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Not known				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Not known				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Residential		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Four storied-house with a wide frontage on the main road. 3 bay double height covered portico with terrace at first floor is the prominent feature of the building. Fixed wooden louvers (Jhillis) are also visible at first floor level. Second floor has a balcony. The railings on both the floors are decorated with ornamented C.I. Grill.	
Property Past Use	Residence				
Property Present Use	Residential cum commercial				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	It is located at the heart of North Kolkata, on a busy road and thickly populated residential area. Opposite to this building is the ancestral house of Swami Vivekananda, a landmark building.				
Architectural Style	Regional-Typically, common for 20 th century residential building.		State of Conservation	Poor.	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- Political		Threats to property	The structure's existence is jeopardized due to the surrounding pressure of its location in a commercial area.	
			Condition Description	Each floor is crowded with tenants. The ground floor is filled with shops and restaurants, while the upper floors are used as residential units. The maintenance is poor.	
Statement of Significance: A covert headquarters of 'Anushilon Samity,' a leading organization of Indian revolutionaries dedicated to the freedom movement, employing aggressive and violent tactics against British administration, striving for complete liberation from colonial oppression.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar (P.I.) Priyanjana Das
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Political	High	Final Grade	IIB	Bibliography	Kolikata r Rajpoth by Ajit Basu

Sr. No. 03		BHARAT SABHA OFFICE	
			
Past Name	Bharat Sabha/ Indian National Association		
Address	22, Bepin Behari Ganguly St, Bowbazar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012		
Geographic Coordinates	22.571682 N, 88.354048 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1912/1915		
Ownership	Government		
Owner's Name	Indian National Association		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Institutional		
Property Past Use	Association Office		
Property Present Use	Association Office and shops		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The building is located in a busy road of Central Kolkata and surrounded by other historical buildings accompanied by small retail shops		
Architectural Style	Colonial (Neo-classical)		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio-political- Sub theme- Freedom movement		
	➤ Architecture		
Statement of Significance: One of the oldest and pioneering associations formed by Indian middle-class intellectuals to oppose racism and discrimination between Indians and Europeans, and to provide a political platform for Indian leaders. The Indian National Congress held its annual conference here in 1911, where Rabindranath Tagore's "Jana Gana Mana" was sung for the first time, later becoming India's national anthem.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-political	High	Final Grade	
		Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar (P.I.) Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture
		Bibliography	Kolikata r Rajpoth- by Ajit Basu Source: https://www.tutorialathome.in/

Sr. No. 04		GUINEA HOUSE			
					
Past Name	Guinea House		History and Evolution		
Address	131, Bow bazar Street, Bow bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012				
Geographic Coordinates	22.567421 N, 88.366934 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1917-20, expanded one more floor in 1945-46				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Public (Life Insurance Corporation of India)				
Property Type	Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		
Property Sub -type	Heritage Building				
Property Past Use	Residence				
Property Present Use	Commercial				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	It is located in the Bow bazar area, a popular gold jewellery hub of Kolkata.				
Architectural Style	Bengal Baroque		State of Conservation	Fair	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-political-</div> <div>➤ Socio-economic-</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio- cultural</div>		Threats to property	The front facade is totally mutilated beyond recognition by altering the balconies and removing the architectural features.	
Statement of Significance-The residence and corporate office of B. Sirkar and Sons, a pioneering jewelry firm of the 20th century, also played a pivotal role in the freedom movement of the Azad Hind Fauj led by Netaji Subhash Bose. This house witnessed numerous significant events in 20th century Kolkata.			Condition Description	Good. Huge modification made at the front, which spoiled the elevation beyond recognition.	
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	Primary source-from family members of B. Sirkar & Sons

Additional Photographs: -



Guinea House before (Archival Photo)




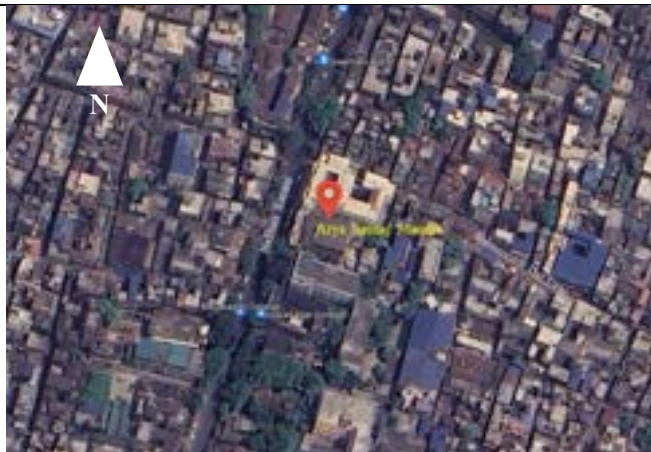
Guinea House at present-façade totally mutilated





Balcony



View from courtyard

Sr. No. 05		ARYA SAMAJ MANDIR				
						
Past Name	Arya Samaj Mandir					
Address	19, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata-700006					
Geographic Coordinates	88.366746 N,22.583154 E					
Date/ Period of Construction	1910					
Ownership	Private / Trust Property					
Owner's Name	Arya Samaj					
Property Type	Building					
Property Sub -type	Institutional					
Property Past Use	Religious Institution					
Property Present Use	Religious Institution					
State of Protection	Unprotected					
Property site and surroundings	Located in North Kolkata on a prominent road i.e. Bidhan Sarani. Next to it is Arya Kanya Balika Vidyalaya and Vidyasagar College is also in the near vicinity.					
Architectural Style	Mixed					
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural- Religion</div> <div>➤ Socio-political--freedom movement</div>			History and Evolution	<p>Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati founded the ‘Arya Samaj’ organization in Bombay in 1875, which quickly spread across various cities in India. Kolkata is one of them. Prominent nationalists like Lala Lajpat Rai were its active members. In 1922, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose organized the 'All India Youth Conference' in this hall, presided over by Dr. Meghnad Saha. The Arya Samaj frequently hosted such events. Notably, revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh used this premises as a hideout in 1928 and visited it even earlier, marking a significant chapter in the institution's history of involvement with ‘Swadeshi Andolon’.</p>	
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		<p>The building is a three-story structure with five bays. The ground floor houses a prayer hall, while the upper floors contain guest rooms. Near the entrance on the ground floor, there is a bookshop and a library. The second-floor features two projecting balconies. The centrally located entrance is adorned with a broad series of white marble architraves. Decorative elements include several ornamental Hindu motifs on the walls.</p> <p>There is a prayer hall inside with double height and the floor is decorated with ornamental mosaic tiles.</p>
Statement of Significance: The Arya Samaj, an Indian organization rooted in 'Sanatan Hindu Dharma', promotes values and practices based on the 'Vedas'. It was the first Hindu group to introduce proselytization within Hinduism. Arya Samaj actively campaigned against caste discrimination, supported widow remarriage, and advocated for women's education. Additionally, it operates as a charitable organization for academic and social causes. This house has been associated with renowned leaders of the freedom movement.				State of Conservation	Good	
				Threats to property	Nil	
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Condition Description	Good-	
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	Medium	Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Bibliography		official website of Arya Samaj https://www.studyiq.com/articles/arya-samaj/

Sr. No. 06		ALIPORE CENTRAL JAIL	
			
Past Name	Alipore Central Jail Alipore Central Correctional Home	History and Evolution	<p>Established in 1906 on the banks of the Adi Ganga River, Alipore Jail (Alipore Central Correctional Home) is renowned for imprisoning prominent Indian freedom movement leaders by the British rulers, including <i>Deshbandhu C.R. Das</i>, <i>Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose</i>, <i>Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru</i>, <i>Jatindramohan Sengupta</i>, and <i>Dr. B.C. Roy</i>.</p> <p>Freedom fighters were executed here. To name a few, <i>Anantahari Mitra</i> (1926), <i>Promod Ranjan Chowdhury</i> (1926), <i>Dinesh Gupta</i> (1931), <i>Ramkrishna Biswas</i> (1931), and <i>Dinesh Mazumdar</i> (1934). Numerous others also became martyrs.</p> <p>The Alipore Central Jail Press, one of India's oldest printing presses, proudly houses some of the oldest printing machines from various generations.</p>
Address	17, Judges Cout Road, Kolkata 700027		
Geographic Coordinates	22.524394 N, 88.339425 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1906		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	State Govt. of West Bengal		
Property Type	Precincts		
Property Sub-type	Institutional	Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	<p>The design follows a Unified Layout, inspired by Jeremy Bentham's 'Panopticon' concept, featuring a central watchtower with cells and wards arranged in radial form for easy monitoring by guards. Most buildings have interiors with wooden rafters and beams. The cells and wards have wide verandas, allowing guards clear visibility. Multiple layers of compound walls provide security around the cells. The watchtower showcases neo-Gothic style, while the overall campus reflects colonial architecture. The hospital building's two wings are connected by a gangway. Most of the buildings within the precincts are constructed with exposed brick with rustication at times.</p>
Property Past Use	Jail/Prison		
Property Present Use	Museum		
State of Protection	Protected.		
Property site and surroundings	Alipore Central Jail along with the Presidency Jail, spread over 15.2 acres of land is located besides 'Adi Ganga' Tolly's Nullah. It is situated at the heart of the city on a busy locality.		
Architectural Style	Colonial architecture	State of Conservation	Very Good (recently restored).
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Socio-Political- administrative ➤ Architecture 	Threats to property	As the campus has become a tourist spot, the footfall has increased. Thereby, sanctity and the gravity of the environment may be affected in near future.
		Condition Description	It served as a correctional home till 2019. It is now transformed to a memorial cum museum. A light and sound show has been introduced to generate public awareness. The use value of the entire precinct has been changed. Each building is now re-used with new requirements without disturbing the original structure and architecture.
Statement of Significance:	A historic landmark precinct of National importance. Alipore Jail in Kolkata holds historical significance in India's struggle for independence. It has a legacy as a camp for Japanese prisoners of war during World War II and later housed political prisoners, including the era of Emergency in the 1970s. The jail remains a symbol of resistance against oppression, shaping Kolkata's political identity.		
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	Medium
Socio-political	High	Final Grade	I
		Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
		Bibliography	http://wbcorrectionalservices.gov.in

Additional Photographs: -



Ariel View



Netaji Bhavan – the cell where Netaji was kept



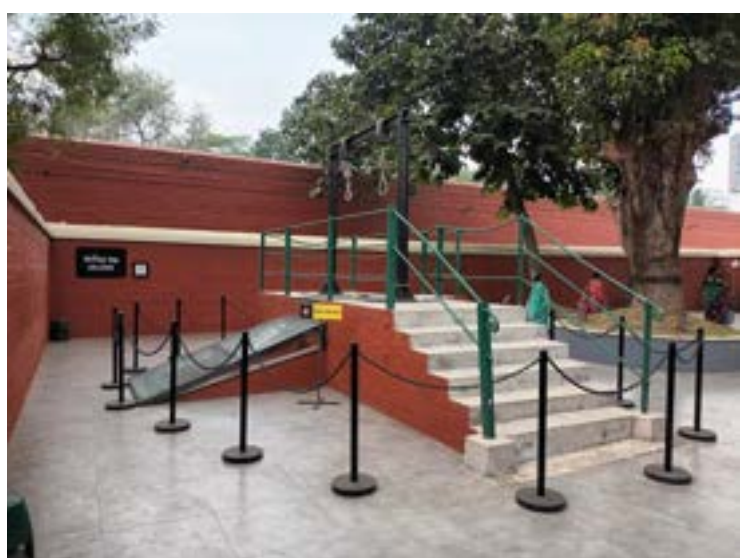
Rear portion of the entrance block- renovated



Night View of the hospital building







Watch Tower


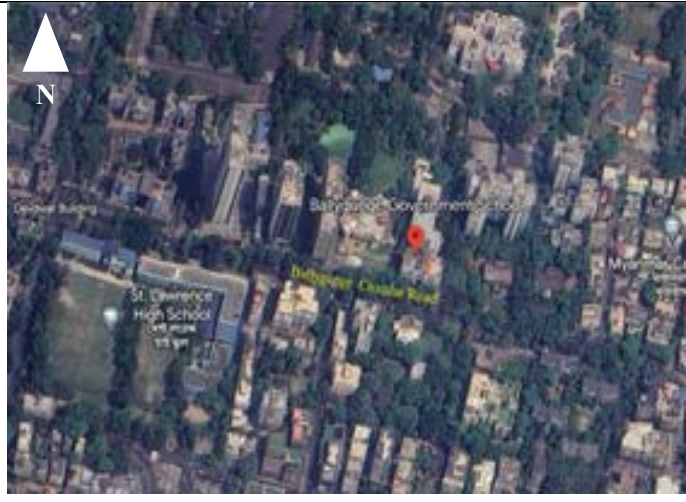


The Gallows

Sr. No. 07		NETAJI BHAWAN	
			
Past Name	Netaji Bhawan		
Address	10, 38/2, Lala Lajpat Rai Sarani (Elgin Road), Kolkata, West Bengal 700020		
Geographic Coordinates	22.537918 N, 88.351028 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1909		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Netaji Research Bureau		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Institutional		
Property Past Use	Residential		
Property Present Use	Museum cum research Centre		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located at the crossing of Elgin Road and Sarat Bose road. Nearby landmarks are: Forum Shopping Mall, residence of Sarat Bose, and residence of B.N. Sarkar of New Theatres (presently office of Srijan private Ltd.)		
Architectural Style	Mixed		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-political</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: Residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Many leaders of Freedom movement of India visited this house for many historic meetings with Netaji. Even after Independence, Netaji's daughter Anita Bose, Presidents, Prime ministers and many Govt Officials of India paid their tributes to Netaji here. Many stalwarts internationally famed personalities visited this place and delivered their speeches on invitation of Netaji Research Bureau.			
Historical	High	Architectural	Very Good
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Good
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		This is the ancestral house of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, built by his father Janakinath Bose. Sarat Bose, Netaji's brother and mentor, also resided here. Subhas Chandra Bose, a prominent leader in India's freedom movement, shook the British administration by his fearless uncompromising attitude. In January 1941, he famously escaped from this house while under British house arrest, never to return. He founded the Indian National Army (INA) and waged war against British forces. Netaji's fearless leadership and international renown marked him as a pivotal figure in India's struggle for independence.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		This three-story linear house boasts balconies on both sides. Notable architectural elements include hexagonal rooms with a distinctive half-round brick column at each corner, a small terrace above the portico, wooden fixed louvers on the balconies, cast-iron columns, and ornamental railings on the verandas. An intriguing feature of this residence is the historic service staircase located at the rear, in addition to the main staircase. It was through this service staircase that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose famously made his historic 'Great Escape'.	
State of Conservation		Very Good	
Threats to property		Nil	
Condition Description		Very Good	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		Bose, S.K. (1985)-Bosubari Ananda Publishers Basu, N. S. (1997)-Deshanayak Subhaschandra Ananda Publishers	

Sr. No. 08		GANDHI BHAVAN			
					
Past Name	Hyderi Manjil Gandhi Bhavan (Present Name)		History and Evolution	On the eve of Indian Independence, Mahatma Gandhi went on a hunger strike at ‘ Hyderi Manzil ’, 150 Belegkata Main Road, Kolkata. The house, owned by a Gujarati trader and named after his daughter Hyderi, was dilapidated and abandoned. On August 15, 1947, instead of celebrating India’s freedom, he chose to stay in this riot-ravaged locality without security to protest the communal violence in Bengal and Bihar silently. After 73 hours of fasting, Gandhi emerged as a symbol of communal harmony, leading key leaders of the rioting factions to surrender their weapons at his feet, marking a crucial moment in India's history.	
Address	10, Belegkata Main Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700010				
Geographic Coordinates	22.563748 N, 88.389122 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1923				
Ownership	Private (Original) Public (Present)				
Owner’s Name	Original- Hyder Ali Present – State Govt of West Bengal		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A single-story bungalow with high ceilings features an impressive entrance veranda with three bays supported by twin round columns and wooden lattice (Jhilli) - characteristic of Neo-Classical architecture. The parapet is adorned with 'Kalasa,' a distinctive element of Kolkata architecture of that period. The bungalow also has wooden doors and louvered windows.	
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Institutional				
Property Past Use	Residence				
Property Present Use	Museum				
State of Protection	Unprotected		State of Conservation	Recently renovated and restored as ‘Museum’, Now the building is maintained jointly by PWD and ‘Purba Kolkata Bapuji Smarak Seva Samity’	
Property site and surroundings	Located in a narrow lane and congested area of residential area of East Kolkata.				
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical				
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- Political		Threats to property	Not yet listed under KMC’s Heritage List	
Statement of Significance: Hyderi Manjil is not just a building; it is associated with the fight of Mahatma Gandhi against communalism. During his stay here, political leaders like JB Kripalini, PC Ghosh, Sarat Chandra Bose, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Jyoti Basu, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, Ram Manohar Lohia and Raja Gopalachari and journalists from across India and abroad came to meet him.			Condition Description	After years of neglect, the place underwent a major renovation in 2019, preserving its heritage value. A small museum dedicated to Gandhiji’s life was established, and a new statue of him was placed in the front garden. Additionally, a new entrance gate and compound wall featuring murals depicting Gandhi Ji’s struggle for freedom and his message were added to raise awareness of the building’s significance.	
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Political	High	Final Grade			
			Bibliography	telegraphindia.com- my Kolkata- by Somen Sengupta	

Sr. No. 09		A HIDE OUT FOR MEMBERS OF ANUSHILON SAMITY			
					
Past Name	136/4, Cornwallis Street		History and Evolution	Dinesh Majumder , a freedom fighter and member of ' <i>Anushilan Samiti</i> ', was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempting to murder Police Commissioner Charles Tegart. After escaping from Midnapore Jail, he hid in Chandannagar and killed Police Commissioner Mr. Quin in 1932. This house in Kolkata was rented as a safe hiding place for Anushilan Samiti members, including <i>Dinesh, Nalini Das, and Jagadananda Mukherjee</i> . But Police got the information and raided the house. In 1933, they fought a fierce battle with British police there and were arrested. Associates of Bagha Jatin, Nalini and Jagadananda received life sentences, while Dinesh was hanged in 1934, becoming a 'Martyr' for India.	
Address	136/4, Bidhan Sarani Road, Kolkata -700004				
Geographic Coordinates	22.597166 N, 88.371710 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Not known				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Not known				
Property Type	Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building is a four storied structure, featuring Neo-classical architecture. Its front facade includes five bays, each adorned with half-round columns topped by Corinthian capitals. The central bay, narrower in comparison, boasts Jharokha-style balconies, while the two wider bays on either side feature projected balconies. A grand portico graces the ground floor, supporting a terrace on the first floor. Ornamental grills embellish all balconies and the terrace. At the top, an ornate pediment crowns the central bay, complemented by a decorative parapet.	
Property Sub -type	Residential				
Property Past Use	Commercial- Rented Apartments				
Property Present Use	Commercial- Rented Apartments at upper floors and shops at ground floor				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Located in a congested residential cum market area in North Kolkata at Hatibagan.				
Architectural Style	Bengal Baroque		State of Conservation	Poor.	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio-Political		Threats to property	The building is totally congested with commercial use, like shops at ground floor and tenanted at upper floors. Its historical importance thus is lost.	
			Condition Description	The original architectural design of the façade has been significantly altered, with drastic additions that have compromised its integrity. Balconies have been converted into bathrooms, and rooms have been added on the first-floor terrace and even on the rooftop. The ground floor now primarily hosts commercial shops, obscuring the main entrance. Despite these changes, a 'plaque' honouring the historic sacrifice of Biplabi Dinesh Majumder was installed by the local NGO 'Sutanuti Parishad'.	
Statement of Significance: This house had a great significance in connection with freedom movement of India. A hiding place for freedom fighters of 'Anushilon Samity.' Biplabi Dinesh Majumder, Nalini Das and Jagadananda Mukherjee fought a great battle with British Police till their last bullet from this house and ultimately got arrested as wounded.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Political	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	
				Kolikata r Rajpoth by Ajit Basu "The History of the Bengali Revolutionary Movement" by P.K. Ghose	

Sr. No. 10		BALLYGAUNGE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL															
																	
Past Name	Ballygaunge Government High School			History and Evolution	In 1908, the David Hare Training College was established at 115 Albert Hall, College Street. Due to space limitations, it relocated to Beltala in South Kolkata, prompted by Mr. H.R. James, Director of Education, advocating for its own building with a model school. Mr. W.E. Griffith, the inaugural Principal, spearheaded the move. The Ballygaunge Government High School building, inaugurated in 1927 by Governor Lord Lytton , served as its practice school. This boys-only institution offers secondary and higher secondary education.												
Address	38/2, Naresh Mitra Sarani, Kolkata – 700020																
Geographic Coordinates	22.528825 N, 88.358849 E																
Date/ Period of Construction	1927																
Ownership	Public																
Owner's Name	State Government of West Bengal			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The school building occupies 6 acres of land in Beltala, South Kolkata. It consists of a three-story structure with a central prayer hall and two wings on each side. The ground floor features a series of flat arches, while the upper floors have verandas supported by twin columns. A notable feature is its expansive playground. The central hall with a sloped roof stands out as the building's centrepiece,												
Property Type	Building																
Property Sub -type	Institution																
Property Past Use	School																
Property Present Use	School																
State of Protection	Unprotected			State of Conservation	Good												
Property site and surroundings	It is behind the David Hare Teachers Training Institute at Ballygaunge Circular Road and next to Public Vehicles Department at Beltala.																
Architectural Style	Mixed																
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- Cultural- Education																
Statement of Significance: It is one of the most renowned schools for creating a benchmark of its own standard of education and famous for its Galaxy of Alumni , like Satyajit Ray, Sombhu Mitra, Ritwik Ghatak , few renowned Directors of ‘Bhabha Atomic Research Institute’ and even few Vice – Chancellors of various Universities.						Threats to property	No threats identified.										
<table><tr><td>Historical</td><td>High</td><td>Architectural</td><td>Medium</td></tr><tr><td>Associational</td><td>High</td><td>Technological/ Scientific</td><td>Medium</td></tr><tr><td>Socio-Cultural</td><td>High</td><td>Final Grade</td><td></td></tr></table>				Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium	Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Condition Description	Good. Recently, students have adorned the building with wall art. The students of this institution are trained with the typical Bengal art, i.e. ‘ <i>Patachitra</i> ’, which are extensively found in the Central Hall. A new extension at the rear has come up to accommodate more space.
				Historical	High	Architectural	Medium										
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium														
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade															
				Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar												
				Bibliography	Ballygaunge Rashtriya Uchha Vidyalaya: Abirbhaver Poschat Kahini- by Amarendranath Basu(an Alumnus of the School)												

Additional Photographs: -



View of the School building from playground



View of the Hall- interior



Corridor- Ground floor



Corridor- First floor




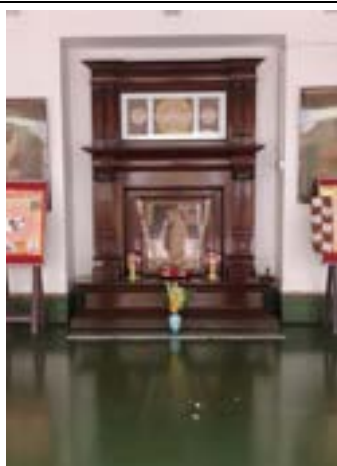

Staircase



Reception Corner and Guard House



Students are being trained with Bengal's traditional Folk Art- Patachitra

Sr. No. 11		RAMKRISHNA SARADA MISSION/ SISTER NIBEDITA GIRLS' SCHOOL			
					
Past Name	Sister Nibedita Girls' School			History and Evolution	Swami Vivekananda recognized the crucial role of women's empowerment in India's upliftment. Before establishing Belur Math, he envisioned a centre for educating girls on national principles. Sister Nibedita took on this task at her Bagh Bazar residence in 1903, initially facing strong local resistance despite offering free education. Through her relentless efforts and door-to-door campaigns, the school eventually succeeded in providing holistic education for girls. Alongside Bengali, English, and Indian history, students learned embroidery, art, crafts, music, and self-defence. Post-Independence, the school came under the Ramakrishna Mission as its female counterpart, known as Sarada Mission.
Address	5, Nivedita Lane, Bagh bazar, Kolkata-700003				
Geographic Coordinates	22.602866 N, 88.366068 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1922				
Ownership	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission				
Owner's Name	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	. The school building, a four-story courtyard house typical of North Kolkata, features a beautifully crafted entrance and a prayer hall on the ground floor, designed by the renowned artist Nandalal Bose at Sister Nibedita's request. Indian motifs adorn the ornamental capitals of columns and other architectural elements, reflecting a nationalistic architectural style. Additionally, the school encompasses six additional buildings housing the Secondary, Primary, and Industrial sections.
Property Sub -type	Institution				
Property Past Use	Educational Institute- School				
Property Present Use	Educational Institute- School				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located at a narrow lane of North Kolkata, besides the Boroline House.				
Architectural Style	Revivalist- designed by Master Artist Nandalal Bose			State of Conservation	Very Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	No threats identified.
				Condition Description	Well- maintained
Statement of Significance: One of the oldest girl's schools founded by Sister Nibedita for comprehensive education.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	II B		
				Bibliography	Primary Source: Interview with Mataji of school Source: Booklet of Sister Nibedita School

Additional Photographs: -



View of Entrance



View of Courtyard



View of Prayer Hall

(PC: <https://www.sisterniveditagirlsschool.org/home.html>)





Ornamental Column-1



Ornamental Column-2



View of upper floor Verandah

Sr. No. 12		ARYA KANYA BALIKA MAHAVIDYALAYA				
						
Past Name	Arya Kanya Balika Vidyalaya		History and Evolution	In 1902, ‘Arya Samaj Balika Vidyalaya’ was established near Satyanarayan Park, Burrabazar. By 1908, a new building was constructed at 20, Cornwallis Street, funded by Seth Jugal Kishore Birla and Pratap Poddar of Seth Raghunath Charity Trust. Renamed ‘Aryakanya Balika Vidyalaya’, in 1935, the ‘Arya Mahila Sikhsha Mondol’ Trust took over operations. The school offers education in both Hindi and Bengali. In 1980, it expanded with a primary section in the morning, known as ‘Dayananda Girls’ School’, catering specifically to young girls. Presently, it caters for both secondary and higher secondary education to the girls.		
Address	20, Bidhan Sarani, Machuabazar, Kolkata					
Geographic Coordinates	22.583199 N, 88.366781 E					
Date/ Period of Construction	1949					
Ownership	Trust Property					
Owner’s Name	Seth Raghunath Charity Trust					
Property Type	Building					
Property Sub -type	Institutional		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	It is an architectural landmark. The building stands as a prominent four-storied structure with a majestic portico on the ground floor, spanning the entire frontage. Situated at a corner plot on a bustling street in North Kolkata, it features three bays, each adorned with projecting balconies on the second and third floors supported by ornate brackets. The central and corner bays showcase traditional <i>Rajasthani</i> -style <i>Jhoroka</i> with intricate ornamentation. Various architectural details are evident, including corbelled arches, ornamental lattice screens (jali), decorative parapets, and corner chattris, adding to its distinctive charm. It has a central courtyard surrounded by Veranda in all floors		
Property Past Use	Girl’s School					
Property Present Use	Girl’s School					
State of Protection	Protected.					
Property site and surroundings	Located next to Arya Samaj Mandir, Kolkata					
Architectural Style	Revivalist with an influence of Rajasthani Architecture		State of Conservation	Good		
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Socio- Culture</div><div>➤ Architecture</div><div>➤ Multiethnicity</div></div>		Threats to property	NA		
Statement of Significance: This School was opened with an attempt to spread the education amongst those girls who came from conservative Hindi speaking families, mostly from the Marwari community. Apart from this, it has association value, as the premises once housed the editorial office of the new version of ‘Bangadarshan’ Magazine with Rabindranath Tagore as its editor.			Condition Description	The building inside is maintained, however, due to unauthorised occupation by the hawkers, and street dwellers under the grand portico, school authority was forced to close the main entrance from the main road. At present, the side entrance is being used as the entry for the schools.		
Historical	High	Architectural	High			
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium			
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I/A	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar	
			Bibliography	Kolkata r Rajpoth- Ajit Basu, Arya Kanya		

Additional Photographs: -





Corner view- 1960's
(Source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata> PC: Amitava Gupta)



Corner view- 2023



Interior view from courtyard

Sr. No. 13		MAULANA AZAD COLLEGE			
					
Past Name	Islamia College (1924)/ Central Calcutta College (1948)			History and Evolution	Maulana Azad College was founded to promote education among Muslims in British India, initiated by A. K. Fazlul Haque and supported by Lord Lytton . Originally named Islamia College, it was renamed Central Calcutta College after independence, admitting only male students. In 1960, it was renamed Maulana Azad College in honour of India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad . In 1990, the college became co-educational, welcoming students of all castes, creeds, and genders.
Address	8, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Kolkata-700013				
Geographic Coordinates	22.561021 N, 88.357952 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1924				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.				
Property Type	Institutional				
Property Sub -type	College			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The college features a three-story C-shaped building and two four-story annexes. Its frontage includes a traditional Char-Bagh (four gardens), one of which is a well-maintained medicinal plant garden. The building showcases Indo-Saracenic architecture and stands as a landmark in the area. It has an impressive central entrance with three ground-floor arches and several upper-floor jharokas. Additionally, two cupolas atop each block enhance its distinctive landmark status.
Property Past Use	College				
Property Present Use	College				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located on a busy road in Central Kolkata.				
Architectural Style	Indo- Saracenic			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- Cultural			Threats to property	No threats identified
Statement of Significance: Maulana Azad College was founded by V.B.Lytton, the then Governor of Bengal. The institution was the culmination of efforts of notable Muslim leaders like A. K. Fazlul Haque , Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury and Sir Abdul Rahim to educate Muslim population during British Raj. The college has been enriched by awed footsteps of renowned mentors such as poet Bishnu Dey . With a dazzling alumni list, this college is the Alma mater of Bangabandhu Sk. Mujibur Rahaman of Bangladesh .				Condition Description	Maintenance related issues visible.
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Primary Source: Interview with the Principal , Mulana Azad College

Additional Photographs: -



Main Gate





C-shaped wings







Cupola at corners - a landmark feature





Main Entrance

Sr. No. 14		ASUTOSH COLLEGE	
			
Past Name	South Suburban College		
Address	92, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rd, Jatin Das Park/ Hazra.		
Geographic Coordinates	22.525428 N, 88.345863 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1916		
Ownership	Trust Property		
Owner's Name	Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Institute (AMMI)		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Institutional		
Property Past Use	College		
Property Present Use	College		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located at Hazra crossing, near Jatin Das Metro Station and opposite to Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital		
Architectural Style	Indo-Deco		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- Cultural		
	Statement of Significance: Asutosh College, has been considered as a leading centre of education since its inception. The first college in West Bengal to be accredited by the NAAC in 2002, it was given an A grade in 2016. It has a great associational value with luminaries of National importance, like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Gandhiji, CR Das.		
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, a prominent 20th-century educationist, founded South Suburban College. On his first death anniversary, a memorial meeting in Kolkata, attended by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and C.R. Das , unanimously resolved to form the Asutosh Memorial Committee to build Asutosh Memorial Hall and a library. In 1924, a college was founded as Asutosh College. In 1929, Calcutta Corporation, led by Mayor Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose , granted 24 cottahs of land at Hazra for a new building for the college. The building was funded by public donations and the college's reserve fund which was completed in 1935 by Asutosh Mookherjee Memorial Institute (AMMI).	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		It is a four storied landmark building on a major road of Kolkata with three bays. The central bay is an impressive one with a double height entrance clad with sandstone. A few Indian motifs as architectural features on the central bay are visible on the front façade. The entrance has two decorative pillars on either side with corbelled flat arch. It also accommodated a hall of 644 capacity and a rich Library for the use of college students and general public to host meetings, functions, exhibitions and academic activities.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		In the mid-eighties, the building was severely damaged for the construction of Metro Railway passing underneath of S.P. Mookerjee Road	
Condition Description		Entire college building was repaired with a facelifting for Diamond Jubilee celebration of the college. The Memorial Hall also got repaired and upgraded with modern facilities as an auditorium.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		Centenary Publication: Asutosh College and Asutosh Mookherjee Memorial Institute- by Reena Bhaduri	

Sr. No. 15		R. G KAR MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL	
			
Past Name	Carmichael College.		
Address	1, Khudiram Bose Sarani, Bidhan Sarani, Shyam Bazar, Kolkata - 700004		
Geographic Coordinates	22.6044670 N, 88.378358 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1902/1904		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	West Bengal University of Health Sciences		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Institutional		
Property Past Use	Hospital and medical college		
Property Present Use	Hospital and medical college		
State of Protection	Protected (Grade-IIB, heritage under KMC)		
Property site and surroundings	It is located along the Belgachia Road in close proximity to the Shyambazar five-point crossing and the Kolkata station.		
Architectural Style	Mixed		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio-cultural		
	Statement of Significance: R.G.Kar Medical College, Kolkata is not only one of the premiere institutes of modern India for medical science and services, but one with a rich heritage too. It stands as a testimony to the Nationalistic movement to provide medical services for Indians.		
Historical	High	Architectural	Low
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	II B
History and Evolution		Established as the Calcutta School of Medicine in 1886, the purpose of the institution was to ensure self-sufficiency in medical education and services. In 1902 the institution shifted to its current complex and in 1904 it merged with the National College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bengal . From 1918 to 1948, the college was known as Carmichael Medical College in honour of Thomas Gibson-Carmichael, the then Governor of Bengal at the college's inauguration in 1916. The Institution was given its current name in 1948 in honour of Dr. Radha Govinda Kar who spearheaded the foundation of it. From 1916 to 2002 the institute was under the University of Calcutta and later affiliated to West Bengal University of Health Sciences.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The complex constitutes of several buildings dating back to the 20 th Century. The notable key features see in these structures are arched openings, decorated jaali work in parapets and ventilators, louvered windows, and wrought iron grills. We also see art deco influences in some of the facades with repetitive openings and facades for stairwells. Huge number of buildings have come up within the complex including multi-storied buildings and the heritage buildings have lost their identities amongst these crowded claustrophobic environments.	
State of Conservation		Poor	
Threats to property		Rapid development due to infrastructural requirements, incompatible additions and alterations, unplanned services and wiring.	
Condition Description		There are signs of decay visible in and around, like on chajja, cornice, brackets, parapets, etc	
Name of Surveyor		Rajrupa Kundu	
Bibliography		https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3208697/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._G._Kar_Medical_College_and_Hospital	

Sr. No. 16		SCIENCE COLLEGE					
Past Name	Science College, Rajabazar Campus			History and Evolution	In the early 20th century, Calcutta University initiated organized scientific research with the establishment of its University College of Science and Technology in March 1914. This milestone was made possible by significant endowments from Sir Taraknath Palit and Sir Rashbehari Ghosh , prominent figures in Bengal's National Education Movement. Spearheaded by Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee , then Vice-Chancellor, the university opened its science department to Indian students for the first time. This initiative marked the beginning of pioneering research in various branches of science and applied science, elevating India's global recognition. Notably, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy , renowned as the "Master of Nitrates" dedicated his life and savings to research in the Chemistry department.		
Address	92, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, Rajabazar, Machuabazar, Kolkata- 700009						
Geographic Coordinates	22.578936 N, 88.373242 E						
Date/ Period of Construction	1914						
Ownership	Public						
Owner's Name	Calcutta University						
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building stands tall with four stories and an imposing entrance portico. Its front façade is adorned with a series of arches and semi-circular columns, complemented by ornate architectural details that elevate its grandeur. Inside, a garden divides the two wings of this C-shaped structure with high ceilings. It is recognized as one of Kolkata's iconic landmarks.		
Property Sub -type	Institutional						
Property Past Use	College/Research Institute						
Property Present Use	College/Research Institute						
State of Protection	Protected						
Property site and surroundings	The building is located next to Acharya Bhaban and Bose Institute, opposite to Brahmo Girls School, Sadhana Sarkar Uddyan and Calcutta Deaf & Dumb School on a major road of the city.						
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical			State of Conservation	Good		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	NA		
				Condition Description	Two more floors added atop at a later date which is in non-conformity with the architectural style of this majestic building.		
Statement of Significance: This institution served as a hub of research for prominent Indian scientists, including Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy , who devoted his entire life to research here. It attracted academics from across India, such as Nobel laureate C.V. Raman , Gyan Chandra Ghosh , Dr. Meghnad Saha , Acharya Satyendra Nath Bose , Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan (former President of India), and Suniti Kumar Chatterjee . Since its establishment, it has been considered as a premier institute in India.							
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das		
Associational	High	Technological / Scientific	High				
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I				
				Bibliography	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_College_of_Science,_Technology_and_Agriculture		

Sr. No. 17		BOSE INSTITUTE (BASU BIGYAN MANDIR)-			
					
Past Name	Bose Institute (Basu Bigyan Mandir)			History and Evolution	Founded in 1917 by the eminent scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose , 'Bose Institute' is Asia's first modern research centre dedicated to interdisciplinary studies, boasting a century-long tradition of research excellence. From this institute, Sir Bose made his groundbreaking discovery of 'Life in Plants' and pioneered the 'Multimedia Communication System'. His work was supported by notable figures such as Swami Vivekananda , Sister Nivedita , Sara Chapman Bull , and Rabindranath Tagore , who believed in his talent and contributed to his global achievements.
Address	93/1, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Kolkata				
Geographic Coordinates	22.579737 N, 88.373621 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1917				
Ownership	Bose Institute - Autonomous Body				
Owner's Name	Past owner- Sir. Jagadish Chandra Bose Present owner -Bose Institute			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The institute comprises 3 to 4 buildings, each 3 to 4 stories high, arranged around a central garden. It bears strong influence of oriental architectural style, like horseshoe arches and pillars similar to Ajanta and Ellora caves parapets resemble those of the Sanchi Stupa, while other elements, such as jharokhas, brackets with corbels, cornices, and chajjas, etc. are influenced by Rajasthani architecture. A museum is situated in the front block, alongside a circular lecture hall that serves as the main attraction. The ceiling, adorned with circular ornamental frescoes painted by Master Artist Nandalal Bose, adds to its heritage value. The other buildings function as laboratories. The intricately carved wooden main entrance door of the main building is an exemplary one.
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Institutional				
Property Past Use	Institute for Scientific Research				
Property Present Use	Institute for Scientific Research				
State of Protection	Protected			State of Conservation	Good
Property site and surroundings	Next to Science College, Rajabazar and Acharya Bhavan. Brahmo Girls' School, Deaf & Dumb School, Rammohun Library, Manicktala Junction are located in the near vicinity.				
Architectural Style	'Revivalist', influenced by Oriental Architectural style.				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-Cultural -</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	Ageing of materials are few threats to the structure is visible. There are certain signs of decay found on chajja, cornice, brackets, parapets, etc.
Statement of Significance: It is a renowned research institute in India with an international reputation having great associational value. Many distinguished foreign scientists, Nobel laureates, and dignitaries have visited this institute. Notable visitors include the writer Aldous Huxley (1926), King Albert I of Belgium (1925), and President Brezhnev of the USSR (1959).				Condition Description	The Institute administration is actively trying for its authentic restoration. Extensive work is under progress under the aegis of Conservation Architects.
				Historical	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High	Name of Surveyor	
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA	Bibliography	www. britanica.com , www.encyclopedia.com http://www.jcbose.ac.in/history

Additional Photographs :-



Corbelled brackets and Jalis-Indian motifs



View of central garden surrounded by Research wings



Auditorium Ceilings with fresco painting by Nandalal Bose




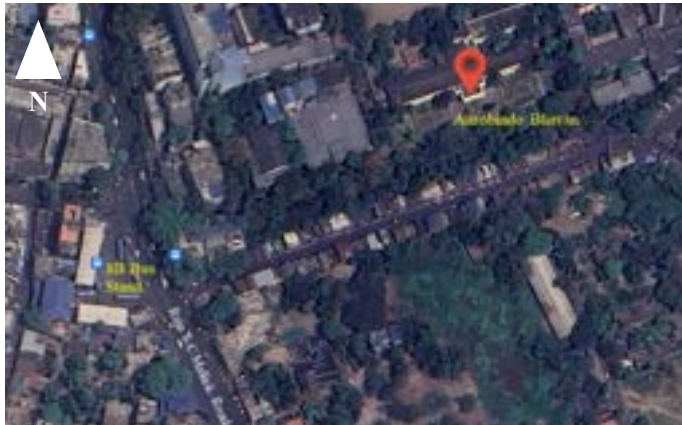
*Influence of Buddhist
Architecture*



*Influence of Rajasthani
Architecture*



*Decorative Architrave
for Entrance Door*

Sr. No. 18		AUROBINDO BHAVAN (JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY)			
					
Past Name	Aurobindo Building (NCE)		History and Evolution In 1906, the National Council of Education , Bengal was formed, and from the same year of August 15 th Bengal National College began operating at 191/1 Bowbazar Street with Sri Aurobindo as its first Principal. The college moved to 164 & 166 Bowbazar Street in 1907. Sri Aurobindo resigned in 1907 following his arrest in the 'Bande Mataram Sedition case.' In 1910, the 'Society for the Promotion of Technical Education' merged with the National Council of Education (NCE). The Jadavpur University Act of 1955 converted NCE into Jadavpur University. The foundation stone of ‘Aurobindo Bhavan’ was laid in 1922 and it began functioning in 1924.		
Address	P - 14 Jadavpur Station Road, Jadavpur University Campus Area, Jadavpur, Kolkata- 700032				
Geographic Coordinates	22.496748 N, 88.372321 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1922-24				
Ownership	Public				
Owner’s Name	Jadavpur University				
Property Type	Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20th century-built heritage) ‘Aurobindo Bhavan’ serves as the main administrative building of the University. The building features a symmetrical rectangular plan with a central entrance portico. Each floor has long, continuous corridors at the front, lined with rooms. The ground floor veranda is decorated with a series of arches, while the first-floor corridor features double columns and wooden louvers, known as jhillis, on both sides. The facade incorporates many ornamental motifs of Indian styles, such as swastikas, lotuses, and borders with oriental art forms, symbolizing nationalism.		
Property Sub -type	Institutional				
Property Past Use	Educational Institute/University				
Property Present Use	Educational Institute/University				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Aurobindo Building is located inside of the Jadavpur University Campus				
Architectural Style	Mixed (Neo-classical & Indo- Deco)		State of Conservation	Good	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio-cultural		Threats to property	Incompatible additions and alterations	
			Condition Description	The structure is in good condition but there are signs of decay from water ingress and dampness.	
Statement of Significance: NCE is a significant movement in the field of National educational policy of India. There were 96 Founder members in the Council: Subodh Chandra Mallick, Bepin Chandra Pal, P. Mitter, Surendranath Banerji, Gagendranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore, Chittaranjan Das, Aurobindo Ghose, Satish Chandra Mukherjee, A. Rasul, Aswini Kumar Dutt, Radha Kumud Mukherjee and other eminent personalities.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Rajrupa Kundu
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade			
				Bibliography	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jadavpur_University http://www.sriaurobindoinstitute.org/

Additional Photographs: -



Bengal National College- 191, Bowbazar Street






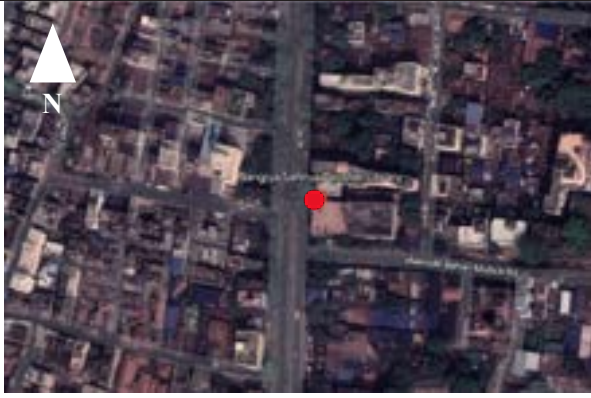
later on shifted to 166, Bowbazar Street


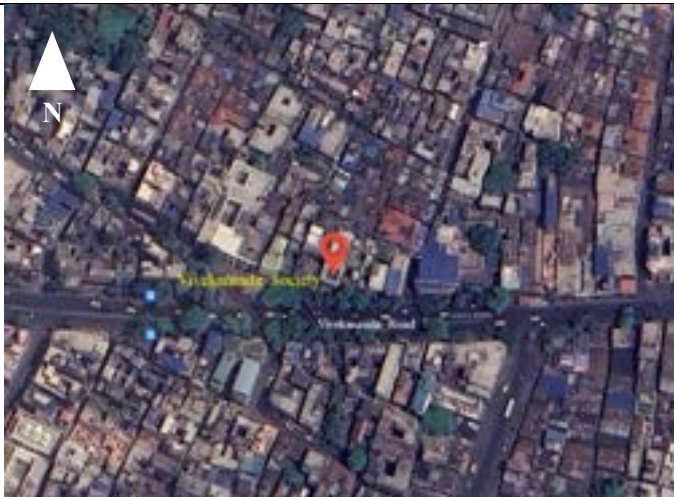
(Archival image – PC: [://www.sriaurobindoinsitute.org](http://www.sriaurobindoinsitute.org))





Present Location of NCE/Jadavpur University

Sr. No 19		RAMMOHUN LIBRARY			
					
Past Name	Rammohun Library				
Address	267, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Yogi Para, Garpar, Machuabazar, Kolkata- 700009				
Geographic Coordinates	22.581988 N, 88.374595 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1913				
Ownership	Trust Property				
Owner's Name	Rammohan Library and Free Reading Room				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Institutional				
Property Past Use	A meeting hall, library and free reading room				
Property Present Use	A meeting hall, library and free reading room				
State of Protection	Protected.				
Property site and surroundings	A landmark building of North Kolkata surrounded by many heritage buildings				
Architectural Style	Mixed				
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio-cultural		History and Evolution	Rammohun Library & Free Reading Room (RL&FRR) was founded in 1904 by notable luminaries of 20 th century to honour Raja Rammohun Roy's legacy. In 1911, the Calcutta Corporation granted a 6 cottah plot on perpetual lease for the Institute's own building at the intersection of Upper Circular Road and Sukia Street in North Kolkata. The foundation stone was laid in 1912 by Maharaja Bijoy Chand Mahtab of Burdwan, and Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee of Martin Burn Company undertook the construction without seeking financial gain. The library celebrated Raja Rammohun Roy's 200th birth centenary and its own centennial in 2003-04.	
			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building features a mixed architectural style, including a rounded corner entrance, arched doors, and sleek glazed windows, evident up to the first floor. Initially, the ground floor housed a hall for meetings, while the main library was situated on the first floor within peripheral balconies. In 1988, the second and third floors were added to expand the library space, although these new floors do not harmonize with the original architectural style of the ground floor.	
Statement of Significance: Numerous pivotal events have taken place here: Lord Carmichael inaugurated the building in 1913. Luminaries like Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Asutosh Mookherjee were honoured. Notable Scientists, like, Sir J.C. Bose and Acharya P.C. Roy served as Presidents.			State of Conservation	Recently, the Rammohun Library authority has upgraded its facilities significantly. Initiatives include installing a small lift (2019) and renovating the ground floor auditorium (2022). A museum was introduced on the first floor (2023) and a seminar hall on the third floor. The library's rear book section and a small musical archive are now shifted to the third floor, while plans for upgrading the second-floor library are in progress. A new Computer Training Centre was also opened on the ground floor in 2023.	
			Threats to property	Restoration required. Fire safety measures are inadequate, requires urgent attention.	
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Condition Description	Exterior needs repair/ maintenance and the library requires up gradation. The staircase, entrance, toilets also need maintenance and up gradation. The building needs an overall restoration.
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das
				Bibliography	Short history of Rammohun Library & Free reading Room- published by Rammohun Library

Sr. No 20		BANGIYA SAHITYA PARISHAT			
					
Past Name		Bangiya Shaitya Parishat		History and Evolution	The current building, constructed on land donated by Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar in 1901, was completed and occupied by the Parishat in 1908 as a single storey. Significant contributions were made by Sri Jogendranarayan Rai Bahadur, Raja of Lalgola , for the construction of the first floor, and Srinath Pal Bahadur , who financed the marble flooring for the 2500 sq. ft. in ground floor. This fulfilled a dream for the 20th-century intellectuals, providing a permanent space of their own for their library and literary conferences. Saradacharan Mitra served as the first President, with Rabindranath Tagore and Jyotindranath Chowdhury as Vice-Presidents. A double-storey rear block was added later.
Address		243/1, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Rd, Manicktala, Sahitya Parishad, Bagmari, Kolkata - 700006			
Geographic Coordinates		22.590543 N, 88.375310 E			
Date/ Period of Construction		1908			
Ownership		Private			
Owner's Name		Bangiya Sahitya Parishat			
Property Type		Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building features a double-story front block and a three-story rear block with a load-bearing brick structure supported by C.I. columns and beams. The front block houses a library on the ground floor and a museum on the first floor. The rear block, added later, includes a stack area on the ground floor, a seminar hall on the first floor, and another museum on the second floor. The front façade showcases 'Revivalist' architectural style of the 20th century, characterized by lotus motifs and corbelled brackets, reflecting Oriental style of architecture. The first floor has three pointed arched balconies and two flat pointed arched windows with a flowing design of parapet at rooftop. The ornamental works surrounding windows at the side wall reflects the Buddhist style of architecture.
Property Sub -type		Institutional			
Property Past Use		Library and meeting place			
Property Present Use		Library and meeting place			
State of Protection		Protected			
Property site and surroundings		The building is located at a corner plot on one of the major roads of Kolkata i.e. APC road. Nearby landmark is Parshnath Jain Temple at Hali bagan area. The site is located in a dense residential and institutional zone of North Kolkata.			
Architectural Style		Revivalist		State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing		➤ Socio-cultural ➤ Architecture		Threats to property	Space problem for storage
Statement of Significance: This Parishat is a literary Institution. It was associated with legendary figures of the then society, like, Rabindranath Tagore, Rajas of Shobhabazar, Lalgola, Narajol, Mahishadol, Maharaja of Cossimbazar, , Rashbehari Ghosh, Prafulla Chandra Roy, Haraprasad Shastri, Gaganendranath Thakur, Abanindranath Thakur, Jadunath Sarkar, Ramendrasundar Tribedi etc.				Condition Description	Renovation work is in progress at 1st floor of front block and 2nd floor of rear block. Additional space is being created at first floor in Museum with steel structure. The floor finish of the Lecture Hall at first floor is being replaced by Vitrified tiles.
Historical	High	Architectural	Very Good	Name of Surveyor Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	https://bangiyasahityaparishat.org/about-us/ Bhavan Sataborsha Smaranika- Published by Bangiya Sahitva Parishad

Sr. No. 21		VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY					
							
Past Name	Vivekananda Society			History and Evolution	After Swami Vivekananda's death in 1902, the Calcutta Students' Society announced the formation of the 'Vivekananda Society' at a conference in Albert Hall (now Indian Coffee House). Initiated by Sister Nibedita and Swami Vivekananda's associates, including Swami Brahmananda, Swami Turiananda, and Swami Saradananda, the society aimed to study and implement Swamiji's philosophy. Sister Nibedita and others often taught classes on Ramakrishna, Vedanta, and the Gita. Suspected by the British of revolutionary ties, Swami Saradananda restructured the society in 1915. Post-independence, it moved to 151 Vivekananda Road in 1967.		
Address	151, Vivekananda Road, (Near Maniktala) Kolkata-700006						
Geographic Coordinates	22.586732 N, 88.371913 E						
Date/ Period of Construction	1967-77						
Ownership	Private						
Owner's Name	Vivekananda Society						
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	It is a three-story building with a recessed central entrance. The upper floors feature projecting balconies above the entrance, which is adorned with the society's logo. The upper floors house a conference hall, a library, and a free reading room. The building's architecture is simple, with recessed windows on both sides. A full-size statue of Sister Nibedita was added at the front at a later date.		
Property Sub -type	Institutional						
Property Past Use	Library / Conference Hall						
Property Present Use	Library / Conference Hall						
State of Protection	Unprotected						
Property site and surroundings	located at one of the major crossings of Vivekananda Road and APC Road at Manicktala						
Architectural Style	Mixed			State of Conservation	Good		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- cultural			Threats to property	No threats identified.		
Statement of Significance: It has an institution associated with <i>Sister Nibedita</i> and <i>Ramkrishna Mission</i> and possessed a legacy of many cultural events of the then society. It is a popular library to date with its vast collection on Science, Commerce, Philosophy, Religious books etc				Condition Description	Well-maintained.		
Historical	High	Architectural	Good				
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Good				
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	Kolkata r Rajpoth- Ajit Basu, Chattopadhyay, Rajagopal. <i>Swami Vivekananda in India: A Corrective Biography</i> . Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 1999. Sil, Narasingha P. <i>Vivekananda: A Reassessment</i> . Susquehanna University Press, 1997.		

Sr. No 22		INDIAN COFFEE HOUSE			
					
Past Name	Albert Hall		History and Evolution	The College Street Coffee House in Kolkata, originally known as 'Albert Hall,' was founded by the Brahmo leader Keshub Chandra Sen in 1876 as a meeting place for citizens. It became a hub for freedom movements and the birthplace of the Indian Association , which later evolved into the 'National Congress'. Sister Nibedita delivered religious discourses here, and it honoured figures like Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam . The old building was replaced in 1929 by the iconic 'Indian Coffee House.' Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose , while a student at Presidency College, was a regular visitor. It remains a beloved 'Boi Para' spot for spirited conversations and convivial 'Adda' sessions - a very typical culture of Bengalees.	
Address	15, Bankim Chatterjee St, College Square West, College Street, Kolkata 700073				
Geographic Coordinates	22.576214 E, 88.364008 N				
Date/ Period of Construction	1929 (1876)				
Ownership	Co-operative Society				
Owner's Name	Indian Coffee House Workers' Co-operative Society Ltd.		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A three storied building having a distinct architectural design and style of 20th century with series of arched windows and projected double height columns with capitals and continuous chajja projection at roof level. The interior of this house has a special feature as a double height central hall at first floor level as a cafeteria with balcony at second floor level all around.	
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	Coffee House/Cafe				
Property Present Use	Coffee House/Cafe				
State of Protection	Protected partially- only the Coffee House, but not the entire building (Grade-I Heritage as per KMC)		State of Conservation	Fair	
Property site and surroundings	Located within a unique/exclusive commercial hub of the city i.e. 'Boipara' surrounded by many heritage Institutions.				
Architectural Style	Mixed -with Saracenic influence				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural</div> <div>➤ Socio-political</div>				
Statement of Significance: This had a great legacy pertains to 19th /20 th century Cultural history. It was a popular choice for political leaders, intellectuals and the students and has a great associated value with the luminaries of Bengal. It stands as a sentinel of continuity amidst the ebb and flow of time for its vibrant ambience.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Condition Description	Poor maintenance due to multiple tenants has caused the Coffee House to lose its charm. Currently, it suffers from a lack of modernization. In today's commercial scenario, cleanliness and upkeep are essential. Modernizing the Coffee House is definitely possible without disrupting its original architectural design and interior structure.
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
		Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das		
		Bibliography	Kolikata r Rajpoth- by Ajit Basu		



Additional Photographs: -



Central Hall with double height



Balcony all round at second floor level

Sr. No. 23		RAMAKRISHNA MISSION INSTITUTE OF CULTURE				
						
Past Name	Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture		History and Evolution	Established between 1936-1938 as a Ramakrishna Mission branch, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture aims to spread the universal message of Vedanta's 'Oneness', as taught by Sri Ramakrishna. Founded during Sri Ramakrishna's first birth centenary, the institute was led by Swami Nityaswarupananda until 1962. Relocated in 1961, it garnered support from notable figures including former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Shyamaprasad Mookherjee, Kalidas Nag, R.C.Majumder, Suneeti Chatterjee, Triguna Sen, KP Khaitan and many more, fostering cultural and philosophical discourse.		
Address	Gol Park, Kolkata, West Bengal 700 029, India					
Geographic Coordinates	22.515536 N, 88.366256 E					
Date/ Period of Construction	1960					
Ownership	Trust Property					
Owner's Name	Belur Math, Ramkrishna Mission HQ					
Property Type	Building					
Property Sub -type	Institution		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building is a reinforced concrete (RCC) framed structure spanning four floors, blending Indian architectural elements with Art Deco influences. Positioned on a corner plot, its expansive design features a curved façade adorned with chhatris. Inside, a central lobby boasts a semi-circular atrium and a curvilinear staircase. Marble and cast-in-situ mosaic adorn the common areas, while wooden-framed doors and steel-framed windows with glass shutters enhance functionality. The facility houses various departments: School of Languages, library, museum/art gallery, Vivekananda Archives, Shrine/Meditation Hall, Publication Department, Centre for Indological Studies and Research, and an international Guest House. A landscaped rear garden complements its serene ambiance.		
Property Past Use	Institutional					
Property Present Use	Institutional					
State of Protection	Protected.					
Property site and surroundings	The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture is located at the Golpark next to Rabindra Sarobar, Designed by- Ballardie Thomson & Mathew Constructed by- Martin Burn & Co.					
Architectural Style	Revivalist		State of Conservation	Well maintained		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-Cultural Spiritual, Educational & Philanthropic Institution</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		Threats to property	NIL		
			Condition Description	The building is in a very good condition with regular maintenance at an interval of five years.		
Statement of Significance: Founded in 1938 the RMIC is a spiritual, philanthropic, educational and cultural Institute responsible for raising awareness about cultural heritage of India and spreading the vision of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda across the world.						
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor		
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High			
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	Graded			
				Bibliography	https://belurmth.org/ramakrishna-mission-institute-of-culture-gol-park-kolkata/ Activities at a glance-RK Mission Institute	

Additional Photographs:



Front view from Goalpark



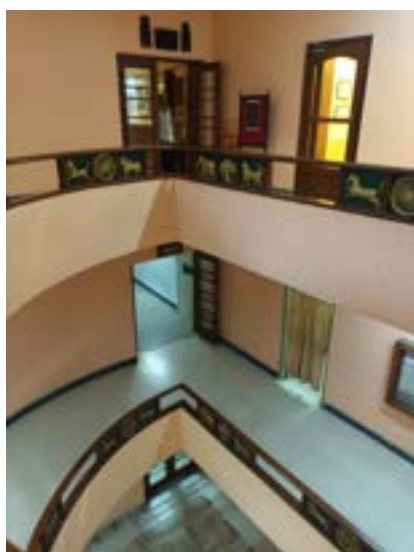
Rear View



Library



Museum/Art Gallery





Stair Hall – view 1





Atrium



Stair Hall – view-2

Sr. No. 24		UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE HALL			
					
Past Name	University Institute Hall			History and Evolution	University Institute Hall, an auditorium at the University of Calcutta, was established for student use. The decision to set up the student society was made at a meeting in Sanskrit College in 1891, attended by notable figures such as Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay , Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna , Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee , Sir Gurudas Banerjee , and Mr. H. Lee , along with student representatives. The hall hosted important seminars, debates, conferences, dramas, and musical programs, and honoured many distinguished individuals. A fire in the 1970s likely destroyed its library. The auditorium is now available for hire by any organization for events.
Address	7, Bankim Chatterjee St, College Square Kolkata-700073				
Geographic Coordinates	22.575439 N, 88.365090 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Original-1891, Rebuilt-1972				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	University of Calcutta				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The original building is demolished due to fire hazards. The present building is built in '70s with neo-classical architectural style, a three storied building with rustication and a grand entrance portico. An auditorium is also reconstructed with latest sound system and refurbished with latest seating arrangements.
Property Sub -type	Recreational				
Property Past Use	Theatre, auditorium				
Property Present Use	Theatre, auditorium				
State of Protection	Protected .				
Property site and surroundings	Located behind College Square. Nearby landmarks are Calcutta University, Sanskrit College, Hare School, Hindu School, Presidency College, Mahabodhi Society, Boipara etc				
Architectural Style	Neo-classical			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	No threats identified
				Condition Description	After the building was gutted down by fire, it was renovated in 1972, equipped with ultra-modern sound and lighting equipment, auditorium was refurbished and opened for public once again.
Statement of Significance: It has an associated value of eminent personalities of 20 th century, like Rabindranath Tagore , Sir J.C.Bose , Prafulla Chandra Roy , R.N.Mookherjee , Basanti Devi , Dr. Nilratan Sirkar , Saratchandra Chattopadhyay , Dr. Bidhan chandra Roy , Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and many more.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Kolikata r Rajpoth by Ajit Basu

Sr. No. 25		BAIKUNTHA TEMPLE, GANESH TALKIES			
					
Past Name	Baikuntha Temple			History and Evolution	Baikuntha Temple, located in Kolkata, is the only temple dedicated to Baikuntha Dev (Vishnu/Balaji) in the city. Completed between 1960 and 1962, the temple features a stone image of Lord Baikuntha flanked by his two consorts, Sridevi and Bhudevi. It is believed that Maharaj Prayag Narayan Tiwari, son of Maharaj Revati Narayan Tiwari, was responsible for its construction. This temple exemplifies the presence of the Tamil community in Kolkata, who established a prayer hall and temple for their own community.
Address	12/A, Kali Krishna Tagore Street, Jorasanko/Posta, Kolkata, West Bengal 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.586871 N, 88.356957 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1960-62				
Ownership	Temple Trust				
Owner's Name	Founder - Maharaj Prayag Narayan Tiwari				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Religious			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A quintessential example of Dravidian-style temple architecture exists in Kolkata. The main entrance features a typical ‘Gopuram’ adorned with idols depicting stories and characters from the Ramayana. The main temple itself has a flat roof supported by several ornately decorated, marble-clad pillars. In addition to the main temple, there is a hall designated for religious functions. The entire structure is clad in white marble, including the floor. A distinctive feature of South Indian temples, a metal-clad ‘dhwaj’, is also prominently visible here.
Property Past Use	Temple				
Property Present Use	Temple				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at Jorasanko area on a main street, nearest landmark - Ganesh Talkies				
Architectural Style	Hindu temple architecture (Indian) (Dravidian style)			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- Cultural</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>			Threats to property	No threats identified
				Condition Description	Good
Statement of Significance: It is the only temple at Kolkata with South Indian style of architecture.					
Historical	medium	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	medium	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade			
				Bibliography	https://www.wikiwand.com/

Additional Photographs: -






Main entrance



Interior view



Front view- the 'Gopuram'

Sr. No. 26		RAM MANDIR/ SETH SOORAJMULL JALAN BALIKA VIDYALAYA			
					
Past Name	Socio- Cultural			History and Evolution	Founded in 1938, the Seth Soorajmull Jalan Trust is a philanthropic and religious organisation known for its contributions to women's education and development. Led by Seth Mohanlal Jalan and other prominent figures, the Trust has established numerous schools, libraries, reading rooms, and colleges in West Bengal and across India. One such notable institution is Seth Soorajmull Jalan Balika Vidyalaya, a Hindi medium girls' school founded in 1941, located at 186, C.R. Avenue. The building houses an 82-year-old Ram-Sita temple on the ground floor, known as ' Ram Mandir ,' which also lends its name to the nearby bus stop. The upper floors serve as a library and classrooms. It is a landmark building in C R Avenue.
Address	186, Chittaranjan Ave, Simla, Machuabazar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.582923 N, 88.361944 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1941				
Ownership	Trust property				
Owner's Name	Seth Surajmal Jalan Trust				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	This impressive six-story building showcases Rajasthani architectural influence. The central bay, starting from the third story, features projected balconies with multifoil arches and jali, epitomizing typical Rajasthani design. Additionally, jharoka-style windows, ornamental brackets, columns, and borders further resembles Rajasthani architecture. The ground floor houses a central hall designed as a 'Ram-Sita temple' with an atrium concept. This building clearly illustrates the lifestyle of the local community who came from western India in search of fortune and found solace in this religious environment.
Property Sub -type	Religious/Institutional				
Property Past Use	Temple cum school				
Property Present Use	Temple cum school				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Located on a major thoroughfare of the city i.e. Chittaranjan Avenue, Central Kolkata and surrounded by many landmark buildings of 20 th century mostly built and occupied by Marwari Community.				
Architectural Style	Rajasthani Architecture			State of Conservation	Very Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Socio- Cultural</div><div>➤ Architecture</div><div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div></div>			Threats to property	No threats identified
				Condition Description	Well- maintained.
Statement of Significance: When newly constructed C.R.Avenue was laid by CIT to connect Dharmatola/ Esplanade up to Shyambazar. The settlers from Western India, mostly Marwaris came out of Burrabazar area and built their mansions on multi-storied concept deviating from colonial influence. Ram Mandir is one of such landmark building.					
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade			
				Bibliography	https://zaubee.com/biz/seth-soorajmull-jalan-balika-vidyalaya , wikimedia commons SA-4.1



Additional Photographs: -



Interior – the Mandir



Architectural features with Rajasthani style

Sr. No. 27		BIRLA MANDIR			
					
Past Name	Birla Mandir			History and Evolution	Construction of the temple began in 1970 and took 26 years to complete. Built by the Birla Brothers , the project was supervised by the Sompuras. On Wednesday, February 21, 1996, Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj performed the Pran Prathistha ceremony. The temple was inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh on the same day. It is dedicated to Vishnu avatars such as Rama and Krishna. The temple also has separate shrines for other gods such as Shiva, Ganesh, Saraswati, Hanuman, Brahma, Lakshmi and Saibaba
	29, Ashutosh Chowdary Ave, Ballygunge, Kolkata- 700019				
Geographic Coordinates	22.530764 N, 88.365021 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1970-71				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Birla Family				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A notable Hindu temple in North Indian style features stunningly intricate Rajasthani carvings. Constructed entirely with sandstone and white marble, the temple's interiors showcase exquisite marble carvings depicting slokas and pictorial scenes from Hindu scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita. These engravings are adorned with captivating chandeliers, enhancing their splendor. The temple's architecture draws inspiration from the Laxmi Narayan Temple of New Delhi and Lingaraj Temple of Bhubaneswar. This temple also houses an auditorium, namely 'GD Birla Sabhaghor' in the basement.
Property Sub -type	Religious				
Property Past Use	Hindu Temple				
Property Present Use	Hindu Temple				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	The temple is located in a posh residential neighbourhood of Kolkata. Situated amidst high- and low-rise residential buildings, the temple is located in a well-connected and busy neighbourhood.				
Architectural Style	Hindu Temple Architecture (North Indian Style) Designed by- Ar. Nomi Bose of Bose Brothers			State of Conservation	Very Good
General Criteria for Listing	Architecture Socio- culture			Threats to property	No threats identified
				Condition Description	Very Good. In the evening, Birla Mandir presents a spectacular sight upon illumination.
Statement of Significance: A landmark architecture/temple of the city based on the stunningly beautiful intricate Rajasthani style of carving					
Historical	NA	Architectural	Very Good	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, Prateeti Pal
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Very Good		
Socio-Cultural	Good	Final Grade			
				Bibliography	http// en.wikipedia.org

Additional Photographs: -





Front view with ornamental Gate



Side view- Birla Savaghar- the auditorium at basement



ornamental works on marble

Sr. No. 28		MAHABODHI SOCIETY	
			
Past Name	Mahabodhi Society		
Address	4A, Bankim Chatterjee St, College Square, Kolkata - 700073		
Geographic Coordinates	22.574706 N, 88.365122 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1920		
Ownership	Trust Property		
Owner's Name	Mahabodhi Society		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Temple cum prayer hall		
Property Past Use	Religious		
Property Present Use	Partly religious , partly commercial		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located at the rear side of College Square. Sanskrit College, Hare School, Hindu School, Presidency College, Calcutta University, Boipara are in the near vicinity.		
Architectural Style	Revivalist - influence of Buddhist Architecture		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural-</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: The headquarters of the Mahabodhi Society, a charitable and spiritual Buddhist organization, is located in India. The temple houses relics of Buddha discovered in Battiporulu in 1892. It is also historically significant for its connections with many prominent figures of the 20th century.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		The Mahabodhi Society of India is a charitable, non-profit Buddhist association dedicated to the propagation of Buddhism. Founded by Bodhisattva Anagarika Dharmapala from Sri Lanka , the Society has its headquarters in Kolkata and various centres across India. The Mahabodhi Society of India is also actively involved in charitable and social welfare activities. In 1920, Lawrence Dundas, Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal , presented Buddha relics to Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee , the then President of the Mahabodhi Society and Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University. These relics were enshrined in the newly established Dharmarajika Chaitya Vihara at College Square.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The building is a three-story structure featuring sandstone cladding on the front façade, which is highlighted by a horse-shoe-shaped arch at the entrance, reminiscent of the Ajanta style. Ornamental columns on either side, topped with lotus capitals, exemplify Buddhist architectural style. The ground floor serves as a lecture hall, adorned with decorative columns and fresco paintings on the ceilings. The temple, located on the first floor, houses a statue of Lord Buddha. The interior ambiance of the temple reflects Buddhist aesthetics, with fresco paintings on the walls and ceilings.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		No threats identified	
Condition Description		A newer five-story adjacent block was later constructed, harmonizing with the original building.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das	
Bibliography		https://en.wikipedia.org/ https://mahabodhisocietyofindia.wordpress.com/	

Additional Photographs: -



Mahabodhi Society- Headquarter



New Adjascent Block



The shrine at first floor




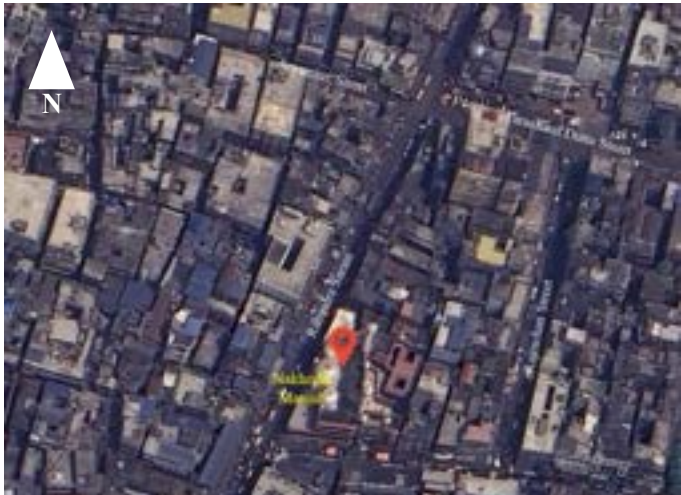
Fresco painting at side walls



Fresco paintings on vaulted ceiling



Lecture Hall at ground floor

Sr. No. 29		NAKHODA MASJID			
					
Past Name	Nakhoda Masjid				
Address	92, Rabindra Sarani (1, Zakaria St), Kolkata-700073				
Geographic Coordinates	22.577696 E, 88.356051 N				
Date/ Period of Construction	1926-1934				
Ownership	Wakf Property				
Owner's Name	Cutchi Memon Mohammadan Community				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Religious				
Property Past Use	Mosque				
Property Present Use	Mosque				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Located in high density commercial area in Chitpur Road. It is a landmark religious precinct.				
Architectural Style	Indo- Saracenic				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- Cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			History and Evolution	Known as ‘Bari Masjid,’ this mosque was built by the Kutchi Memon , a small Muslim sect renowned for their business acumen and trading with Southeast Asia from the early 19th century. They settled in Calcutta in 1849, earning the nickname ‘ Nakhodas ’ or seafarers . During their prosperous days, they constructed mosques, madrassas, musafir khana, and cemeteries. Their notable achievement was building the ‘Nakhoda Masjid’ at a cost of fifteen lakh rupees. Construction began in 1926 and concluded in 1934. Haji Noor Muhammad Zakariya , a wealthy businessman, was the first ‘motoyali’ of the mosque, and the street in front was named Zakariya Street in his honour.
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	This sacred structure bears a resemblance to Akbar’s Tomb at Sikandra, near Agra. Its expansive prayer hall accommodates up to 10,000 worshippers. Adorned with three grand domes and two towering minarets each standing at 151 feet, the mosque also features 25 smaller minarets topped with cupolas, ranging in height from 100 to 117 feet. The entrance is flanked by two impressive arched gateways made of red sandstone, reminiscent of the famous Buland Darwaza of Fatehpur-Sikri. Constructed with white marble and red sandstone, this four-storey mosque stands as a splendid example of Indo-Saracenic architecture in Kolkata.
Statement of Significance: It is one of the largest and famous Mosque of Eastern India. A landmark architecture and considered as one of the most sacred places for worship for Islamic Community of Kolkata.				State of Conservation	Very Good
				Threats to property	No threats identified so far.
<div>Historical</div> <div>High</div> <div>Architectural</div> <div>High</div>				Condition Description	Well- maintained
				<div>Associational</div> <div>High</div> <div>Technological/ Scientific</div> <div>High</div>	
<div>Socio- Cultural</div> <div>High</div> <div>Final Grade</div> <div>I</div>				Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
				Bibliography	https://www.getbengal.com – by Arpita Chanda

Additional Photographs: -



View from exterior





View from interior



View from interior



Prayer Hall - view 1

Sr. No. 30		PARSVANATHA UPAVAN TEMPLE, BELGACHIA			
					
Past Name	Parsvanatha Temple			History and Evolution	Constructed in 1914 in the Nagara style, the Parswanath Temple is one of Kolkata's most sacred Jain pilgrimage sites. Belonging to the Digambar sect, it is dedicated to Parswanath, the 23rd Tirthankar of Jainism. Each year on Kartik Purnima, the temple hosts the spectacular Rath-yatra of Baghwan Parswanath, featuring a vibrant procession of various Bajan mandalies and jankhis.
Address	Jiban Krishna Ghosh Rd, Tala, Saktinagar, Belgachia, Kolkata, West Bengal 700037				
Geographic Coordinates	22°36'21.9"N 88°22'58.7"E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1914				
Ownership	Trust Property				
Owner's Name	Parswanath Jain Temple Trust				
Property Type	Group of buildings			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Located along Jessore Road, the Jain temple features a grand gateway adorned with three intricately decorated chhatris. Constructed in the 'Nagara' style, the temple is nestled within a lush garden. The magnificent Baghwan Paraswanath temple, situated in a beautiful garden at Belgachia in the heart of Kolkata, is over a century old. Renovated by Mr. Brown, the renowned architect of Victoria Memorial, in 1914, this artistic temple boasts ornamental pillars and sculptures inspired by ancient Jain temples and caves. The ambience of the temple with its reflection in the adjacent tank and the recent addition of an 81-foot-high sparkling white marble Mahastambha create a picturesque spot within the city environment.
Property Sub -type	Religious				
Property Past Use	Temple				
Property Present Use	Temple				
State of Protection	Protected.				
Property site and surroundings	Parswanath Temple in Belgachia is located along the Jessore Road near the Belgachia station and the R.G. Kar Medical College.				
Architectural Style	Indian Temple Architecture (Jain Architectural Style/ 'Nagara' Style)			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Socio-cultural</div><div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div></div>			Threats to property	Incompatible additions and alterations
				Condition Description	The temple is in good condition with regular maintenance.
Statement of Significance: The Parswanath Temple at Belgachia is one of the most sacred Jain Temples in Kolkata. It stands testimony to the multi-cultural influence of the city and its multi-ethnic narrative.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High		
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low	Name of Surveyor	Rajrupa Kundu
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	1	Bibliography	https://www.jainmandir.org/

Additional Photographs: -





Intricately decorated Main Gate



Boundary Wall



View of the Temple Complex showing the Temple, Mahastambh and water tank along with the landscaped garden

Sr. No. 31		ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS		
				
Past name	The Indian Academy of Fine Arts		History and evolution Established on August 15, 1933, under Lady Ranu Mookherjee's patronage at the Indian Museum, the academy relocated in the 1950s to meet the growing need for a permanent contemporary art gallery in Kolkata. Spearheaded by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy , the then Chief Minister of West Bengal, and Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru , with support from Lady Ranu and funds from Sir Biren Mookherjee , the academy moved to its current location. It opened with an exhibition of 50 paintings by Nandalal Bose on September 11, 1960. Today, it boasts a prized collection of sculptures, textiles, engravings, and paintings from the Bengal School of Arts, mostly donated.	
Address	2, Cathedral Road, Maidan, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071			
Geographic coordinates	22.5429508°N 88.3453662°E			
Date/ period of construction	1933-1959			
Ownership	Private (Trust)			
Owner's name	Academy of Fine Arts			
Property type	Building		Architectural merit (mentioning special features of 20th century built heritage) The Academy includes a museum, art galleries, an auditorium, a conference centre, and a sculpture garden. It is a three-storied rectangular building with a double-storied central porch. The façade features three bays with rows of rectangular windows and a continuous chajja above. The porch's front façade has a large semi-circular arch on the ground floor, flanked by smaller arches with Jali work on either side, and a large mural titled "The Tree of Learning" by sculptor Sunil Pal, with a quote from the Vishnu Puran, on the first floor. Each floor is separated by a wide chajja, and the academy's name is displayed on the porch's front façade in Art Deco style.	
Property Sub -type	Institutional			
Property Past use	Cultural Institutional			
Property Present use	Cultural Institutional			
State of protection	Unprotected			
Property site and surroundings	The academy is located on Cathedral Road opposite to Victoria Memorial with St. Paul's Cathedral to the left and Rabindra Sadan and Nandan to the right.			
Architectural style	'Revivalist' with influence from Art Deco and regional architectural style of Bengal		State of conservation	Poor
General criteria for listing	<div>➤ Socio-cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		Threats to property	Lack of maintenance, lack of modernisation
Statement of significance: The Academy holds significance as Kolkata's first art gallery, renowned for its association with notable luminaries and its impressive art collection. It features works by eminent artists such as Rabindranath Tagore , Abanindranath Tagore , Gaganendranath Tagore , Sunayani Devi , Atul Bose , Nandalal Bose , Jamini Roy , Ramkinkar Baij , and Benode Behari Mukherjee .			Condition description	The maintenance of the building requires urgent attention.
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of surveyor Om Dayal College of Architecture - Debanjali Paul, Rishi Pal, Soumili Banerjee, Janhabi Majumdar, Sroddha Dutta Banik, Moulima Roy Moitreyee Patra
Associational	High	Technological/scientific	Medium	
Socio-cultural	High	Final grade		
			Bibliography	https://www.academyoffinearts.in/index.php

Additional photographs: -



Exhibition Gallery at Ground floor



Side Entrance - octagonal pillars with Indian motifs





Entrance Porch



Sculptured Garden



The terracota 'Mural'- installed in 1965-66 , designed by the eminent Sculptor Sri Sunil Pal, based on the theme on 'A tree of learning' flanked by a painter and a sculptor on either side of the tree with a quotation underneath from the 'Vishnu Purana'

Sr. No. 32		RABINDRA SADAN	
			
Past Name	Rabindra Sadan		
Address	71, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071		
Geographic Coordinates	22.541970 N, 88.344711 E		
Period of Construction	1961- 1967		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	Government of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Recreational		
Property Past Use	Auditorium		
Property Present Use	Auditorium		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Rabindra Sadan is located on a corner plot at the junction of Cathedral Road and AJC Bose Road. Nearby landmarks are Victoria Memorial, Birla Planetarium, Academy of Fine Arts, Nandan, Nattya Academy, Sisir Mancha, Kolkata Information Centre and Calcutta Club.		
Architectural Style	Modern Designed by- Ar. Shyamal De Sarkar		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-Cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is located in the city's major theatrical and cultural hub, drawing visitors from all over the world. It is associated with notable artistes of international reputation who performed here like Pt. Ravishankar, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Pt.Amjad Ali Khan, Amala Shankar, Mamata Shankar, Ballet troupes from Soviet Russia and many more. It is also significant as the venue for the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) and other film festivals.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associatio nal	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The foundation stone of Rabindra Sadan was laid by India's then-Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru , on August 5, 1961, to mark the birth centenary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore . The venue was opened to the public in October 1967 and has since become a symbol of Bengal's vibrant culture, performing arts, and rich traditions. Every year, the State Government of West Bengal organizes a 15-day cultural program at Rabindra Sadan to celebrate Tagore's birthday.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		This rectangular, double-storied landmark building stands on a high plinth with a long flight of steps leading to a veranda with an impressive cantilevered canopy. The front façade is divided into seven bays, with the central five bays featuring double-height circular pilasters devoid of ornamentation. The two side bays are adorned with red honeycomb RCC jali work and two large lamp sculptures. Unique full-height abstract murals on either side added an additional beauty to the building. The building stands out in that area with vibrant colours, unlike other buildings in the vicinity The auditorium inside has a seating capacity of 1200.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		No threats identified.	
Condition Description		The structure is fairly well maintained with minor issues of maintenance.	
Name of Surveyor		Om Dayal College of Architecture: - Rishi Pal, Debanjauli Paul, Moitrayee Patra, Sroddha Dutta Banik, Soumili Banerjee, Moulima Roy	
Bibliography		https://www.mapsofindia.com/kolkata/places-of-interest/famous-monuments/rabindra-sadan.html	

Additional Photographs: -



Rear Entry for Artists and VIP'S



the lamp & the Jali





Main Entry



Statue Of Rabindranath Tagore



The Mural – a modern art

Sr. No. 33		NANDAN	
			
Past Name	Nandan		
Address	1/1, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, Maidan, Kolkata, West Bengal 700020		
Geographic Coordinates	22.664173° N, 88.391888° E		
Date of Construction	1980 - 1985		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	M/o Information & Culture, State Government of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Recreational		
Property Past Use	Cinema hall/ Auditorium		
Property Present Use	Cinema hall/ Auditorium		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The property is located on AJC Bose Road, beside Rabindra Sadan and the Sisir Manch, opposite to it are SSKM Hospital and Calcutta Club. It is connected with Academy of Fine Arts, Rabindra Sadan, to make it an integrated cultural centre.		
Architectural Style	Modern		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- culture</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is the primary venue for the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) . This property has long been a central part of the city's cultural hub and remains a popular gathering place for both the young and old. It is a Landmark building as well.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The foundation stone of Nandan was laid by former Chief Minister Jyoti Basu in 1980. Former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya took a keen interest in developing Nandan into a venue of international standard for hosting film festivals. The first Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) was held here, and thereafter it continues to be an annual event, which are attended by many national and international film celebrities. It also hosts numerous conferences across various fields.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		Designed by architect Amitava Sengupta , 'Nandan' stands out as Kolkata's inaugural government-backed multiplex. Set against a large waterbody, the auditorium is elevated on stilts, harmonizing with the landscape. Nandan boasts three auditoriums: one for film screenings and two other smaller venues for conferences. The entrance logo, crafted by renowned filmmaker and calligrapher Satyajit Ray , adds a distinctive touch. The site also showcases two unique sculptures—one depicting filmmaking from scrap metals and another by Ramkinkar Baij . Nandan's standout feature is its plaza concept, making it a focal point amid a vibrant cultural complex.	
State of Conservation		Very Good	
Threats to property		No threats identified.	
Condition Description		An overall restoration work was carried out in 2011.	
Name of Surveyor		Om Dayal College of Architecture: - Rishi Pal, Debanjauli Paul, Moitrayee Patra, Sroddha Dutta Banik, Soumili Banerjee, Moulima Roy	
Bibliography		https://www.touristlink.com/w.html https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkatas	

Additional Photographs: -



Main entrance with sculpture made of scrap metals on film making



Auditorium is placed on stilts over a waterbody





Nandan complex- a cultural hub- a popular hangout zone for citizens



A sculpture by Ramkinkar Beige in the complex



An idol of Devi Durga at the foyer

Sr. No. 34		SANGEET KALA MANDIR			
					
Past Name	Birla Kala Mandir		History and Evolution	The concept of establishing a cultural hub for Kolkata's socially conscious intellectuals was conceived by the prominent Indian industrialist, Syt. Basant Kumar Birla, along with his associates Mr. G.D. Jhavar and Mr. B.D. Bhatler. The idea for an auditorium, named 'Kala Mandir,' was first proposed in 1945 during the inaugural event of 'Sangeet Kala Mandir.' However, the realization of their own auditorium took some time, and it was eventually opened to the public in 1968.	
Address	48, Shakespeare Sarani (Theatre Road), Kolkata, West Bengal 700017				
Geographic Coordinates	22.548389 N, 88.361624 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1968				
Ownership	Private Trust				
Owner's Name	Sangeet Kala Mandir Trust				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Recreational		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Designed by M/s Chatterjee, Polk & Associates , the building showcases a modernist aesthetic with sleek, unembellished exteriors. Notable features include cascading terraces on the first three levels, supported by mushroom-shaped columns creating pointed vaults, and geometric railings adorning the terraces. The upper floors display clean geometric lines and a striking, narrow stained-glass artwork in modern Indian style. The ground floor accommodates office spaces and a small convention hall, while the second floor hosts the main theatre hall named 'Kala Kunj.' A sculpture of 'Lady with the Lamp' at the entrance adds to the architectural charm and enhances the overall ambiance.	
Property Past Use	Auditorium				
Property Present Use	Auditorium				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	It is located on a major road of the city i.e. Shakespeare Sarani (former Theatre Road).				
Architectural Style	Modern		State of Conservation	Very Good	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio- cultural</div>		Threats to property	No apparent threats	
Statement of Significance: Sangit Kala Mandir, founded by Basant Kumar Birla of the Birla Group and several industrialists, is a prominent cultural institution dedicated to preserving ethnic arts and music that reflect our cultural heritage. It hosts cultural programs featuring renowned theatrical groups, dance maestros, and artists from across India, making it a favoured destination for citizens. This institution stands as a distinguished example of 20th-century architectural heritage in the post-Independence era.			Condition Description	Structure is in a fairly good condition and the entire environment is well maintained, in spite of its location on a busy commercial zone.	
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture Sreya Ghosh, Shivangi Nirmal.
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
			Bibliography	sangeetkalamandir.org	

Additional Photographs: -





The entrance





an artistic sculpture of a lady in forefront



Interior of the auditorium

Sr. No. 35		AKASHBANI BHAVAN	
			
Past Name	All India Radio		
Address	Rashmoni Avenue, B.B.D. Bagh, Kolkata, West Bengal 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.528720 E, 88.358514 N		
Date/ Period of Construction	1958		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	Government of India, M/o Information & Culture		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub-type	Infrastructure/ Civic Amenities		
Property Past Use	All India Radio, Regional HQ		
Property Present Use	All India Radio, Regional HQ		
State of Protection	Protected (Grade-I Heritage as per KMC)		
Property site and surroundings	Akashvani Bhavan is situated at the junction of Shahid Khudiram Bose Rd and Rashmoni Avenue, overlooking the Eden Gardens to its south east. The Raj Bhavan is across the road to its north east, Vidhan Sabha to its north west and the Maidan to its South. Other nearby landmarks are Town Hall, Calcutta High Court, Netaji Indoor stadium, etc.		
Architectural Style	Revivalist- Synthesis of Buddhist and Hindu Temple architecture.		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-Cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: Akashvani Bhavan is a landmark building and one of the oldest sub centres of All India Radio. It was associated with many stalwart artist of Bengal like, Kazi Nazrul, Pankaj Mallik, RC Boral, Birendrakrishna Bhadra, etc.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
		Name of Surveyor	OmDayal College of Architecture-Rishi Pal, Sroddha Dutta Banik, Soumili Banerjee, Suromitra Biswas
		Bibliography	https://kolkatatrips.com/akashvani-bhawan/ https://address001.com/Address-of-Akashvani-Bhavan-Kolkata-0625
History and Evolution		All India Radio (AIR), or Akashvani, is India's state-owned public radio broadcaster, founded in 1936 with the term 'Akashvani' coined by Rabindranath Tagore in 1939. Owned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, AIR is among the world's largest broadcasters, serving a diverse audience in many languages. From six stations at independence in 1947, it now has 479 stations. All India Radio started functioning from 1, Garstin Place, Kolkata, and shifted to its present location in 1958. The most famous radio show, 'Mahishashurmardini', broadcasted every year on 'Mahalaya' morning to mark the beginning of the auspicious Durga Puja in Bengal. It has had an uninterrupted run since its beginning in 1931. AIR, Kolkata made history on this program.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The building features a grand six-story central bay at the intersection of two wide streets, flanked by five-story bays on either side, forming a V-shape. The central bay has semi-hexagonal corners topped with shallow domes and six square columns with ornamental capitals, dividing long balconies on each floor. The recessed end bays have five rectangular windows per floor, while the shorter bays flanking the central bay have three windows each. The ground floor and columns are stone-clad, with a wide sloping chajjah on the top floor. The largely plain structure incorporates minimal ornamentation from traditional Indian elements. It was built by the renowned firm Ballardie, Thompson, and Matthew.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		No apparent threats.	
Condition Description		The structure is in a fairly well-maintained condition. No apparent defects are visible in the building exterior. The interiors of the building were not accessible.	

Sr. No. 36		NIRMAL HRIDAY/ MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY	
<div></div> <div></div>			
Past Name		An abandoned Hindu temple.	
Address		251, Kalighat Road, Kolkata-700026	
Geographic Coordinates		22.520731E, 88.341424 N	
Date/ Period of Construction		1952	
Ownership		Trust property	
Owner's Name		Missionaries of Charity	
Property Type		Building	
Property Sub -type		Welfare activity	
Property Past Use		Dharmashala	
Property Present Use		Home for sick and dying destitute	
State of Protection		Unprotected	
Property site and surroundings		Located in a congested area of Kalighat behind Kali Temple of Kalighat and Adi Ganga.	
Architectural Style		Rajasthani architecture	
General Criteria for Listing		➤ Socio- cultural- Philanthropy	
Statement of Significance: -In 1952, with the assistance of Indian officials, St. Mother Teresa transformed an old, abandoned Hindu Dharamshala into the first hospice for the sick, elderly, and destitute, naming it 'Nirmal Hriday' (Sacred Heart). Under her leadership, the Missionaries of Charity provided shelter, food, medical care, and a dignified end-of-life experience for the helpless poor.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The Missionaries of Charity, founded by St. (Mother) Teresa, is a globally renowned international welfare organization. In 1952, Mother Teresa established the first centre for the dying destitute, named 'Nirmal Hriday' (Immaculate Heart). The building, initially an old abandoned Hindu Dharmashala, that was converted into a hospice for the poor with the assistance of Indian officials. Under the leadership of St. Mother Teresa, the Missionaries of Charity provided shelter, food, medical care, and the opportunity for destitute individuals to die with dignity, according to their faith's rituals.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The ground floor architecture is typically reflecting the Rajasthani Architecture with multi-folded arch, brackets, chhatris at top etc. However, the extension of first floor is no match with the original architectural style.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		Being located in a prime area of South Kolkata, pressure of the commercial development in the surrounding area is expected. The roadside is congested with the hawker's kiosks.	
Condition Description		Good.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		Missionaries of Charity, Britanica, wikipedia	

Additional Photographs: -



Exterior View- originally single storied, another floor added at a later date
PC: [One-day-kolkata-local-sightseeing-tour-package-mother-teresas-home-](#)



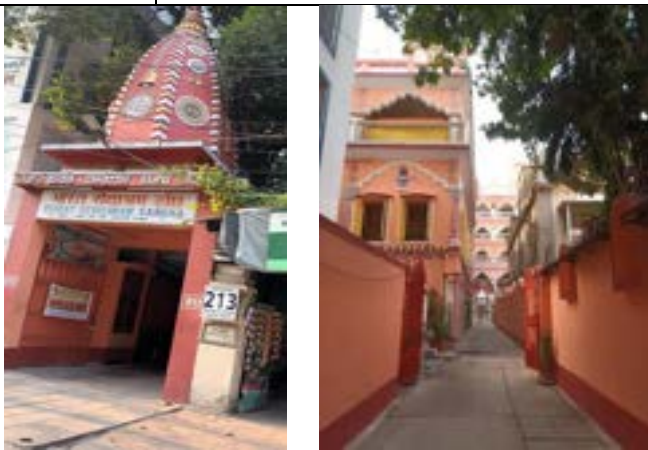

Interior view of first floor hall
PC: [missionaries of charity.org](#)



Architectural features- tombs



new extensions at first floor

Sr. No. 37		BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGHA	
			
Past Name	Bharat Sevashram Sangha		
Address	211, Rashbehari Avenue, Ballygunge Kolkata- 700019		
Geographic Coordinates	22.522239 N, 88.371065 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	Old building- mid 20 th century New extensions- 2000		
Ownership	Welfare Organisation/ Trust Property		
Owner’s Name	Bharat Sevashram Sangha		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Institutional		
Property Past Use	Spiritual and Welfare organisation		
Property Present Use	Spiritual and Welfare organisation		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Located in Ballygaunge area on Rashbehari Avenue, next to Bijon Setu. Nearest Landmark Ballygaunge Railway Station		
Architectural Style	Hindu Architecture		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Socio- culture- Philanthropy		
	Statement of Significance: It is an organization dedicated for social-welfare services pan-India having Headquarter at Kolkata. United Nations has accredited the Sangha with ECOSOC Status, since-2008.		
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		. The Bharat Sevashram Sangha, founded by Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj in 1917 in Bangladesh, is a Hindu charitable organization headquartered in Kolkata since the 1930s. It focuses on social welfare, disaster relief, healthcare, education, tribal welfare, vocational training, and spiritual outreach. The Sangha’s first relief effort was in 1923during the Bengal Famine. Over the past century, it has responded to numerous calamities, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. With 46 branches and 300 sub-centres nationwide, it operates hospitals and dispensaries in remote areas and recently opened a multispecialty hospital in Joka for the underprivileged.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		Originally a two-story building with simple wooden louvered windows and red cement floors, the Ashram underwent significant expansion in the late 20th century. A new multi-story wing has come up with an extremely rich specification and luxurious details. The architecture showcases traditional Hindu design elements with ornate decorations and floral motifs throughout the complex. While the temple remains in the old complex, the entire new structure has been extensively renovated as guest house with parking facilities inside the campus on stilts, and a lift has also been provided as an additional facility.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		No threats identified.	
Condition Description		Totally renovated with high specifications and a new extended multi-storied block has come up with modern facilities like car parking, lift etc.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		https://www.bharatsevashramsangha.org/	

Additional Photographs: -



Old complex



Office and Mandir complex



Entry to Ashram area (renovated)





Guest House complex (new extension)





Conference Hall for spiritual conglomeration



A 'Toran' - New Gateway

Sr. No. 38		NEW EMPIRE CINEMA			
					
Past Name	Humayun Theatre				
Address	1&2, Humayun Place, New Market Area, Kolkata -700087				
Geographic Coordinates	22.560631 N, 88.351471 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1932 The chief designer architect of this theatre was A. de Bois Shrosbree				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Original owner –Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana of Humayun Properties Ltd. Present owner- John Mantosh of Humayun Properties Ltd.				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial (Retail shops and Cinema Hall)				
Property Past Use	Theatre cum Cinema Hall				
Property Present Use	Retail shops (Ground floor) and Cinema Hall. Lighthouse Cinema – shopping mall				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at ‘Humayun Place’, adjacent to Lighthouse cinema Hall and New Market. New Empire and Light house both owned by Humayun Properties.				
Architectural Style	Mixed (Neo-classical and Art Deco)				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-culture</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>			History and evolution	<p>Major General Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana, then Nepal's Home Minister, acquired 45 properties across the city, including the renowned New Empire, previously known as Humayun Theatre. Originally it was not a movie hall, it used to host drama, ballet, magic shows, etc. Tagore's 'Notir Puja' was directed by Tagore himself here. Sombhu Mitra's Bohurupee group launched many successful productions here. It attracted celebrity performers like Yehudi Menuhin, Zubin Mehta, Uday Shankar, Amala Shankar, Anna Pavlova, and Magician P.C. Sorcar (Sr.). When the cinema gained popularity, the venue transitioned to show mostly English movies, from 1970 to 1989, operated by Hollywood's famous Warner Brothers. Now it has lost its glory yet survived as a cinema hall but the ground floor was rented out for retail outlet as garment shop.</p>
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	
		State of Conservation	Good		
		Threats to property	Change in use pattern observed. Due to the downfall in demand of single screen cinema, commercial food joints /retail shops are allowed for survival.		
		Condition Description	Poor. Large scale additions and alterations at ground floor, Cementous repairs, vegetation growth. However, the 1,000-seater auditorium is more or less well maintained.		
Statement of Significance: One of the oldest theatres cum cinema hall that has managed to survive. Landmark building in Central Kolkata associated with many luminaries. It has a long legacy of high-profile visitors, like Lord & Lady Mountbatten, J.L. Nehru , etc.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
		Bibliography	https://www.telegraphindia.com <i>Journeys in and Beyond the City</i> by Ranita Chatterjee <i>European Calcutta</i> by Dr. Dhrubiyoti Banerjee		

Sr. No. 39		ROXY CINEMA	
			
Past Name	Empire Theatre (Roxy Cinema)		
Address	4, Chowringhee Pl, New Market Area, Kolkata - 700069		
Geographic Coordinates	22.562405 N, 88.351995 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1908 (original) /1941		
Ownership	Past – Private Present - Public		
Owner's Name	Original Owner-Arathoon Stephen (Armenian) Present Owner-Kolkata Municipal Corporation		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Commercial		
Property Past Use	Theatre Hall, later converted to Cinema Hall		
Property Present Use	Government Office		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located in the busiest commercial zone of the city, Grand Hotel, KMC Office and New Market are in the near vicinity.		
Architectural Style	Originally-Neo-Baroque Modified at a later date to Art Deco style		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio-cultural- Sub theme- Cinema</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>		
Statement of Significance: one of the oldest single screen cinema halls of Kolkata. Many historical performances took place in this hall by many celebrities of 20 th century.			
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA
History and Evolution		<p>‘The Empire Theatre’, also known now as the Roxy, was originally constructed by Arratoon Stephen, an Armenian real estate tycoon, in collaboration with Maurice Bandman, an American entrepreneur. Initially designed as an opera house, it later transitioned into a cinema hall. Over the years, it hosted significant events, including Rabindranath Tagore's staging of 'Shapmochan' and Madhu Bose's premiere show of 'Alibaba.' Dance maestros like Udayshankar, Sadahana Bose, ballet queen Anna Pavlova etc., performed on a regular basis here. In 1940, Kapurchand Ltd. of Bombay bought this and converted it to cinema hall renaming as ‘Roxy’. It famously screened ‘Kismet’ for a record 186 weeks, drawing notable figures like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. However, in 2011, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation seized the theatre due to non-payment of renewal fees of the lease agreement by the owners.</p>	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		<p>The original design was a unique one with a circular entrance lobby having a nicely decorated dome above, a symbolic structure for this iconic building. However, with the passing of time it has undergone various changes. The classical architectural look has been totally wiped out to provide the then modern look of Art-Deco style.</p>	
State of Conservation		Poor	
Threats to property		Change in use, developmental pressures, lack of effective regulation, lack of scientific knowhow in restoration.	
Condition Description		All ornamental features removed. Structural glazing added on the corner and coloured aluminium panels on the sides, changing the entire character of this iconic neo-baroque and later Art Deco architecture. It has lost its old charm in the process of renovation and alterations.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		https://www.telegraphindia.com I was reborn Roxy – by ParomitaKar https://www.anandabazar.com	

Additional Photographs:



The original design in 1908
Pc: puranokolkata.com



Name changed as also the Architectural design in 1940
PC; Paromita Kar





Main staircase



Stair to upper floor
PC: Sanghamitra Basu



Circular Corridor

Sr. No. 40		METRO INOX			
					
Past Name	Metro Cinema				
Address	5, Jawaharlal Nehru Road (Chowringhee Road) Esplanade, Kolkata- 700013				
Geographic Coordinates	22.564129 N, 88.350546 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Originally opened in 1935- closed in 2011 Re-opened in 2022				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Building				
Property Type	Cinema Hall				
Property Sub -type	Commercial /Recreational				
Property Past Use	Cinema Hall				
Property Present Use	Cinema Hall cum Retail Store				
State of Protection	Protected (Grade-I Heritage as per KMC)				
Property site and surroundings	Located on Jawaharlal Nehru Road adjacent to Metropolitan Building in high density commercial area of Esplanade				
Architectural Style	Art-Deco Designed by- Ar. Thomas W. Lamb as the most iconic landmark building of ‘Art- Deco’ style in Kolkata. ‘Metro patterned houses’ were the hallmark of modernity of 20 th century.				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio- cultural-Sub theme- Cinema</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>			History and Evolution	<p>‘Metro cinema’ is one of the most iconic structures, located in the heart of the city. Constructed in 1935 by ‘Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer’, a renowned US film production company. This was a symbol of ‘Art-Deco’ architecture in Kolkata and ‘Metro style/pattern’ became very popular in 20th century building industry throughout Kolkata. Over the years, it evolved into a beloved gathering place, cherished by moviegoers and socializers alike. However, the rise of multiplexes led to its decline, and was shut down in 2011. In 2012, the KMC heritage commission auctioned it to a Mumbai firm. The single-screen venue, with a capacity of seating 700-800, was razed, only to reopen in 2022 as a retail hub with multiplexes, marking a new chapter in its storied history.</p>
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	
Statement of Significance: An iconic Cinema Hall of Central Kolkata, once owned by Metro Golden Mayers with Art- deco style and famous for its trendsetting architectural style as ‘Metro pattern’.				State of Conservation	Keeping the external architectural envelop as it was, the entire building is redesigned and reconstructed to meet the demand of the day. To make it economically viable, new use value introduced , with 80,000 sq. ft of six-storey building with a mix use of retail and entertainment options designed by Architect <i>Subir Basu & Associates</i> . Two new small INOX Cinema Hall with a capacity of 200 (appx) are introduced as Audi-I & Audi-II
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Threats to property	It is not exactly a case of Heritage Conservation, but may be called as a ‘ Revitalisation ’ by introducing a new use for sustainability of a Heritage precincts.
Associational	High	Technological / Scientific	Medium	Condition Description	Though it is a new construction, which are not be strictly as per the conservation principles, yet this heritage precincts preserved its grand inviting portico, Metro Pattern façade, and maintained its original use value as a Cinema Hall.
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das, Sudipta Pal (Subir Basu & Associates)
				Bibliography	https://www.telegraphindia.com/ Subir Basu & Associates

Additional Photographs: -



Archival Photo-a) Metro Cinema in its hay-day



Metro Cinema after rejuvenation in 2022



Entrance Foyer- after revitalisation





View from first floor



Audi-1



Audi- 2

Sr. No. 41		MINERVA THEATRE			
					
Past Name	Great National Theatre/ National Theatre				
Address	Utpal Dutta Sarani, 6, Abhedananda Road, Ram Bagan, Kolkata 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.5907868 N, 88.362093 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	originally constructed in 1893, gutted down in 1922, then rebuilt in 1925. Second time it was caught fire in 2000 and then restored in 2008				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	M/O Culture, Govt of West Bengal				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	Theatre Hall				
Property Present Use	Theatre Hall				
State of Protection	Protected, (Grade-I, Heritage as per KMC)				
Property site and surroundings	It is located at a corner plot at a juncture of Utpal Dutta Sarani and Bedon Street				
Architectural Style	'Revivalist' with Indo-Saracenic influence. Restored by Dulal Mukherjee and Associates in 2008				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-Cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			History and Evolution	Originally inaugurated in 1893 as the ' Great National Theatre ' by Nagendra Bhushan Mukhopadhyay, it was later renamed ' National Theatre ' under the management of Girish Ghosh . In 1922, a fire broke out during Girish Ghosh's production of 'Macbeth', leading to its reconstruction and reopening in 1925 as the ' Minerva Theatre '. During the 1970s, Utpal Dutta's PLT group became regular performers, with Tapas Sen introducing innovative mood lighting for Dutta's dramas. Following another fire incident after 2000, the State Government assumed its control in 2004, leading to its reopening in 2008.
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	The building is three stories tall, characterized by an entrance porch, bay windows, pointed arches, and ornamental column capitals at the entry. Initially, the interior of the hall featured ornate decorative elements, including a semi-circular layout with two-tiered balconies. It was gutted in 2000 in a fire hazard and then restored by Ar. Dulal Mukherjee as appointed by the State Government. Restored to its pristine glory it has now few added facilities, like, book store, souvenir shop, cafeteria, etc.
Statement of Significance: One of the very old theatre halls of Kolkata, still survives. It was a centre of Bengali intellectuals. a key platform where patriotic plays were staged during the freedom movement. It has an associated value of many stalwarts like, Girish Ghosh , Amarendranath Dutta , Ahindra Chowdhury , Lokmanya Tilak , Utpal Dutta , Tapas Sen , Satyajit Ray , etc. Mohunbagan team was felicitated here by Girish Ghosh after defeating English football team. Ahindra Chowdhury was also felicitated here.				State of Conservation	Fair
				Threats to property	As the demand of theatres are declining, survival is at stake. Lack of maintenance
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Condition Description	In 2000, the theatre fraternity came forward to propose the restoration of the Minerva theatre. Architect Dulal Mukherjee was appointed for the purpose. In 2008, Minerva received a much-needed facelift with installation of modern equipment for both services and theatre purposes.
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, ICOMOS Member
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	Primary Source: Dulal Mulkherjee & Associates, Sansad Bangla Natya Abhidhaaan, Sahitya Sansad Utpal Dutta-Jibon o Srishti published by National Book Trust. Alo o Chaya by Tapas Sen

Additional Photographs: -



Minerva Theatre before fire hazards of 2000- exterior view



Interior view



Minerva Theatre-before restoration



Minerva Theatre-after restoration





Interior view of the hall-before restoration



Interior view of the hall-after restoration

PC: Dulal Mukherjee & Associates

Sr. No. 42		SEA IP TEMPLE			
					
Past Name		NA		History and Evolution	With the growth of Calcutta as a commercial centre under the British, the Chinese migrated to Calcutta from the late 18 th to the mid-19 th centuries. In the city, their first settlements were seen near Turretta Bazar and parts of the neighbouring Burra Bazar and Bow Bazar. Turretta Bazaar has 6 Chinese <i>Huigyangs</i> or socio-cultural institutions, amongst which Sea Ip is one. The Sea Ip social club, now located at the ground floor of the structure, was established in 1845, with migrants from Taishan, Xinhui, Kaiping and Euping regions of China. while the present building was built in 1905. On the first floor it houses Kwan Yin, goddess of War and Mercy, and Kwan Ti, God of War.
Address		22/1 Chatawalla Gully, Turretta Bazar, West Bengal 700012			
Geographic Coordinates		22.573260 N, 88.355463 E			
Date/ Period of Construction		1905			
Ownership		Private Trust			
Owner's Name		Unknown			
Property Type		Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Sea Ip temple is a double storied and rectangular in plan. There is a community hall on the lower floor. On the first floor is the main shrine in the centre, flanked by the staircase on one side and a smaller shrine on the other. The two rooms are connected by a passage and there is a balcony on the front and rear sides. The building is topped by curlicue roofs with upturned corners, a small one over the passage and a large gable one over the rest of the structure, with wooden beams, battens and clay tiles. The building has Chinese calligraphy at its entrance. The interiors are richly decorated in vermillion, yellow, and green, auspicious colours of Chinese architecture with wooden panels and an intricately carved wooden structure hanging from the roof with imagery of flowers, fruits, birds & mythical figures.
Property Sub -type		Religious and Recreational			
Property Past Use		Temple and Social Institution			
Property Present Use		Temple and Social Institution			
State of Protection		Protected. (Grade- I Heritage as per KMC)			
Property site and surroundings		The property is located on the junction of Chattawallah Gully to its North and Khirode Vidya Binode Avenue to its East. To its West and South, the building is enveloped by the Kolkata Improvement Trust. It is surrounded by dense commercial establishments on other sides, mostly high rise in nature.			
Architectural Style		Chinese Temple architecture		State of Conservation	Poor
General Criteria for Listing		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Architecture➤ Multi-ethnicity		Threats to property	Encroachment, developmental pressures, garbage disposal, use of inappropriate materials for repairs.
Statement of Significance: Sea Ip Temple is a testimony to the pluralistic and multicultural society that developed between the 18 th -20 th centuries in Kolkata. The presence of the Chinese community further emphasizes the importance of Calcutta as a commercial and administrative centre. The architecture is particularly significant as it displays characteristics of temple architecture seen in the Chinese mainland.				Condition Description	Addition of ceramic tiles to external and internal wall surfaces to prevent dampness, cementitious repairs, rotting of timber members, termite infestation, replacement of Kori-Borga floor slab system with RCC.
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	https://www.academia.edu/7767083/The_Chinese_in_South_Asia



Additional Photographs: -



*Entrance door of the Sea Ip Temple (R) View of the curlicue roof of the Sea Ip Temple
(Source: Author)*



Interior view of the shrine of the Sea Ip Temple (source: Author)

Sr. No. 43		MANECKJEE RUSTOMJEE DHARAMSHALA FOR PARSIS TRAVELERS			
					
Past Name	Maneckjee Rustomjee Dharamshala for Parsi Travellers			History and Evolution	Parsi migration to Calcutta began in the late 18 th century. The community prospered in trade, especially in the shipping industry and settled in the areas of Kalutola, Fenwick Bazaar, Burrabazar and Bow Bazaar. The Parsis made significant philanthropic contributions to the city between the 18 th and 20 th centuries. The Dharamshala was built in 1906 in memory of Maneckjee Rustomjee by the community to serve as a place to stay for Parsis visiting Calcutta. The older structure was partially demolished and a new structure was built in 1936 by a Parsi Architect Ardeshir Dinshaw Vehvalvala. It is unknown who Maneckjee Rustomjee was.
Address	9, Bow Street, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012				
Geographic Coordinates	22.570041 N, 88.355845 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1909 / 1936				
Ownership	Private Trust				
Owner's Name	Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Fund				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Social Welfare/Infrastructure			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Dharamshala consists of 2 structures. The older structure abutting the street, leading to a rectangular courtyard, and a newer structure, perpendicular to it, forming an L-shape. The older structure is rectangular in plan, 2 stories high. The front façade is divided in 7 bays. Each bay has a rectangular opening on the ground floor and a semi-circular arched opening with wooden louvered windows on the first floor. A moulded cornice band is present at both levels. The newer building, also rectangular in plan but with a hexagonal tower-like structure to its end, and 3 stories high has a continuous balcony facing the courtyard which leads to rooms inside. The balcony has cast iron railings and a concrete screen above with Art Deco motifs. The central bay has a decorative pediment above.
Property Past Use	Dharamshala				
Property Present Use	Dharamshala				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	The site is entered through Bow Street, road perpendicular to Bow Barracks. The site comprises of 2 rectangular buildings placed perpendicularly forming 2 sides of a quadrangle.				
Architectural Style	Old wing – Neo-classical New wing – Art Deco			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Multi-ethnic character➤ Socio-cultural			Threats to property	Lack of regular maintenance, use of inappropriate materials for repair and maintenance, developmental pressures
				Condition Description	Addition of grills incongruous to the design, dampness and blackening of plaster due to moss and algal growth, ad hoc addition of services.
Statement of Significance: The Parsi Dharamshala is a testimony to the pluralistic and multicultural society that developed between the 18 th -20 th centuries in Kolkata. The presence of the Parsi community further emphasizes the importance of Calcutta as a commercial and administrative centre.					
Historical	Medium	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
				Bibliography	Pyne, S. "Engagement of Contemporary Communities With the Shared Heritage Resources of the Dwindling Minorities of Central Calcutta". <i>Journal of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism</i> , no. 2, Nov. 2021, pp. 423-36, doi:10.51303/jtbau.vi2.530.


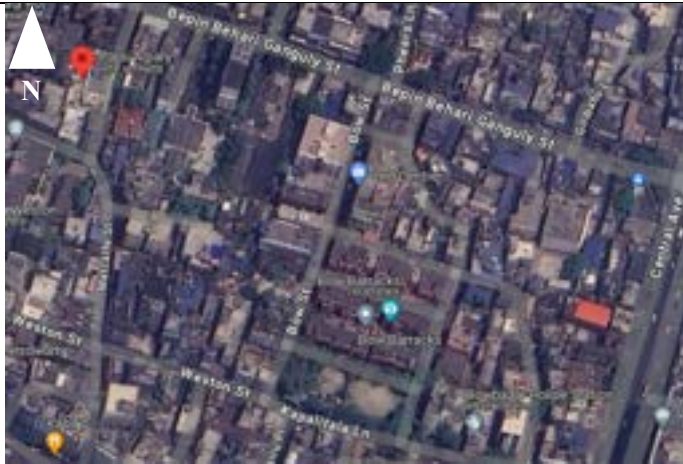
Additional Photographs:-



View of the Dharamshala from the internal courtyard



Corridor of the Dharamshala

Sr. No. 44		BYRAMJEE MEHTA ZOROASTRIAN ATASH ADARAN FIRE TEMPLE			
					
Past Name	Byramjee Mehta Zoroastrian Atash Adaran Fire Temple		History and Evolution	Parsi migration to Calcutta began in the late 18 th century. The community prospered in trade, especially in the shipping industry and settled in the areas of Kalutola, Fenwick Bazaar, Burrabazar and Bow Bazaar. The Parsis made significant philanthropic contributions to the city between the 18 th and 20 th centuries. The Atash Adaran or Fire Temple was built in 1912 by Ervad Dhunjeebhoy Byramjee Mehta. It is currently the only functioning Fire Temple in the city and all religious activities of the Parsi community takes place here.	
Address	91, Metcalfe St, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012				
Geographic Coordinates	22.570895 N, 88.354701 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1912				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Trust				
Property Type	Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Atash Adaran is built in a hybrid style with Neo-classical elements mixed with spatial layout of a fire temple, with Zoroastrian iconography. There is a small forecourt, perpendicular to the street it abuts from which one enters a community hall on the ground floor. A flight of steps rises from the forecourt to a verandah on the first floor which leads into a prayer hall at the centre of which is the Holy Fire in a chamber. Zoroastrian symbols in the form of the Assyrian deity Lamassu, the Faravahar, and the Holy Fire are repeated in the stained and frosted glass, wall panels and cast-iron grills in the tympanums of arches. The street façade shows European classicism with Ionic columns, decorative pediments, prominent key stones on arches, heavily moulded cornices and decorative parapets. It is a brick masonry structure with Kori-Borga floor slabs having both wood and iron joists.	
Property Sub -type	Religious				
Property Past Use	Temple				
Property Present Use	Temple				
State of Protection	Protected (Grade I – Kolkata Municipal Corporation)				
Property site and surroundings	The fire temple is located in a narrow lane, Metcalfe Street, to the south of the Bipin Behari Ganguly Street. To its north are commercial buildings, west and south are residential structures, and to the east is Aga Khan Jamatkhana.				
Architectural Style	Hybrid architectural style		State of Conservation	Good	
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Architecture➤ Multi- ethnicity➤ Socio-cultural		Threats to property	Use of inappropriate materials for repair	
			Condition Description	The structure is in a fairly good condition undergoing regular repairs and maintenance. Some areas have inappropriate additions like corrugated sheets above windows and addition of AC unit on the front façade.	
Statement of Significance: The Anjuman Atash Adaran is significant for its association with the Parsi community and is central to Parsi life in Calcutta. It is testimony to the many ethno-linguistic groups that settled in Calcutta for commercial purposes between the 18 th -20 th centuries and to the cultural pluralism that developed as a result.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Pyne, S. "Engagement of Contemporary Communities With the Shared Heritage Resources of the Dwindling Minorities of Central Calcutta". <i>Journal of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism</i> , no. 2, Nov. 2021, pp. 423-36, doi:10.51303/jtbau.vi2.530.


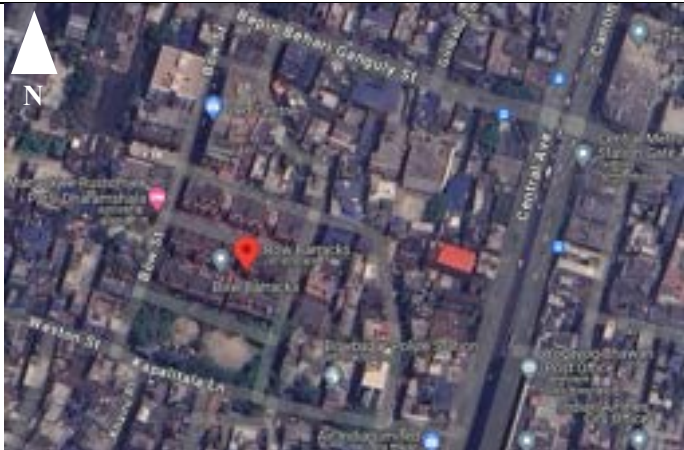
Additional Photographs:-



Steps leading up to the Fire Temple



View from the street

Sr. No. 45		BOW BARRACKS			
					
Past Name	Bow Barracks			History and Evolution	The Bow Barracks were barracks or living quarters built for soldiers of World War I designed by Halsey Ricardo. The soldiers however never occupied the barracks as they chose to stay at Fort William, after which the barracks were allotted to the growing Anglo-Indian community, a part of the Eurasian community that began to develop in India by the late 1700s. As per the Census of 1911, there were 14177 Anglo Indians in the city, settled around Bow Bazaar, Fenwick Bazar, Taltola, Entally, Padmapukur. Today the Bow Barracks include Chinese, Anglo-Chinese, Gujarati and Bengal families too. Many Christian festivals are celebrated with pomp and grandeur at Bow Barracks during which time diaspora member of the Anglo-Indian community return home to celebrate.
Address	1 Bow St, Pilkhana, Kolkata, West Bengal 700012				
Geographic Coordinates	22.569889 N, 88.356296 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Early 20 th Century				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	Kolkata Improvement Trust			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	'The precinct comprises of 132 apartments of three prototypes arranged in a group of seven rectangular structures, each three storeys high. The exposed brick façades have minimal decoration with plain rectangular cornices and segmental arches, devoid of trims and mouldings. The aesthetic quality is derived from functional elements like the louvered screens in the verandahs, which allow the cool breeze in but cut off the harsh sunlight, or from the materials, exposed bricks and Cast-Iron structural supports, which were cheap and widely available at the time.'
Property Type	Precinct				
Property Sub -type	Residential				
Property Past Use	Residential apartments				
Property Present Use	Residential apartments				
State of Protection	Unprotected			State of Conservation	Poor
Property site and surroundings	Bow Barracks is located 85 m off BB Ganguly Rd on Bow Street and is surrounded by commercial establishments to the north, Buddhist Dharmankura to the East, a large open ground to the south and the Parsi Dharamshala to the north west. The Bow Bazar and Hare Street Police Station are located to its South East.				
Architectural Style	Hybrid				
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Architecture</div><div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div><div>➤ Socio-culture</div></div>				
Statement of Significance: Bow Barracks is significant for its association with the Anglo-Indian and Chinese community. It is testimony to the many ethno-linguistic groups that settled in Calcutta for commercial purposes between the 18 th -20 th centuries and to the cultural pluralism that developed as a result.					
				Condition Description	Structural cracks, loose masonry and loss of mortar, addition of incongruous grills, brick masonry or metal sheets to enclose balconies, aluminium windows, ad hoc addition of plumbing lines. Recently done plaster on top of exposed brick surface using cement mortar.
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Pyne, S. "Engagement of Contemporary Communities With the Shared Heritage Resources of the Dwindling Minorities of Central Calcutta". <i>Journal of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism</i> , no. 2, Nov. 2021, pp. 423-36, doi:10.51303/jtbau.vi2.530.



Additional Photographs :-



Exterior view of the building



Street Views of Bow Barracks

Sr. No. 46		MEI KONG SCHOOL AND CHOONG YE THONG TEMPLE			
					
Past Name	Mei Kong School			History and Evolution	With the growth of Calcutta as a commercial centre under the British, the Chinese migrated to Calcutta from the late 18 th to the mid-19 th centuries. In the city, their first settlements were seen near Tiretta Bazar, Burra Bazar and Bow Bazar. The Choong Ye Thong Club was formed in the 1860s with the club owning multiple properties across Central Calcutta. The said premises was built in the 1900s by Hakka showmakers, housing the Mei Kong Chinese school and a temple dedicated to Kwan Ti, the God of War.
Address	19 Meredith Street, Kolkata 700013				
Geographic Coordinates	22.566104 N, 88.353653 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1932 AD				
Ownership	Private (Trust)				
Owner's Name	Choong Ye Thong Club				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Religious, Institutional			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Choong Ye Thong building is rectangular in plan and triple storied. The front façade can be divided in nine bays with each bay having a rectangular window opening on all three floors. The window is surrounded by a red, ornamental band and has a narrow eave on top. Through the central bay on the ground floor, one enters the building into a central courtyard. Across the courtyard is a pillared hall. On the first and second floor, the courtyard is surrounded by a balcony on all four sides, through which one enters various rooms. On the upper floors, the balcony has decorative cast iron railings and a coloured glass screen above. The Chinese temple is located on the top most floor in hues of red, auspicious to the Chinese community.
Property Past Use	Temple, Club and School				
Property Present Use	Temple, Club and School				
State of Protection	Protected (Grade I Heritage by KMC)				
Property site and surroundings	The structure is located on Meredith Lane, 50 m off Central Avenue. It is surrounded by dense commercial establishments on all sides with some landmark buildings like the Hindusthan Building to its North East and the Statesman House to its south west.				
Architectural Style	Hybrid architectural style			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	<i>-Architectural Style</i> <i>-Multiethnic character</i> <i>-Socio-cultural history</i>			Threats to property	Repairs, additions and alterations in inappropriate materials
				Condition Description	The structure is in a fairly well-maintained condition.
Statement of Significance: This building is significant for its association with the Chinese community. It is testimony to the many ethno-linguistic groups that settled in Calcutta for commercial purposes between the 18 th -20 th centuries and to the cultural pluralism that developed as a result.					
Historical	Medium	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
				Bibliography	https://www.academia.edu/7767083/The_Chinese_in_South_Asia


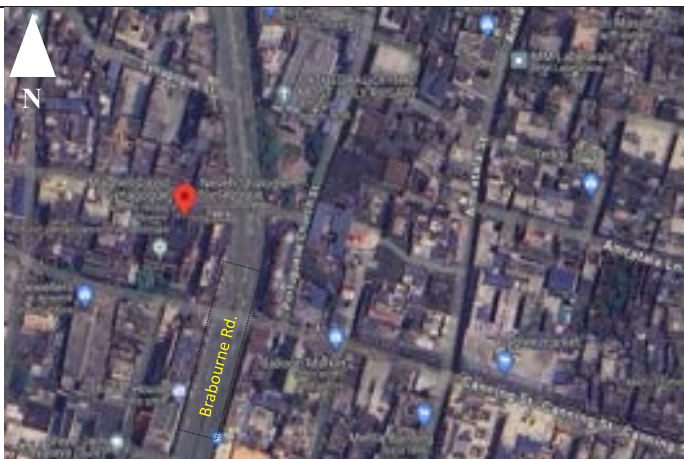
Additional Photographs: -



View of central courtyard



View of Temple

Sr. No. 47		NEVEH SHALOME SYNAGOGUE			
					
Past Name	Neveh Shalom Synagogue			History and Evolution	The Jews migrated to Calcutta in the late 18 th century from Surat when the prosperity of Surat as a trading port declined. There was also an influx of the Jewish community in the mid-19 th century and soon the Jews settled in and around Burra Bazaar and Bow Bazaar. The Neveh Shalom Synagogue was first built in 1831, but was demolished in 1884 to make way for the larger and grander Magen David Synagogue. However, in 1910 the community decided to rebuild the structure in the same plot, beside the Magen David.
Address	9A, Indra Kumar Karnani St, China Bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal 700001				
Geographic Coordinates	22.577904 N, 88.352239 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1910				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Trust				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Neveh Shalom synagogue is a double storied structure, with the ground floor being used for commercial purposes and the prayer hall being on the first floor. This is a large rectangular, double-storied prayer hall with a mezzanine on the two sides above. Located centrally in the hall is the <i>Bimah</i> , a raised platform where the Rabbi conducts services and on the apsidal end is the <i>Hekkal</i> , or the Altar, with a hemispherical roof. The threshold at the altar has a large semi-circular arch with Hebrew inscriptions. On the 2 sides of the prayer hall are two rooms, one used for administrative purposes and the other housing a staircase to move to the mezzanine floor.
Property Sub -type	Religious				
Property Past Use	Synagogue				
Property Present Use	Synagogue				
State of Protection	Protected (Grade I – Kolkata Municipal Corporation)				
Property site and surroundings	The synagogue is located on Brabourne Road, to the West, surrounded by dense urban settlements. The Magen David Synagogue lies to its South within the same campus.				
Architectural Style	Hybrid architectural style			State of Conservation	Poor
General Criteria for Listing	<i>-Architectural Style</i> <i>-Multiethnic character</i> <i>-Socio-cultural history</i>			Threats to property	Encroachment, lack of regular maintenance, pressure on surrounding urban infrastructure
				Condition Description	The entrance of the synagogue, including the pavement in front and the steps leading up to the main door of the synagogue, is encroached by shops and hawkers.
Statement of Significance: The Neveh Shalom Synagogue is significant for its association with the Jewish community, amongst the many ethno-linguistic groups that migrated to Calcutta between the 18 th and 20 th centuries. It is testimony to the significance of the city as a commercial hub and to the cultural pluralism that developed as a result.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Pyne, S. "Engagement of Contemporary Communities With the Shared Heritage Resources of the Dwindling Minorities of Central Calcutta". <i>Journal of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism</i> , no. 2, Nov. 2021, pp. 423-36, doi:10.51303/jtbau.vi2.530.


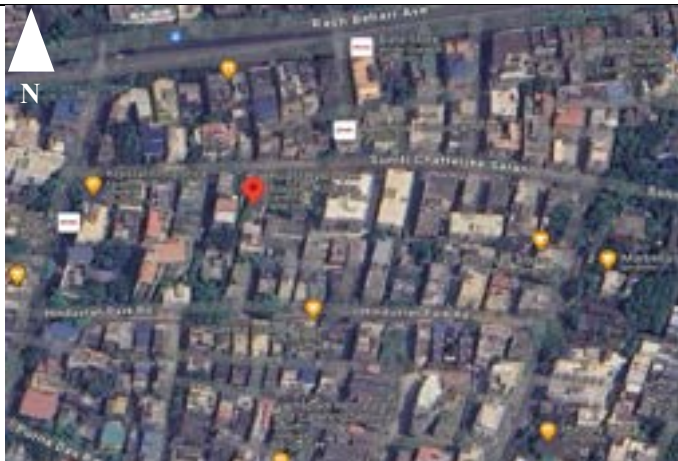
Additional Photographs:-







Interior of the synagogue



Encroached entrance to the Neveh Shalome synagogue

Sr. No. 48		CALCUTTA SOUTH INDIAN CLUB HOUSING ROASTERY COFFEE HOUSE			
					
Past Name	Calcutta South Indian Club			History and Evolution	The Calcutta South India Club was founded by Nobel Laureate CV Raman and former President of India Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan in 1926 as a meeting place for all South Indians living in Calcutta. They were also the first and second Presidents of the club respectively. Their first premises was in Bow Bazar and the club was later shifted to this building in the 1960s. In 2019, the club canteen on the ground floor was converted into a Café and Coffee shop.
Address	70B, Hindustan Park, Kolkata - 700029				
Geographic Coordinates	22.518315 N, 88.362909 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1960s				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Calcutta South Indian Club				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building is a triple storeyed structure, L-shaped in plan surrounding a courtyard. A continuous veranda lines the L-shaped edge towards in the courtyard on the ground and first floor. On both floors, the veranda has circular columns, a screen above with Art Deco motifs and an overhanging eave. On the first floor are iron railings in geometric patterns. There is red oxide flooring in the Veranda and decorative Terrazzo tiles in the internal rooms.
Property Past Use	Club				
Property Present Use	Restaurant and Cafe				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located on Suniti Chatterjee Sarani, to the South. It is located in a fairly dense residential area, which is largely changing into a mixed-use zone.				
Architectural Style	Art Deco			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	<i>-Architectural Style</i> <i>-Multiethnic character</i> <i>-Socio-cultural history</i>			Threats to property	Additions and alterations
				Condition Description	Change of architectural elements like wooden louvered shutters of windows have been changed to fully glazed shutters, addition of arched elements and removal of original screens with art deco motifs.
Statement of Significance: Established by CV Raman and Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the building has high associational value. The erstwhile club is also testimony to the thriving South Indian community in Calcutta and to the cultural pluralism that existed in Calcutta in the 20 th Century.					
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
				Bibliography	Primary Survey

Sr. No. 49		SAIFEE MASJID	
			
Past Name	Saifee Masjid		
Address	32a, Brabourne Rd, Chitpur, Barabazar Market, Kolkata, West Bengal 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.576333 N, 88.352180 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1921		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Trust		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Religious		
Property Past Use	Mosque		
Property Present Use	Mosque		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Located on Brabourne Road, the Saifee Masjid is surrounded by dense urban (commercial) establishments. The site is entered through a narrow entrance at the North East corner.		
Architectural Style	Regional architectural style		
General Criteria for Listing	<i>-Multiethnic character</i> <i>-Socio-cultural history</i>		
	Statement of Significance: The Saifee Masjid is the most important establishment of the dwindling Bohra community in the city. It is testimony to the many ethno-linguistic groups that settled in Calcutta for commercial purposes and to the cultural pluralism that existed in the 20 th Century.		
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Low
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
		Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
		Bibliography	https://www.thedawoodibohras.com/2021/05/20/saifee-masjid-kolkata-a-hundred-years/

Sr. No. 50		PARK MANSION	
			
Past Name	Park Mansions		
Address	Park Mansion, 57A, Park St, Taltala, Kolkata, West Bengal 700016		
Geographic Coordinates	22.541112 N, 88.325280 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1910		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Apeejay - Surrendra Group		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Mixed-Use (Commercial and Residential)		
Property Past Use	Mixed-Use (Commercial and Residential)		
Property Present Use	Mixed-Use (Commercial and Residential)		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located in high density commercial area in Park Street		
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical with Victorian influence		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is a landmark building of the city connected to Armenian community. Grand architectural style with imposing presence on the Park Street, one of the plush areas of the city.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA
		History and Evolution	Park Mansion, situated at the junction of Park Street and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road (formerly Free School Street), was originally constructed by Armenian businessman Mesrope Thaddaus. Within its historic walls, one could find longstanding establishments such as Bombay Photo Stores and Burlington, as well as the now-defunct Skyroom restaurant. Tragically, in 1999, the building fell victim to a devastating fire. However, through the dedicated efforts of its current owner, the Apeejay Surendra Group, a restoration project totalling Rs. 10 crore was undertaken to breathe new life into this iconic structure. In 2010, Park Mansion reopened its doors to the public, boasting tenants such as Alliance Française, Goethe Institute, Reliance Digital, and Starbucks Café, thus reclaiming its former splendour.
		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Covering an expansive area of 5 bighas, the colossal mansion stands as a four-story L- shaped structure situated at a corner plot, featuring an inner open ground or courtyard designed for ventilation. Its architecture is a fusion of styles, showcasing Indo-Saracenic domes positioned at the corners and a succession of arched windows adorned with ornate parapets reminiscent of the characteristic 'Kalasha' motifs found in Kolkata mansions from the pre-independence era.
		State of Conservation	Restored in 2010 after a fire hazard. Restoration was carried out by Dulal Mukherjee and Associates. The KMC—INTACH Heritage Award 2013 has been given to Park Mansions for its excellent restoration work.
		Threats to property	No threats identified
		Condition Description	It was severely damaged by fire in 1999, however repaired and restored holistically in 2010, and became one of the best examples of Conservation project in Kolkata.
		Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
		Bibliography	https://tutorialathome.in/ - by Dibyendu Banerjee PC: Ar. Dulal Mukherjee and Associates. PC: www.apeejayrealestate.com

Additional Photographs: -







Before restoration



After restoration

PC: Ar. Dulal Mukherjee

Sr. No. 51		ESPLANADE MANSIONS	
			
Past Name	Esplanade Mansions		
Address	Government Place East, James Hickey Sarani, Esplanade East, Chowringhee North, Bow Barracks, Kolkata, West Bengal 700069		
Geographic Coordinates	22.566609 N, 88.348760 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1910		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	Life Insurance Corporation		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Residential/Commercial		
Property Past Use	Mixed (Residential & Commercial)		
Property Present Use	Mixed (Residential &Commercial)		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	The Esplanade Mansions is a stately building located opposite Raj Bhavan on the Esplanade Row and in close proximity to the BBD Bag and Esplanade/Dharamtola area. It is located at the heart of the city.		
Architectural Style	Art- Nouveau- the only example survived to date		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>		
Statement of Significance: The Esplanade mansion stands testimony to the architectural and engineering development of 20 th Century Calcutta. It is also an excellent and only example of an early Art- nouveau structure as one of the few existing in India.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		Located on the Esplanade Row, the Mansion was constructed by Jewish businessman David Elias Ezra in 1910. The building was constructed as a mixed-use structure with the ground floor being used for commercial purposes and the upper floors being purely residential with multiple spacious apartments. It stands as a byproduct of the cultural confluence between the British and Jews in 20 th Century Calcutta and is a witness to the cross-cultural fabric of the city.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)		Situated on a corner plot opposite Raj Bhavan, the grand Y-shaped building boasts a central circular tower crowned by a dome, flanked by gracefully curved bays. This G+4 structure houses offices on the ground floor and 24 apartments above, accessible via three entrances at the rear. Combining load-bearing and framed elements, its façade features ornate verandas, adorned brackets, and arched openings with louvered frames. The roof is adorned with a prominent central dome and four smaller ones, all intricately decorated with stucco work, enhancing the building's majestic allure.	
State of Conservation		Fair	
Threats to property		Incompatible additions and alterations, unplanned services, and wiring	
Condition Description		There are signs of decay due to water seepage and incompatible repair works. Signs of decay are seen on the windows, brackets as well as the structural system of the building.	
Name of Surveyor		Rajrupa Kundu	
Bibliography		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esplanade_Mansions_Kolkata	

Sr. No. 52		THE OBEROI GRAND	
			
Past Name	Grand Hotel		
Address	15, Jawaharlal Nehru Road (Chowringhee Road), Kolkata, West Bengal 700013		
Geographic Coordinates	22.561702 N, 88.351312 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1911		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	East India Hotels Ltd/Oberoi Group of Hotels		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Commercial- Hotel		
Property Past Use	Luxury Hotel		
Property Present Use	Luxury Hotel with five stars facilities		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	It is located in the heart of the city, i.e. Esplanade opposite to Calcutta Maidan. Nearby landmarks are, Metropolitan (LIC) Building, Metro Cinema, Peerless Inn, Sahid Minar, New Market, Kolkata Municipal Corporation building etc.		
Architectural Style	Neo-classical		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio-economical- Entrepreneurship</div> <div>➤ Socio-political- WW-II</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is one of the iconic buildings of the city. Credit lies with Arratoon Stephen , an Armenian Businessman for building such a magnificent landmark building and also to M.S Oberoi , for its survival as a hotel of international repute.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	1
History and Evolution		Colonel Grand's mansion at 13, Chowringhee Road was transformed into a boarding house by Mrs. Annie Monk in 1870, encompassing premises 13, 14, 15, and 17. In 1894, Arratoon Stephen , owner of Theatre Royal (premises no.16), acquired Mrs. Monk's properties along with No. 18, Chowringhee Road, after his theatre's fire incident. Converting the entire stretch into one establishment, he established the renowned 'Grand Hotel.' Tragically, in 1937, a fatal accident led to the hotel's closure by the municipality. In 1938, Mohan Singh Oberoi purchased it, and revived it to a profitable hotel of international repute as ' Oberoi Grand ', marking the inception of the Oberoi Group's legacy in the hospitality sector.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		Originally consisting of two stories, Arratoon later extended it to four, incorporating a grand Neo-classical portico. The Oberoi Grand is one of the landmark buildings of the city representing Neo-Classical architecture. The long stretch of colonnaded portico with a terrace above, was once a pride possession of the hotel for its lush green view of Maidan, now lies dormant due to hawkers disturbances and the dingy views of the opposite side. Substantial renovations in the 1990s, such as the addition of a new driveway, multi-story block, underground parking, and a swimming pool, were undertaken to meet the demands of a five-star hotel. Notably, these enhancements seamlessly integrated with the building's historic charm, preserving its architectural heritage.	
State of Conservation		Very Good	
Threats to property		Unauthorized occupancy of the hawkers on the footpath below the Portico and the ugly sight of the Maidan area hampers the business of the hotel.	
Condition Description		Two famous restaurants cum nightclub namely 'Prince' and 'Shcherezade' were shut down. The first-floor terrace was abandoned. The windows facing road were closed.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar, Priyanjana Das	
Bibliography		European Calcutta-images and recollections of a bygone era- by Dhrubajyoti Banerjee	

Additional Photographs:



Bird's eye view of Grand Hotel, Kolkata



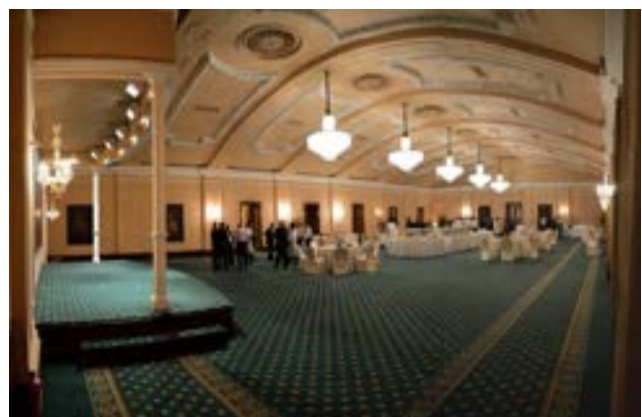
Grand Hotel in 1930's



The Lounge





Introduction of Swimming Pool & a new block



The Ball Room at Grand Hotel

(PC: Creative Commons -Biswadeep Ganguly)

Sr. No. 53		STEPHEN COURT			
					
Past Name	Stephen Court			History and Evolution	<p>Arratoon Stephen, an Armenian hotelier cum real estate developer who contributed a lot to shape the built- heritage of the city. He owned a company known as the Stephen Court Ltd. This company, built a four-storied building at Park Street and named it as Stephen Court, for both commercial and residential purposes. The arcade at ground floor housed many famous shops/restaurants, like ‘Flury’s, ‘Peter Cat’, etc. At a later date, three more floors were illegally constructed on it by the new owner without taking care for fire hazards. One of the worst fire accidents in the history occurred to this building in 2010. Poor maintenance and lack of proper fire management were the major reasons behind it. The fire claimed 42 lives.</p>
Address	18 A, Park Street, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071				
Geographic Coordinates	22.552992 N, 88.352318 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1919				
Ownership	Private (Multiple)				
Owner’s Name	Past: Arratoon Stephen Present: Sanjay Bagaria				
Property Type	Building- part of cultural precinct of Park Street			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	<p>Stephen Court was a four storied building originally, primarily used as residential building. The building at present, a seven storied one, most of the spaces are now converted into commercial spaces with many offices, retail shops, restaurants etc., though few residential apartments still exist in the upper floors. The building is sited at a corner plot with two large façades spread on two sides of the road with a central round tower block at the corner. A series of three storey high columns with ionic capitals on both sides and a decorative cornice all round provide a classical look to the building.</p>
Property Sub -type	Mixed Use				
Property Past Use	Commercial and Residential				
Property Present Use	Commercial and Residential				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The Stephen Court building stands as a landmark building at the crossings of Park Street and Middleton Row. Next to it is Queens Mansion, opposite to it is Park Mansion.				
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical			State of Conservation	<p>In 2016, the Stephen Court Welfare Association, took the initiative of restoring the heritage building. By pooling a fund from the owners of the flats, they repaired the broken pillars, replaced the staircases, and renovated the soot-covered exterior. Care was taken to bring the building up to date with modern fire-fighting techniques and equipment.</p>
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Multi-Ethnicity</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	<p>Lack of fire management system, overcrowding of occupants, illegal construction of 3 more stories, haphazard electrical cable layout all led to a fire hazard to the building in 2010.</p>
				Condition Description	<p>Still the condition is not satisfactory, impressions of lack of maintenance, damage, leakage, seepage are visible everywhere.</p>
Statement of Significance: A landmark building in Park Street area and a reminder of the flourishing entrepreneurship by the Armenian community in the city during 20 th . century.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture-Sreya Ghosh, Anshuka Pal, Neelanjana Das, Swaroopa Nandi
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA	Bibliography	<p>Source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com https:// www.anandabazar.com, The Telegraph</p>



Additional Photographs: -


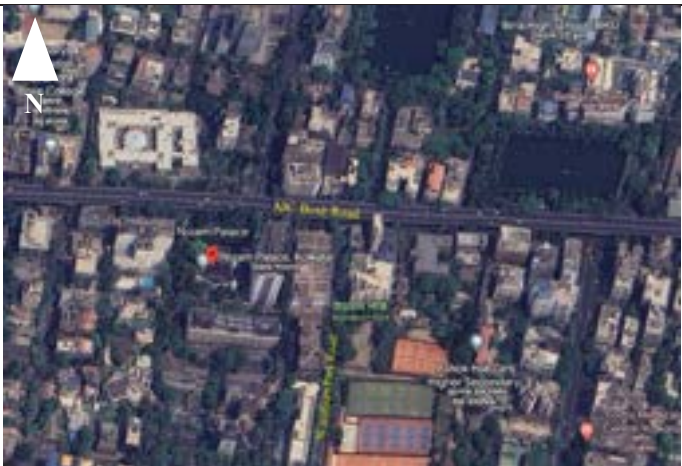




One of the worst fire hazards in Kolkata (PC: anandabazar.com)



After restoration by the occupants in 2016 (PC: [The Telegraph](http://TheTelegraph))

Sr. No. 54		NEW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH				
						
Past Name	New Greek Orthodox Church			History and Evolution	Greek migration to Bengal commenced in the 1700s, originating mainly from Adrianopolis and Philippopolis. Tombstones dating back to 1713 and 1728 discovered in Calcutta indicate early settlement. Political turmoil in Greece during the 19th century further fuelled migration to Calcutta, then a pivotal commercial hub. The Greek community thrived until Indian Independence, after which most members dispersed globally, leaving only church officials in the city today. Hadjee Alexias Argyree established Calcutta's first Greek temple in 1780. The Transfiguration of the Saviour church, erected in 1924. It was shut down in 1972 due to lack of members and reopened in 1991 by Fr. Ignatius for all Christians living in Calcutta.	
Address	2a Library Road, Kalighat, Kolkata, West Bengal 700026					
Geographic Coordinates	22.520388 N, 88.346923 E					
Date/ Period of Construction	1924					
Ownership	Private					
Owner's Name	Trust property					
Property Type	Building					
Property Sub -type	Religious			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Church is a single storey structure, rectangular in plan. The front façade has a Neo-classical façade – a portico with four Doric columns with fluted shafts, supporting an entablature and a triangular pediment above. Through the Portico, one enters the long rectangular prayer hall at the opposite end (East) of which is the Altar. The longer sides of the church are divided in bays by rectangular pilasters with Ionic capitals. Each bay has a rectangular opening	
Property Past Use	Church					
Property Present Use	Church					
State of Protection	Protected					
Property site and surroundings	The Greek Orthodox Church is located at the junction of SP Mukherjee Road and Library Road, surrounded by dense urban settlements.					
Architectural Style	Neo-classical			State of Conservation	Good	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>			Threats to property	Lack of stakeholders, lack of awareness, developmental pressures	
				Condition Description	The Church is in a fairly good condition and is regularly maintained by the Church authorities	
Statement of Significance: The Greek Orthodox Church is significant for its association with the Greek community, amongst the many ethno-linguistic groups that migrated to Calcutta between the 18th and 20th centuries. It is testimony to the significance of the city as a commercial hub and to the cultural pluralism that developed henceforth.						
Historical	Medium	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor		Sohini Pyne
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	Low			
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I			
				Bibliography	https://www.telegraphindia.com/mykolkata/places/the-greek-orthodox-church-near-kalighat(2022)	

Sr. No. 55		NIZAM PALACE					
							
Past Name	Galstaun Park/ Nizam Palace			History and Evolution	Mir Osman Ali Khan, the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad, acquired this building as his Kolkata residence from Johannes Carapie, also known as J. C. Galstaun, a businessman of Armenian descent. Galstaun, who constructed the mansion as a symbol of affection for his wife, named it Galstaun Park. It has a long history as well, like, its noteworthy guests included King Edward VIII, and during World War I, it served as a hospital. In 1933, it was sold to the Nizam of Hyderabad, initially named Saba Palace, later renamed Nizam Palace. Upon the integration of the Princely State of Hyderabad into the Indian Union, it became government property. Despite this, the building retains its heritage status and continues to be utilized as office space by the Government of India.		
Address	236, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Rd, Kolkata, West Bengal 700020						
Geographic Coordinates	22.541077 N, 88.351189 E						
Date/ Period of Construction	1933						
Ownership	Public						
Owner's Name	Govt of India						
Property Type	Building						
Property Sub -type	Office			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A three storied building with a prominent entrance portico and hexagonal rooms with dome at four corners of the building. Many architectural features are visible representing neo classical architectural style prevailing on early 20 th century in Kolkata. The central hall with grand marble staircase with dome above, is another important architectural element of the building.		
Property Past Use	Residential						
Property Present Use	Office of Accounts division of CPWD						
State of Protection	Protected						
Property site and surroundings	Located on a major road of the city, i.e., AJC Bose Road in south Kolkata. Situated within the campus of CGO complex along with the Eastern Zone office of Central PWD.						
Architectural Style	Neo- classical-European Mansion			State of Conservation	Very Good		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	As it is surrounded by many high-rise buildings, the architectural importance of Nizam Palace is subdued and to some extent lost.		
				Condition Description	Well- maintained by Central PWD.		
Statement of Significance: It was used as the Calcutta residence of Nizam of Hyderabad, till it was a princely state. Thereafter taken over by Govt of India. Prior to Nizam, it was a house of an Armenian business tycoon J.C. Galstaun of 20 th century							
Historical	High	Architectural	High				
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium			Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I			Bibliography	Kolikata r Rajpoth- Ajit Basu

Sr. No. 56		S.V.S MARWARI HOSPITAL			
					
Past Name	S. V. S Marwari Hospital			History and Evolution	Sri Vishudanand Saraswati Marwari Hospital was established in 1919 by Sri Ramjidas Bajoria, Sri Juharmall Khemka, Sri Rameshwarlal Dudhewala, Sri Keshoram Poddar and Sri Chimanlal Ganeriwala for providing medical services to the society. It started as a 50-bed facility for Marwari Community in Calcutta and has over time expanded to a 150-bed hospital for people from every community. The hospital was established as a bold move against the British and their behaviour towards the netizens.
Address	118, Raja Ram Mohan Sarani Rd, College Row, Baithakkhana, Kolkata, West Bengal 700009				
Geographic Coordinates	22.576810 N, 88.368560 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1919				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Group of trustees				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Marwari Hospital is an impressive red brick structure that stands proudly along Amherst Street. The hospital is characterized by its decorative façade consisting of segmental and semi-circular arched corridors and intricate wrought iron grill and jaali works. A beautiful but derelict sky bridge connects two buildings of the complex which also adds to the aesthetics of the site. The buildings are traditional load-bearing structures with kori barga structural system.
Property Sub -type	Institutional				
Property Past Use	Hospital				
Property Present Use	Hospital				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The Marwari hospital is located on Amherst Street near College Street.				
Architectural Style	Colonial (British) Architecture Red Exposed Brick Building			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Socio-cultural</div><div>➤ Multi- ethnicity</div></div>			Threats to property	Incompatible additions and alterations
Statement of Significance: Marwari Hospital is an institute notable for its medical services to the common man especially the poorer section of the society.				Condition Description	There are signs of decay due to water seepage and incompatible repair works. Some of the buildings in the complex lie in a dilapidated state due to lack of proper conservation efforts.
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Rajrupa Kundu
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
				Bibliography	https://svsmarwarihospital.com/

Additional Photographs: -



Front view- Left side- neglected



Front view- right side- maintained





Arched veranda with C.I ornamental Grill and rusticated exposed brick walls at ground floor





Huge frontage, poor maintenance (left side), trees visible at top



view of corridor

Sr. No. 57		M.P. BIRLA PLANETARIUM					
							
Past Name	Birla Planetarium/ Tara Mondal			History and Evolution	The 688-seater Birla Planetarium, envisioned by industrialist and philanthropist Mr. M. P. Birla , started as an educational, scientific, and research institution in 1962. It was officially inaugurated in 1963 by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the Prime Minister of India at the time. A notable historical feature of the planetarium is its popular free evening courses in astronomy for the public. Additionally, it offers a postgraduate Diploma course in Astronomy and Planetary Sciences. In 1980, the planetarium hosted the 7th International Planetarium Director's Congress , attracting numerous planetarium directors from the world.		
Address	96, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Maidan, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071						
Geographic Coordinates	22.545521 N, 88.347313 E						
Date/ Period of Construction	1963						
Ownership	Private (Trust)						
Owner's Name	M.P. Birla Trust			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The planetarium's architecture draws inspiration from the 'Sanchi Stupa'. It features a large circular dome atop a single-story structure, with a Vedika at the dome's base and a Harmika above. The double dome includes a service gap for air conditioning, lighting, and sound systems. The flat roof surrounding the dome is on two levels, echoing the Sanchi stupa's concentric paths. The front façade has three bays, with the central bay forming an entrance veranda with columns and arched openings, while the side bays each have a window with wide chajjas above.		
Property Type	Building						
Property Sub -type	Institutional						
Property Past Use	Planetarium						
Property Present Use	Planetarium						
State of Protection	Unprotected			State of Conservation	Very Good		
Property site and surroundings	It is located in a corner plot, at the junction of Cathedral Road and Queens Way adjacent to St. Paul's Cathedral. Nearby landmarks are Victoria Memorial and Rabindra Sadan. The building is surrounded by manicured gardens.						
Architectural Style	Revivalist- inspired from Buddhist architecture (Sanchi Stupa) Designed by Ar. J.K. Gora of Ballardie, Thomson & Matthew and executed by M. L. Dalmia & Co.,						
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Socio- Cultural➤ Architecture						
Statement of Significance: Birla Planetarium is one of the Kolkata's famous landmarks, the oldest and largest planetarium in Asia and the second largest in the world. It is also an institution for the study of astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology. The planetarium's architecture draws inspiration from the 'Sanchi Stupa'- a reflection of Oriental architecture.				Threats to property	No threats identified.		
Historical	High	Architectural	High				
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High			Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture Sreya Ghosh, Shivangi Nirmal
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade					
						Bibliography	https://www.thehansindia.com/news/national/history-and-significance-of-birla-planetarium-cuttack-708668 , https://kolkataatourism.travel/

Sr. No. 58		MAHAJATI SADAN	
			
Past Name	Mahajati Sadan		
Address	166, Chittaranjan Avenue (Central Avenue), Kolkata -700007		
Geographic Coordinates	22.581406 N, 88.361881 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1939 - 1949		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	Govt. of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Auditorium		
Property Past Use	Recreational		
Property Present Use	Recreational		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Mahajati Sadan of Kolkata is located at central Kolkata on the Chittaranjan Avenue and close to Mahatma Gandhi Road Metro Station, Raja Katra, College Street Market.		
Architectural Style	Revivalist – influence of Bengal ‘Atchala’ style mixed with few Art- Deco elements		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- Political</div> <div>➤ Socio-Cultural</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: This is a landmark building of Kolkata with an association value with National Movement of pre-Independence era. It was conceptualised by Netaji Subhas Bose and foundation stone was laid by Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore. It was completed after Independence under the guidance of Dr. B.C. Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		Subhas Chandra Bose first conceived that there is a need to create a hall dedicated to the Nation for having seminar, conference, meeting, cultural program exclusively to be oriented for the purpose of Nation building. Thus, he made a request to Rabindranath Tagore to lay the foundation for it. Tagore laid the foundation stone of this building on 19 August 1939 and dedicated it to the nation by naming ‘Mahajati Sadan’. But, sudden disappearance of Bose stopped the construction work of this building for 10 years. After the independence, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy , the then CM of WB completed the work and opened it for public.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		Mahajati Sadan is a two storied building on a high plinth with a land cover of 1.2 acres. It is a fully air-conditioned theatre with a capacity of 1309 seats. A cozy seminar hall with 160 seats is available for rent. The library attached to the theatre houses personal collection of social science books of Dr. B.C. Roy and many research papers, literatures on freedom movement are also available. Attempt was made to create an indigenous architectural style with special emphasis on Bengal’s Atchala temple. It also shows some influence of Ajanta, Ellora style on the pillars and Rajasthani style of Jafris on balcony.	
State of Conservation		Well maintained	
Threats to property		Few growths of vegetation on the buildings and very small amount of damp	
Condition Description		Well-maintained	
Name of Surveyor		Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture- Atrayee Majumdar, Sagar Das, Oindrila Chakraborty, Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar	
Bibliography		https://www.getbengal.com/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahajati_Sadan	

Additional Photographs: -



Front Facade



Entrance with bust of Rabindranath Tagore and Netaji on either side





Corner view



Architectural feature



Sr. No. 59		HOWRAH STATION			
					
Past Name	Howrah Railway Station		History and Evolution Since the early 20th century, it has served as the primary gateway connecting Kolkata to the rest of the country. This transit hub has emerged as a pivotal point for passenger and cargo movement in the Eastern Zone. As India's oldest and largest railway complex, Howrah station stands as a testament to the country's railway heritage. It marks the terminus of the East Indian Railways, the first railway system in India. Commencing its operations in 1854 with a single track and platform, the railway line extended from Howrah to Hooghly. Over time, Howrah station has expanded significantly, boasting twenty lengthy platforms for passenger trains and three dedicated to goods transportation. Renowned for its bustling activity, Howrah station ranks among the world's busiest and largest train stations.		
Address	Howrah, West Bengal -711101				
Geographic Coordinates	22.5839°N, 88.3434°E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1905-11				
Ownership	Public-Central Government				
Owner's Name	Indian Railways				
Property Type	Railway Station				
Property Sub -type	Station building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20th century built heritage) In 1901, plans were made for a new station building, designed by British architect Halsey Ricardo . Completed in 1911, the structure boasts an impressive presence on the western bank of the river, characterized by a broad arcaded frontage painted in vivid red. Built as a robust, load-bearing brick edifice, it features a series of arches and four corner towers topped with sloping terracotta tile roofs. Steel columns support the platform areas, covered with metal sheets and transparent panels to allow natural light. An extension added in 1992 seamlessly integrates with the original design, maintaining its architectural harmony. From its inception, the station has featured a distinctive driveway extending to the platform, facilitating passenger drop-off and pick-up. Additionally, a subway was later constructed, connecting to the bus terminus outside, further enhancing passenger convenience.		
Property Past Use	Railway station				
Property Present Use	Railway junction				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Howrah Station is located on the western bank of the River Hooghly (Ganga) and connected to the city of Kolkata through Howrah Bridge.				
Architectural Style	Revivalist- mixed influence of Romanesque, Gothic, Victorian with Indian elements		State of Conservation	Very Good, It is an IGBC Silver certified building	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Rapid Urbanisation-Infrastructure</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		Threats to property	Huge pressure on the building/area due to tremendous flow of train services and influx of passengers throughout the year 24x7	
Statement of Significance: Howrah Station is the gateway to Kolkata via rail. This new infrastructure of 20 th century played a vital role for the citizens. It's latest connection with underground metro network below the river made a landmark history.			Condition Description	Regularly maintained by Indian Railways as a prideful asset, Howrah Station undergoes ongoing enhancements to meet growing demands, such as, Kota stone flooring on platforms, digital display boards, and upgradation of toilets and waiting rooms to meet the standards.	
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor Students of Om Dayal-Rishi Pal, Soumili Banerjee, Moulima Roy, Sroddha Datta Banik	
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-economical	High	Final Grade			
				Bibliography	https://indiarailinfo.com, pc:er.indianrailway.gov.in https://nair.indianrailways.gov.in

Additional Photographs: -



Howrah Station (1945- Archival photo)



Howrah Station (at present)



The grand view- An imposing presence on the river bank- the extended portion

(PC: Howrah Municipal Corporation)



Interior view of Waiting area


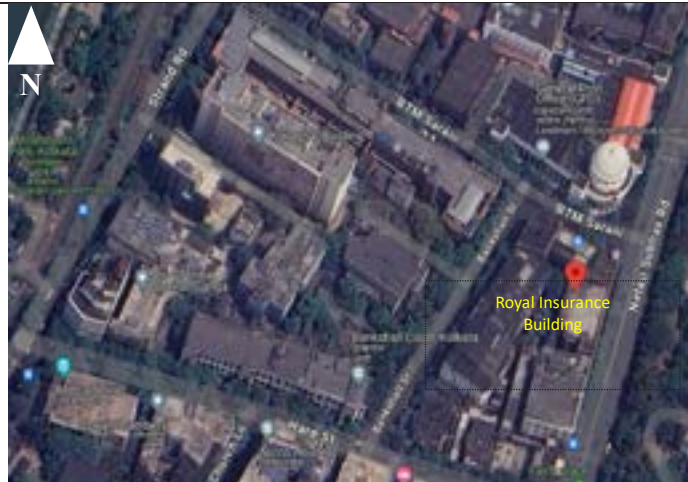


twin faced Antique Clock (1926)



*use of transparent sheet on roof
for the natural light*

PC: Station Gallery, Indian Railway.com

Sr. No. 60		ROYAL INSURANCE BUILDING	
			
Past Name	Royal Insurance Building		
Address	Royal Insurance Building, 5, Netaji Subhas Rd, Fairley Place, B.B.D. Bagh, Kolkata, West Bengal 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.572212 N, 88.347526 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1902-1905		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	Govt. of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Commercial		
Property Past Use	Office		
Property Present Use	Office		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	The Royal Insurance building is located at the junction of Netaji Subhash Road with the GPO to its North, Lal Dighi to its east, McLeod House to the south and Wallace House to the west.		
Architectural Style	Neo-Baroque (Edwardian) Red Exposed Brick		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio Economic</div>		
Statement of Significance: The Royal Insurance Building is an architecturally significant edifice and a good example of Neo-Baroque architecture in the early 20 th century designed by Edward Thornton and William Banks Gwyther .			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		The Royal Insurance was founded in 1845 but the present premises, which was their Calcutta office was built between 1902 and 1905. The building was designed by Edward Thornton and William Banks Gwyther . The Royal Insurance was one of the first few companies providing insurance to the British. The construction of this structure was supervised by JC Banerjee who was also entrusted with overseeing the construction of the nearby Hong Kong house and Shanghai Banking Corporation building.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The Royal Insurance building is a three storied structure with a V-shaped plan. The building has a striking exposed brick, blood and bandage façade. The façade edge at the junction of the two streets is imposing with a large semi-circular arched entrance, an ornate porthole window, stucco work on the façade and a dome above. The two side facades of the building are divided in bays by rectangular pilasters with ornamental capitals. Each bay has a segmental arched windows on the ground and first floor and rectangular openings on the second floor. An ornamental frieze and narrow eave supported by ornamental brackets runs along the entire structure on the third-floor slab level.	
State of Conservation		Fair	
Threats to property		Lack of regular maintenance, encroachment of public space in front by hawkers.	
Condition Description		Vegetation growth, minor patches of dampness, interior additions and alterations and changes in materials.	
Name of Surveyor		Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture: Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar, Oindrila Chakraborty, Anubhav Roy Sarker, Atrayee Majumder, Sagar Das	
Bibliography		https://www.tutorialathome.in/heritage-commercial-buildings/royal-insurance-building	

Additional Photographs: -



Corner View



*ornamental features with Bands on
red exposed brick construction*



Side view





Corner tower





Entrance with Logo



view of other Entrance

Sr. No. 61		KANAK BUILDING			
					
Past Name	Army Navy Stores			History and Evolution	The Calcutta branch of the ‘Indian Army and Navy Store’, established in 1901, aimed to provide affordable goods from London to outstation military personnel and civil servants. It diversified its services to include travel, insurance, and banking. The store's annual arrival of consumable goods before Christmas was highly anticipated by Europeans. It also catered to Hindu festivals with "puja" sales, demonstrating its adoptability of cultural awareness. The store faced challenges during WWII, and Indian independence led to its closure in 1948. Subsequently, the Poddars acquired the building, renaming as ‘Kanak Buildings’, and transforming it for commercial use, including banks and offices.
Address	41, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071				
Geographic Coordinates	22.550224N, 88.349259E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1901				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Poddars				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	It is an L- shaped three storied building facing Calcutta Maidan on Chowringhee Road. Its imposing presence with outstanding Neo- classical Architecture, made it one of the landmark buildings of the city. The red-and-white Edwardian edifice that sprawls out at the corner plot of Middleton Street and Chowringhee Road (J.L. Nehru Road) is now known as ‘Kanak Building’. The slender set of Corinthian columns holding up the ornate central pediment is the most striking feature of the elegant, expansive façade adorned with crescent-shaped arches and stuccoed spandrels.
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The New Secretariat Building is located at the junction of Stand Road and Kiran Shankar Ray Road. The building faces the Hooghly River to the West and North West. To the North is B.B.D Bag.				
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- Economic</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	No threats identified to date.
				Condition Description	Once a renowned departmental stores of pre-Independence era, changed its usage to a commercial building in the post-Independence era. Though there is no change in the exterior visible, however, the interior has been compartmented to many offices to suit the requirement for its new usage.
Statement of Significance: This colonial buildings at Chowringhee Road once housed glorious department stores that catered to Indian and British high-society clients.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	Bach, Brian Paul – Calcutta’s Edifice Das, Soumitra – A Jaywalker’s Guide to Calcutta, Banerjea, Dhrubajyoti – European Calcutta

Sr. No. 62		SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY HQ/BNR OFFICE				
						
Past Name	Bengal Nagpur Railway HQ			History and Evolution	Kolkata has always had an affinity with the British-era red edifices. And on the city's southern fringe lies another massive red brick building — the headquarters of the South Eastern Railway (SER), formerly the Bengal Nagpur Railway (BNR). The headquarter of BNR was built at Garden Reach, Kolkata in 1908 and was shifted from Nagpur. The BNR company was brought under the Govt of India 's control in 1944.After Independence when the various railway systems are re-organised, geographically, BNR was merged with East Indian Railway in 1952, from Eastern Railway. Very soon again South Eastern Railway, a new railway zone has been carved out in 1955 of Eastern Railway comprising the erstwhile BNR.	
Address	11, Garden reach Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700043					
Geographic Coordinates	88.311027N, 22.544234E					
Date/ Period of Construction	1907-08					
Ownership	Public					
Owner's Name	Indian Railway (SE Railway)					
Property Type	Building					
Property Sub -type	Commercial			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	BNR HQ stands proudly on Garden Reach Road, a magnificent example of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Constructed entirely from exposed red brick, it features a central dome atop with a grand central hall, complemented by four smaller domes at each corner. This design allows natural light to flood the central hall, a pioneering concept for its time. The rectangular structure showcases ornate exteriors with a combination of red brick and white stone, captivating observers. Its architectural splendour is enhanced by arched windows, decorative cornices, fluted parapets, turrets, and a portico, making it a visual marvel from every angle. Other than this HQ building there are few more heritage buildings exist in the same complex, such as, GM's Bungalow and two beautiful building (Godfrey Mansions)being used as Staff quarters.	
Property Past Use	Office					
Property Present Use	Office					
State of Protection	Protected					
Property site and surroundings	South Eastern Railway HQ (still referred to as BNR) is located at the southern end of Kolkata in Garden Reach beside River Hooghly.					
Architectural Style	Indo-Saracenic			State of Conservation	Very Good	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Infrastructure</div>			Threats to property	No threats apparently visible	
				Condition Description	Well-maintained and used as an office space of the General Manager, SER as it headquarters, which is the original use since its inception.	
Statement of Significance: An iconic example of Ind- Saracenic architecture. It was and still considered as a prized possession of Indian Railway not only for its administrative role for railway but it has a long legacy of history, like, once Nawab Wajed Ali Shah used to stay here under British confinement. One of the best buildings of Kolkata.						
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor		Dr. Sutapa Jyoti, Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High			
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I			
				Bibliography	Garden Reach-A Railway Story- by Saibal Bose https://ser.indianrailways.gov.in-BNR	

Additional Photographs: -



Exterior view-eight small domes with a central dome atop – PC: CCA-SA-3.0



Architectural features- Indo-Saracenic style



Grand Staircase



Provision of Natural light from central dom



Wooden spiral staircase

Additional Photographs: -



Main Entrance



Natural light from above





Corridor



Godfrey Mansions(1923)



Godfrey Mansions (1909)

Sr. No. 63		HOUSE OF DR. NILRATAN SIRCAR				
						
Past Name	Residence of Dr. Nilratan Sircar			History and Evolution	In this house resided Dr. Nilratan Sircar , a pre-eminent physician in 20th-century India. Renowned for five decades, he attended to VVIPs including foreign royalty. Dr. Sircar's patriotism led him to establish the ‘National Soap Factory’ and the ‘National Tannery’ in 1905, aligning with the Swadeshi movement. He collaborated closely with Indian National Congress leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, Chittaranjan Das and Subhas Chandra Bose. He played a pivotal role in founding the ‘College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bengal’, later amalgamated with Dr. R.G. Kar's ‘Calcutta Medical School’ to form the prestigious RG Kar Medical College & Hospital. His nephew, the renowned statistician P.C. Mahalanobis , also briefly stayed here in his youth.	
Address	61, Mahatma Gandhi Road (Harrison Road), Kolkata West Bengal 700009					
Geographic Coordinates	22.490217 N, 88.340209 E					
Date/ Period of Construction	Mid-20 th Century					
Ownership	Trust Property					
Owner’s Name	Past owner- Dr. Nilratan Sircar Present owner-Deokinandan Jalan charitable Trust (established. In 1976)					
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building boasts an expansive frontage adorned with striking bold stripes and a row of windows facing the street. A notable aspect is the impressive grand portico spanning the entire length of the structure, accompanied by a terrace accessible from the first floor. Adding to its charm, the right corner features an elegantly crafted elongated semi-circular veranda extending from the second to the third floor. Along the roadside, the presence of intermittent semicircular protruding verandas are few architectural features added to the aesthetics of the building. Inside, a standout feature is the wooden staircase adorned with decorative coloured glazed tiles along the dado.	
Property Sub -type	Commercial					
Property Past Use	Residential					
Property Present Use	Commercial It has now occupied by many offices, such as- Indian Bank, National Book Trust, Jalan Trust Etc.					
State of Protection	Unprotected					
Property site and surroundings	Ananda Publishers, Boi-para are in the close proximity of this house. Located on a major road of Central Kolkata, i.e. Mahatma Gandhi Road					
Architectural Style	Art- Deco			State of Conservation	Externally- Fair Internally-Poor	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture			Threats to property	Not yet graded, under threat.	
				Condition Description	The building has been completely repurposed for commercial activities, diminishing its former glory as the residence of Dr. N.R. Sircar. Inside, it feels claustrophobic, making it challenging to discern the original interior layout. The once-grand portico now serves as a space for street dwellers, deteriorating the building's dignity with its dingy and malodorous conditions.	
Statement of Significance: Residence of the renowned physician of 20 th century Dr. Nilratan Sircar, who was also famous for his association with nationalistic movement. The great statistician of India P.C Mahalanobis (his nephew) also stayed here for some time.						
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High			
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade			Bibliography	

Additional Photographs: -



Grand arcade along the entire front facade



Semi-circular protruded veranda



Corner View





The 'Plaque' on the wall near entrance



wooden staircase with glazed dado(original)



Below the grand arcaded verandah-squatters settlement

Sr. No. 64		NASKAR BARI	
			
Past Name	Naskar Bari		
Address	72, Belehata Main Rd, Kolkata, West Bengal 700010		
Geographic Coordinates	22.561814 N, 88.402954 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	Early 20 th Century		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Naskar Family		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Residential		
Property Past Use	Residence and Temple		
Property Present Use	Residence and Temple		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The Naskar Bari is located to the north of the Belehata Main Road amongst a residential neighbourhood but on a Bazaar street.		
Architectural Style	Mixed/Regional architectural style. Art Deco influences seen in the annexe building.		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio-political</div>		
Statement of Significance: The Naskar Bari is home to not one but three leading ministers of the time, including Hem Chandra Naskar, a former mayor of Kolkata, and thus has great socio-political and associational significance. Apart from this they belong to Bengali business group of 20C. The house is also significant for its architectural style.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/Scientific	Low
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	
History and Evolution	Ramkrishna Naskar and his family relocated from Kheyadah, South 24 Parganas, to their current residence in Belehata. Initially engaged in fisheries and agriculture, they owned extensive land, including parts of Salt Lake. Hemchandra Naskar, adopted son of Ramkrishna, entered politics under Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and later became Mayor. Jogendranath Naskar, Ramkrishna's second son, had five sons. The eldest, Ardhendushekhar, served as Deputy Minister in Dr. BC Roy's cabinet and was MLA from 1945 to 1977, mentored by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Purnendushekhar, Jogendranath's third son, held the position of Deputy Minister at the Centre during the tenures of JL Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Indira Gandhi.		
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Naskar Bari consists of two houses and two Charchala Shiva temples (famously known as 'Joramandir') adjacent to the road. The main house is two storied high, featuring a front courtyard and a central courtyard. Surrounding both courtyards are spacious balconies adorned with ornate cast iron columns, delicate filigree screens, decorative railings. The upper floor includes wooden louvered screens/ Jhillis, semi-circular arched doors/windows with louvered shutters and cast-iron decorations on tympanums. The roof slabs are made of Kori-Borga. The new six storied building is an addition to the main building at rear, boasts a plain facade, complemented by Indo Deco motifs. Naskar Bari is also famous for the statues of European style at the gate and at the front courtyard, as a special feature.		
State of Conservation	Good (The interiors were not accessible)		
Threats to property	No apparent threats		
Condition Description	The house is in a fairly well maintained condition with frequent repairs and upkeep.		
Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne		
Bibliography	Kolkata r Bonedi Bari		

Additional Photographs: -



A common typology of residential mansions evolved during 20th century with cast-iron ornamental railings and wooden Jhillis/screens



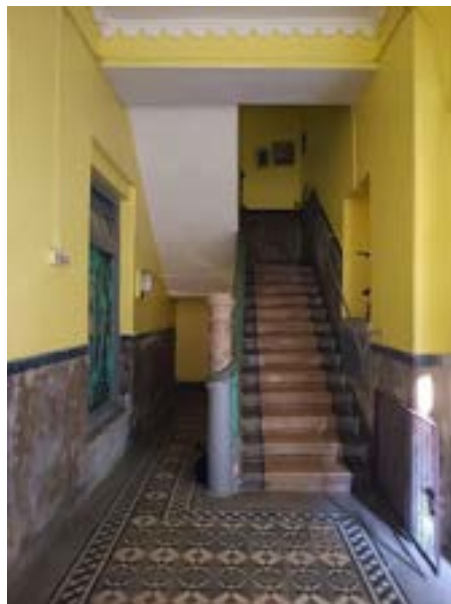
Behind Jora Mandir, multi-storied extension visible with Art deco style- a later addition





European sculpture was a fashion on those days



Cast iron ornamental grill work



Interior view with decorative floor tiles

Sr. No. 65		VICTORIA MEMORIAL			
					
Past Name	Victoria Memorial		History and Evolution	Victoria Memorial Hall, conceived by Lord Curzon to honour Queen Victoria posthumously in 1921, stands as a museum showcasing her life, adorned with stunning frescoes under its dome. Funded by Indian princes and public donations, its total construction cost of ₹1.05 crore was entirely from voluntary subscriptions. The foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales (King George-V) in 1906, with its inauguration by his son, the Prince of Wales (King Edward-VIII) in 1921. The edifice was designed by British architect William Emerson and constructed by Calcutta's renowned firm Martin, Burn & Co, owned by Sir R.N. Mookerjee . The site was originally used as the Presidential jail. The jail was shifted to Alipore to give way for the construction of this memorial.	
Address	1, Queens Way, Maidan, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin - 700071				
Geographic Coordinates	22.544907 N, 88.342557 E				
Period of Construction	1906-1921				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	Government of India (Ministry of Culture)		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	The Victoria Memorial, crafted from white Makrana marble, rests on a raised platform housing a spacious central hall beneath a majestic dome. Surrounding this hall are smaller chambers at each corner and expansive quadrangles flanking its sides, adorned with colonnaded verandas. Towering minaret-like structures with domed chhatris grace its corners. Spanning 338 by 228 feet (103 by 69 m) and reaching a height of 184 feet (56 m), it features a bronze Angel of Victory crowning the dome. Initially envisioned in Neo-Classical style, it evolved into Indo-Saracenic fusion, blending octagonal chhatris, bulbous domes, and traditional Indian elements. Nestled within lush gardens boasting rare trees, flowerbeds, water features, and sculptures, it's enclosed by an ornate boundary wall. The siting of the edifice is also unique with a great vista concept amidst a well-designed landscape garden.	
Property Type	Building, Landscape				
Property Sub -type	Recreational, Memorial				
Property Past Use	Memorial				
Property Present Use	Museum				
State of Protection	Protected		State of Conservation	Fair	
Property site and surroundings	Victoria Memorial is located within the Maidan on 57 acres of land, surrounded by Queens way in the North, AJC Bose Road at South, Cathedral Road at East and Hospital Road/ Red Road at West. Nearby landmarks are Race Course, St. Paul's Cathedral and SSKM Hospital.				
Architectural Style	Indo-Saracenic- The design mostly follows the Indo-Saracenic style, mixing with Neo-Classical and Mughal elements.		Threats to property	Ageing, atmospheric pollution, construction of metro underneath, large scale developments in its vicinity.	
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Architecture➤ Socio- Culture				
Statement of Significance: The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata stands as an iconic symbol of India's colonial history and architectural grandeur. It commemorates Queen Victoria's reign and serves as a repository of cultural heritage, housing a vast collection of artifacts and artworks. Beyond its historical significance, it's a revered landmark, attracting visitors for its stunning architecture, & lush green gardens. Today it is the first choice for the citizens to take rest and recuperate amidst its serene natural atmosphere.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture: - Debanjali Paul, Moitrayee Patra, Moulima Roy, Janhabi Majumder
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	https://www.victoriamemorial-cal.org/uploads/annualreport/1496397780AR14-15.pdf

Additional Photographs: -



*Illuminated night view of Victoria Memorial
(PC: Wikimedia commons, CC SA-4.0 by Deepanjan Ghosh)*



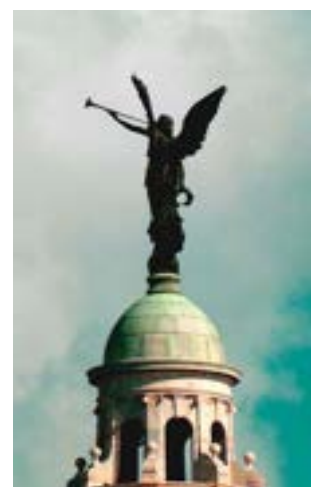
Side view with semi-circular veranda with a series of columns



The vista


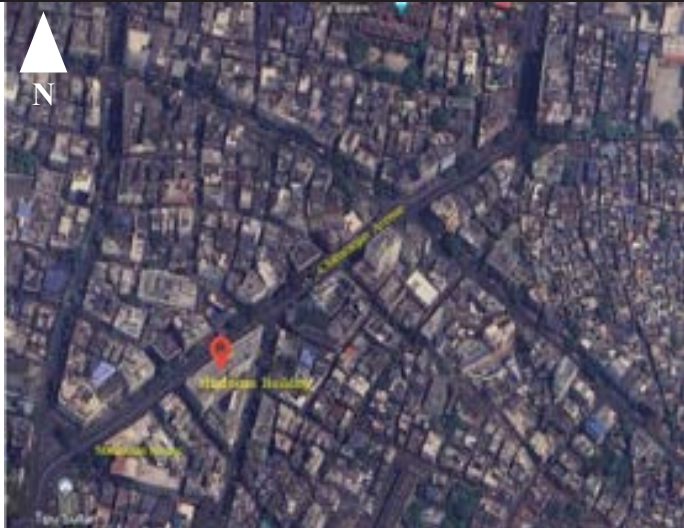




Landscape Garden



Revolving Angel of Victory atop

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Memorial,_Kolkata

Sr. No. 66		HINDUSTHAN BUILDING	
<div></div> <div></div>			
Past Name	Hindustan Building		
Address	4, Chittaranjan Avenue, Chandni Chawk, Kolkata -700013		
Geographic Coordinates	22.566094 N, 88.353888 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	Mid-20th century		
Ownership	Government		
Owner’s Name	Life Insurance Company of India		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Office		
Property Past Use	Office		
Property Present Use	Office		
State of Protection	Protected.		
Property site and surroundings	This building located on Chittaranjan Avenue, at its junction with Madan Street, in the Chandni Chowk area. The Chandi Chowk Metro Station entry gate is behind.		
Architectural Style	Art- Deco		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- economic</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is owned and built by Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Co, the first Insurance Co of India, founded by Nalini Ranjan Sirkar, later became Life Insurance Company of India.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution	<p>Surendranath Tagore, son of Satyendranath Tagore and nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, founded the Hindustan Insurance Society around 1818. He established several Indian-owned banks and insurance companies to promote indigenous industries. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, a disciple of CR Das and former Chairman of Hindustan Insurance, significantly expanded the company's business. After Independence, the Indian government nationalized it and renamed it the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Located on Central Avenue, it now houses LIC's Eastern Zonal Office, managing operations in West Bengal, the North Eastern States, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</p>		
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	<p>The Hindustan Building, comprising six stories along with its annex, adopts a triangular layout aligned with the plot's boundaries. The front facade features a central bay ascending into a tower-like structure of circular design, serving as the main entrance. Flanking this central bay are seven bays on either side, each adorned with balconies featuring rectangular openings, and delineated by prominent vertical columns. The intersection of the two streets adopts a curvilinear design with semi-circular balconies. Notably, the building's facade eschews elaborate ornamentation, signalling a departure from colonial styles towards a modern architecture of globally-influenced ‘Art-Deco’ styles.</p>		
State of Conservation	Good		
Threats to property	No threats identified.		
Condition Description	<p>Good. The building is fully modernized, with the first floor hosting the City Branch and the second floor accommodating various small merchants, the Railway Insurance Cooperative's office, and a Zonal Conference Hall. Departments of the Eastern Zonal Office occupy the 3rd to 6th floors, all maintaining the building's grandeur. Additionally, the annex building at the rear houses five city branches.</p>		
Name of Surveyor	Dr. Sutapa Joti		
Bibliography	https://en.wikipedia.org/National Biographv- Nalini Ranjan Sarkar		

Sr. No. 67		TOWER HOUSE			
					
Past Name	Tower House				
Address	2A & 2B, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata, West Bengal 700069				
Geographic Coordinates	22.565987 N, 88.351668 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	Late 1930s				
Ownership	Private (Tenanted)				
Owner’s Name	Past owner - Talbot & Co Present owner - Anandilal Poddar				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	Commercial				
Property Present Use	Commercial				
State of Protection	Protected.				
Property site and surroundings	Located at the junction of Bentinck Street, C.R. Avenue and Chowringhee Road. Nearby landmarks are Tipu Sultan Masjid, Victoria House, Statesman building, Aykar Bhavan etc.				
Architectural Style	Art Deco/Indi- Deco				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio-political</div>			History and Evolution	In the British colonial era, 'Tower House' stood as Calcutta's tallest building. It reportedly served as a transmission hub for the 'Voice of America' during World War II when US troops were stationed in Kolkata. Additionally, during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, its top floor functioned as a broadcasting centre for the free Betar Bangladesh , disseminating news and propaganda about the conflict. Originally belonging to Talbott & Co., their offices occupied the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors. Presently, it is under the ownership of Anandilal Poddar.
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	
Statement of Significance: The Tower house was one of the tallest buildings of Calcutta when it was built. It is also significant for its role during WW-II and Bangladesh War with high socio-political value. It is also important as a building of the Indo-Deco style designed by Sudlow, Ballardie and Thompson, a leading design firm.				State of Conservation	Poor
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Threats to property	Neglected. It is threatened by fire hazards. Needs urgent overall restoration program.
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High	Condition Description	Loss of masonry, loss of plaster, damaged window shutters, loss of ornamentation, damaged railings, vegetation growth, unorganised electrical cables hanging dangerously.
Socio-political	High	Final Grade	IIA	Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture Sreya Ghosh, Anshuka Pal, Neelanjana Das, Swaroopa Nandi
				Bibliography	https://www.facebook.com/immersivetrails/posts/the-tower-house


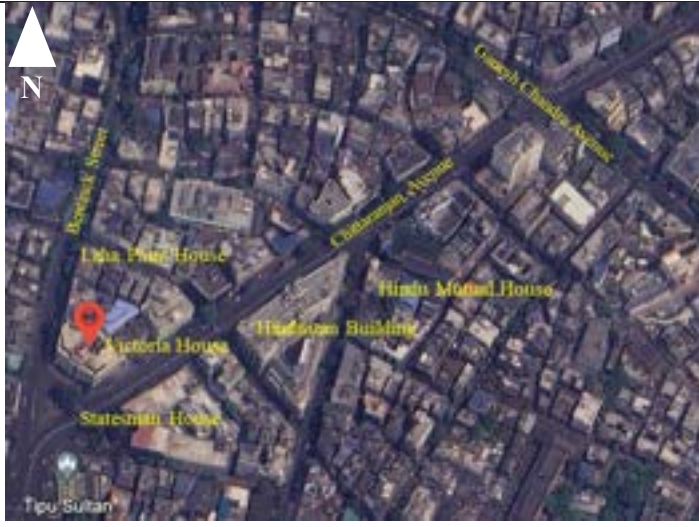
Additional Photographs: -







Tower House- an early example of Art- Deco



Blow-up details exhibiting architectural features

Sr. No. 68		CESC BUILDING			
					
Past Name	Victoria House		History and Evolution	By the mid-20th century, electricity and its extensive infrastructure became a key symbol of progress in Calcutta. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Ltd (CESC), originally based in London, was crucial in meeting the region's technical needs. In 1899, CESC launched India's first thermal power plant, marking the start of thermal power generation in the country. By 1933, CESC had moved to Victoria House , where it operated for decades. In 1970, control shifted from London to Calcutta, and in 1978, it was renamed The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (India) Ltd. In 2011, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group bought the company.	
Address	4, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata, West Bengal 700072				
Geographic Coordinates	22.566454 N, 88.352211 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1933				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	RP- Sanjiv Goenka Group		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Victoria House, one of Calcutta's oldest Art Deco buildings, is a six-story pentagonal structure. Its ground floor features rustications and Roman arches with prominent keystones, showcasing neo-classical elements. The central arch has a coffered vault. The upper floors, influenced by Art Deco, have simple rows of rectangular windows with banded surrounds. The building's façade, where two roads intersect, is divided into three bays, with the central bay featuring projecting balconies and vertical Deco bands. Neo-Classical elements, including Tuscan pilasters, are present on the fifth floor. At the top of the central bay, a large dome with a globe placed on a polygonal base made the building iconic .	
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	CESC (British origin) Office				
Property Present Use	CESC (Indian Multinational) Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at the junction of Bentinck Street, C.R. Avenue and Chowringhee Road. Nearby landmarks are Statesman building, Tipu Sultan Masjid, Tower House, Aykar Bhavan				
Architectural Style	Hybrid: Neo-Classical and Art- Deco		State of Conservation	Fair (Interiors not accessible)	
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Architecture➤ Infrastructure		Threats to property	Additions and alterations in incongruous materials.	
			Condition Description	RPSG after taking it over, retrofitted this historic space replacing a full HVAC system, installing low-flow water management and building automation systems, installing organic waste composter,1,200 energy efficient lights and 52 occupancy sensors.	
Statement of Significance: The CESC House is one of the first few buildings with an Art Deco influence. It is the first heritage building in India to achieve LEED v4.1 Platinum , the highest level of certification from Green Building Certification Inc (GBCI).					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture: - Atreyee Majumder, Anubhav Roy Sarkar, Dipto Mukherjee
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-economical	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	www.constructionweekonline.in , Wikipedia , journals.sagepub.com , https://ibgnews.com/

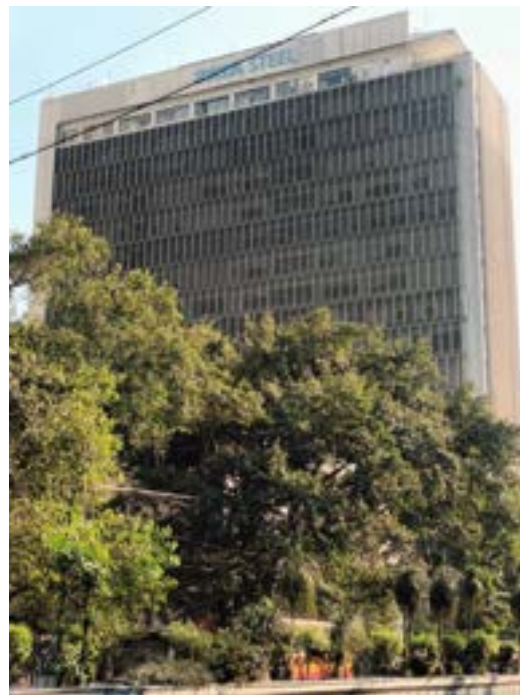
Sr. No. 69		NEW SECRETARIATE	
			
Past Name	New Secretariate		
Address	1, Kiran Shankar Roy Road (Strand Road), Kolkata, West Bengal 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.569764 N, 88.343223 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1954		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	State Government of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Office		
Property Past Use	Administrative		
Property Present Use	Administrative		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The New Secretariat Building is located at the junction of Stand Road and Kiran Shankar Ray Road. The building faces the Hooghly River to the West and North West. To the North is B.B.D Bag.		
Architectural Style	Modern Designed by- Ar. Habib Rehman		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Administrative Building</div>		
Statement of Significance: Symbol of aspirations of making of Modern India after Independence. Probably the first high rise /multi-storied building in Calcutta with contemporary style, designed by Ar. Habibur Rahman, the then Chief Architect of CPWD			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	Medium	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		Following Independence, new areas of administrative activity generated an enormous demand for office space. The construction of the fourteen-story New Secretariat Building at Calcutta marked the beginning of high-rise construction in India. The building was planned according to the modern trend in designs of office buildings and architecture such as the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the Ministry of Education building in Rio de Janeiro. The mail chutes, fire-fighting wet risers, and running of plumbing through central service shafts were all novelties introduced through this building. Calcutta's New Secretariat Building remained the tallest modern building for a decade, a showpiece for the Government of West Bengal.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The New Secretariat building complex consists of a 13-storey building placed perpendicularly to a G+8-storey building, both rectangular in plan along with a curvilinear G+4-storey building joining the former two. The buildings were designed on a grid of 6.6m x 6.6m. the frame structure rests on 25m deep R.C. piles. The curvilinear building has a continuous verandah running along its front façade. The main building uses vertical shading devices called fins on its facades, typical of modernist architecture in Kolkata during Post- Independence era.	
State of Conservation		Fair	
Threats to property		Lack of informed conservation techniques, haphazard additions and physical infrastructure (partitions, toilets, HVAC)	
Condition Description		More or less maintained, yet requires proper planning for its upgradation or any addition/ alteration.	
Name of Surveyor		Sohini Pyne,	
Bibliography		Chatterjee, Malay. "I. 1947 – 1959: Options after Independence, the Evolution of Contemporary Indian Architecture." In Architecture In India, Paris and Milan: Electa Moniteur, 1985. Pp. 128 PC: Wikimedia commons-CC-SA-3.0	

Sr. No. 70		TATA CENTRE			
					
Past Name	Tata Centre				
Address	43 J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata- 700071				
Geographic Coordinates	22.547938 N, 88.348642 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1963				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Tata Group				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Tata Centre is located at the crossing of Chowringhee road and Ho Chi Min Sarani. Nearby landmarks are Jeevan Deep/Jeevan Sudha, The 42, and the Maidan.				
Architectural Style	Modern Designed by -Holabird and Root				
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio- economic</div>			History and Evolution	Tata Centre, Kolkata is amongst the early tall buildings of the country. With its foundation Stone was laid in 1963, the building started being operational in 1970s. The building houses most of the Tata Group's city operations, like, Tata metallics, Tata Blue scoop steel, Tata Pigments, TELCON, Tata International, Tata Sponge, Tata Mutual Fund and Marketing and Sales office of Tata Steel Ltd. With 18 storeys and a basement and height of about 231 feet from Ground Level, it remained as the tallest building of Eastern India until 1976. The corporate office, which was earlier in this building has now been shifted to Salt Lake Sector V.
				Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building was designed b, a Chicago based architectural firm, with a futuristic vision and even after 50 years, stands as a notable example of Modernist architecture in the city. Tata Centre is uniquely designed with vertical fins and a metal skin behind it, on the front façade to promote glare free natural light within the building, yet withstanding the glare of western Sun. The building is rectangular in plan and an 18 storied skyscraper with underground car parking facility at the basement, centrally air-conditioned, and served by 7 nos. high-speed elevators.
Statement of Significance: In post-independence era, for a long time, it stands as the tallest building of the city. Tata Centre is the regional corporate HQ of Tata Group at Kolkata.				State of Conservation	Good
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High	Threats to property	Inappropriate additions and alterations
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High	Condition Description	The structure is in a well-maintained condition. It is currently undergoing renovation by Utopian Associates.
Socio-economical	High	Final Grade		Name of Surveyor	Students of Om Dayal group of Institutions Rishi Pal, Sroddha Dutta Banik, Soumili Banerjee Suromitra Biswas
				Bibliography	Sen, Siddhartha. Colonizing, Decolonizing, and Globalizing Kolkata: From a Colonial to a Post-Marxist City, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 2017. https://doi.org/10.1515/9789048530687

Additional Photographs:



The 42 , the tallest building came up next to Tata Centre





Side view of Tata Centre



Close up view from Road- steel screen wall is visible

PC:Indrani Sarkar

Sr. No 71		JEEVAN DEEP	
<div></div> <div></div>			
Past Name	Jeevan Deep		
Address	42/C, Jawaharlal Nehru Rd (Chowringhee Road), Kolkata, West Bengal 700071		
Geographic Coordinates	22.548859 N, 88.349237 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1958 – Jeevan Deep 1986- Jeevan Sudha		
Ownership	Public		
Owner’s Name	Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Commercial		
Property Past Use	Office		
Property Present Use	Office		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The building is located at the crossing of Chowringhee Road and Middleton Row. Opposite to it is the Calcutta Maidan. Nearby landmarks are Tata Centre, Kanak Building, The 42, Maidan Metro Station etc.		
Architectural Style	Modern		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio-Economic</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is a trendsetting building and one of the first multi-storied commercial building with contemporary architectural style. It has many offices of LIC, and branches of State Bank of India.			
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High
Associational	Medium	Technological/Scientific	High
Socio-economical	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution	Jeevan Deep, a commercial office building, was constructed during the post-independence era by the Life Insurance Corporation of India as a testament to advancing modernism and departing from colonial architectural styles. It stands as an early example of a multi-storied RCC framed structure in the city. Housing numerous offices of LIC, as well as branches of financial institutions such as the State Bank of India NRI Branch, it embodies the city's commercial landscape. Adjacent to it stands Jeevan Sudha, another notable LIC building boasting 19 floors and reaching a height of 72 meters (236 ft), erected in 1986. In 2017, a fire broke out on its 17th floor, fortunately occurring on a holiday and resulting in no casualties.		
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	Maxwell Fry, a British architect, spearheaded the inception of multi-storied buildings in the post-independence era, introducing a contemporary modernist style to Kolkata and initiating the trend of RCC framed high-rise structures. This building stands as one of the earliest examples, characterized by its simple yet elegant design. Consisting of a rectangular vertical tower atop a horizontal double-storied rectangular base, the structure exhibits a harmonious balance between form and function. Facing west, the front façade features a solid mass with strategically placed vertical louvers, arranged diagonally to mitigate direct sunlight. Meanwhile, the north and south sides boast abundant windows adorned with both vertical and horizontal fins, facilitating cross-ventilation.		
State of Conservation	Fair		
Threats to property	No threats identified.		
Condition Description	Material deterioration, water seepage, cracks, corrosion in metal members, damaged window shutters, vegetation growth, etc. are few areas where attention is needed for maintenance.		
Name of Surveyor	Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar, Oindrila Chakraborty, Sagar Das, Atrayee Majumder		
Bibliography	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeevan_Sudha		

Additional Photographs: -





‘Jeevan Deep’ Building of LIC (1958) at Chowringhee Road

PC:Indrani Sarkar



*‘Jeevan Sudha’ building (1986) of LIC, a 19 storied building has come up in the same complex
‘The 42’ is sneaking behind it.*

PC: Indrani Sarkar

Sr. No. 72		TAJ BENGAL HOTEL		
				
Past Name	Taj Bengal Hotel			
Address	34B, Belvedere Road, Alipore, Kolkata 700027			
Geographic Coordinates	22.537997 N, 88.334488 E			
Date/ Period of Construction	1989			
Ownership	Private			
Owner’s Name	Tata Group			
Property Type	Building			
Property Sub -type	Commercial			
Property Past Use	Hotel			
Property Present Use	Hotel			
State of Protection	Unprotected			
Property site and surroundings	This hotel is located opposite to the Alipore Zoological Gardens, (zoo). Two other side surrounded by Tolly canal.			
Architectural Style	Modern. - designed by American architect Bob (Robert) F. Fox, Jr. , assisted by local architects – Ajay Chowdhury and Ranjit Sabiki .			
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture		History and Evolution	It was inaugurated on October 10, 1989, by Jyoti Basu , then Chief Minister of West Bengal. Initially, controversy arose due to its location on the migratory bird flight path near Alipore Zoo. However, the then Chief Minister Basu resolved the issue, allowing Tata Group's hotel project to proceed with slight relocation of the building in consultation with environmentalists, so that the path of the migratory birds will not be disturbed.
			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20th century-built heritage)	
Statement of Significance: An iconic example of modern architecture. The first hotel in Kolkata with atrium concept and vertical green wall, built by Taj Group of hotels.				
Historical	Low	Architectural	High	
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	High	
Socio-Cultural	Medium	Final Grade		
		State of Conservation	Very Good	
		Threats to property	No apparent threats visible	
		Condition Description	The building is fairly well maintained.	
		Name of Surveyor	Dr. Sutapa Joti, Indrani Sarkar	
		Bibliography	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taj_Bengal https://www.tajhotels.com	

Additional Photographs: -



A Green building concept - The Atrium with natural light from the top





Terracotta Sculpture- a trademark of Bengal – terracotta tiled sloped roofing



Restaurant – Cal 27 – a nostalgic interior with traditional floor pattern & Khorkhori windows

PC: Indrani Sarkar

Sr. No. 73		SCIENCE CITY			
					
Past Name	Science City		History and Evolution	The inception of Science City Kolkata dates back to 1994 when the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) envisioned it as a means to democratize science by engaging the public through interactive exhibits, models, shows, and other educational resources. Dr. Swaraj Ghosh , then Director of NCSM, championed this initiative. Despite facing significant opposition, NCSM persisted with its vision of utilizing technology to repurpose a former garbage dump into a vibrant public space, thereby demonstrating the transformative power of technology for the gain of a common man. Over a period of time, Science City Kolkata has successfully embodied NCSM's ethos of leveraging technology for the betterment of society, especially for the youth.	
Address	JBS Haldane Avenue, Mirania Gardens, East Topsia, Topsia, Kolkata, West Bengal 700046				
Geographic Coordinates	22.540296 N, 88.396027 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1994 to 1996				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	Government of India				
Property Type	Precinct		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The architecture of Science City, designed by M/s Development Consultant Pvt Ltd (DCPL), Kolkata, presents an enticing, contemporary entertainment hub. Each building showcases a unique architectural style inspired by fundamental geometric shapes. Notable structures include the Space Odyssey , a double-height rectangular hall culminating in a large domical shell structure, and the Dyna-motion Hall , a striking four-story descending spiral shell resembling a ziggurat. The Convention Centre features two split hemispheres, both shell structures. Diverse buildings on-site exhibit various construction technologies amidst skill fully landscaped surroundings.	
Property Sub -type	Recreational, Institutional				
Property Past Use	Science museum, science park and auditoriums				
Property Present Use	Science museum, science park and auditoriums				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	It is located at the crossing of the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and Park Circus Road below the Maa Flyover and opposite to Milan Mela ground.				
Architectural Style	Modern		State of Conservation	Good	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio culture-Science & Technology</div>		Threats to property	No apparent threats	
Statement of Significance: It is the largest science centre in Asia containing a science museum, science park and auditoriums. the complex served as an iconic entertainment zone. It has become one of the symbols of Kolkata's landmark.			Condition Description	The site has a large footfall of visitors but is still in a fairly good condition due to regular maintenance by NCSM.	
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Om Dayal College of Architecture-Debanjali Paul, Moitrayee Patra, Moulima Roy, Janhabi Majumder
Associational	Medium	Technological / Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	https://issuu.com/zubdasajda/docs/zubda https://en.wikipedia.orghttp://www.carhirekolkata.com , www.sciencecitykolkata.org.in

Additional Photographs: -



The Convention Centre

PC: <https://www.thestatesman.com/bengal/international-museum-expo-at-science-city>



The Landscaped area in and around

PC: Creative Commons-CCA-SA-3.0



The Dynamotion Hall – exterior view

PC: Indrani Sarkar





The Dynamotion Hall – interior view



PC: Wikimedia Commons, CCA-SA-3.0, Biswarup Ganguly



The Entrance Gate to the complex

PC: www.sciencecitykolkata.org.in

Sr. No. 74		CENTENARY BUILDING, CALCUTTA HIGH COURT	
			
Past Name	High Court Annexe		
Address	3, Esplanade Row West, BBD Bagh, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.566863 N, 88.344176 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1977		
Ownership	Public		
Owner’s Name	State Government of West Bengal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Administrative /Judicial		
Property Past Use	High Court		
Property Present Use	High Court		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The building is located next to the main High court building. This building surrounded by the Calcutta swimming club and Ordnance factory board building and High Court Sesqui Centenary Building.		
Architectural Style	Revivalist - with Gothic influence		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture		
Statement of Significance: An early example of Conscious attempt to create a harmonious architecture with the surrounding.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The High Court of Calcutta, the oldest in India, faced the necessity to expand its main building due to increasing operational constraints. Consequently, a new building was erected in the adjacent vicinity, inaugurated on April 2nd, 1977 by the then Chief Justice, Shankar Prasad Mitra. This extension, originally named the "Centenary Building," coincided with the High Court's centennial celebration, earning it the popular nickname of the Centenary Building.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The building was designed by Sri Biswanath Banerjee, who was the Chief Architect of State PWD at that time. The design aimed to harmonize with the majestic Gothic-style architecture of the nearby Calcutta High Court. It represents an effort to revive and integrate the Gothic Revivalist style. Situated adjacent to the High Court, the building adopts a distinctive V-shape that complements its surroundings and offers a commanding view. Standing at G+3 levels, it incorporates modern amenities. Notably, its projected Gothic arch is a defining feature, inspired by but not directly replicated from the main High Court building, embodying a fascinating and noteworthy concept.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		NA	
Condition Description		Keeping part of the Main Building's architectural symmetry, in addition to various office spaces and a Research and Preservation Centre, it features eight court rooms. Over the years a few more rooms and cubicles have been allocated for the Bar Association, both in the Main building and in the Centenary building, The Mayor’s Court and Supreme Court records are housed in the Research Centre on the second floor of the Centenary Building. The health of the building sounds good, well maintained.	
Name of Surveyor		Dr. Sutapa Joti (Architect)	
Bibliography		http://calcuttahighcourt.gov.in/ , PC:https://commons.wikimedia.org/-CCA-3.0 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcutta_High_Court	

Sr. No. 75		BABYLON APARTMENTS	
			
Past Name	Babylon Apartments		
Address	2/1A&B Alipore, Kolkata 700027		
Geographic Coordinates	22.521911 N, 88.329198 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1988		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Ramesh Kumar Daga, Vijay Agarwal& others		
Property Type	Residential		
Property Sub -type	Apartment (Multi-Storeyed)		
Property Past Use	Residential		
Property Present Use	Residential		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Alipore Residential Area		
Architectural Style	Modern		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture		
	Statement of Significance: Trendsetting design in multi-storeyed apartments of 20 th Century Kolkata by Ar. Dulal Mukherjee. His philosophy of introducing a little green in every built form something rare in high-rise buildings.		
Historical	Low	Architectural	High
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The site is representative of a shift in residential typology from individual bungalows to multi-storeyed apartments. This showcases the socio-cultural changes during this period where families moved away from a joint set up to a nuclear family system.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)		Architect Dulal Mukherjee was awarded this project by few environments' conscious client, to make a high-rise in the middle of a plush locality of the city filled with bungalows. large stepped terrace gardens with solid and void compositions	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		NA	
Condition Description		The structures are well maintained and in a good condition.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		Primary Source: Dulal Mukherjee and Associates, Kolkata	

Additional Photographs: -



Terrace at various levels



Side View





Architectural features



Rear view

PC: Dulal Mukherjee & Associates

Sr. No. 76		KALACHAND TEMPLE	
			
Past Name	Kalachand Temple		
Address	133/2/1, Ramdulal Sarkar Street, Kolkata, West Bengal 700006		
Geographic Coordinates	22.588198 N, 88.366803 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1929		
Ownership	Trust property		
Owner's Name	Naan Family		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Temple		
Property Past Use	Temple		
Property Present Use	Temple		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	Nearby landmark, Bethune School and Azad Hind Bag (Hedua Park)		
Architectural Style	Rajasthani Architecture		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Multiethnicity</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: This remarkable stone temple of Rajasthani style is worth to be noted along with other heritage sites of Kolkata. It displays the multi-ethnicity culture of Kolkata.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	Medium	Technological/Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		The forgotten stone temple of ‘Kalachand’ (the other name of Sri Krishna) located near Hedua, North Kolkata is an amazing intricate carved architectural example of Rajasthani style, less known to the citizen of Kolkata. It is still standing today with pomp and grandeur. The builder of this Kalachand temple belongs to the family of Late Ishwar Chandra Naan of Hedua, who founded ‘Nistarini Kali temple’ in the near vicinity.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		This is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna. Constructed out of stone, features intricate Rajasthani-style carvings that stand out distinctly from Bengal’s prevalent ‘Atchala’ or ‘Nabaratna’ temple styles. The front façade is composed of five bays, with a central gateway providing access to the inner sanctum. Atop the terrace, there is a pavilion that reflects Mughal architectural influences. The gateway's architrave is elegantly decorated with elaborate carvings, and the terrace's parapet is designed with traditional Rajasthani jalis. All decorative elements showcase traditional Indian motifs.	
State of Conservation		Well-maintained. Recently with the initiative of few heritage enthusiasts, the temple is lit with effect lighting, enhancing the grandeur of architecture.	
Threats to property		Nil	
Condition Description		Extremely well	
Name of Surveyor		Sukanya Mitra, (ICOMOS-SBH)	
Bibliography		Primary sources Sukanya Mitra, Indrani Sarkar, Mudar Pathreya	

Additional Photographs: -



Front View



Pavillion at the top





Intricate carving around windows



Ornamental Brackets & multifoliated arch

PC: Mudar Pathreya , Indrani Sarkar

Sr. No. 77		ORIENTAL ASSURANCE			
					
Past Name	Oriental Assurance			History and Evolution	The Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company, established in 1874 in Bombay by Mr. Duncan McLauchlan Slater and a group of affluent Indians, was a pioneering life insurance provider for Indians in the 19th century. Notable founders included Kamrudin Tyabji, Raghunath Narayan Khote, and Jehangir Rustomjee Mody . The company quickly expanded, opening branches in Madras in 1901 and Calcutta in 1914. It was a subsidiary of the Life Insurance Corporation of India from 1956 to 1973. In 2003, the General Insurance Corporation of India's shares were transferred to the central government, making it a public sector insurance company under the Ministry of Finance.
Address	2, Rjendra Prasad Sarani (Clive Row), Kolkata, West Bengal 700001				
Geographic Coordinates	22.577317 N, 88.349904 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1914				
Ownership	Public Sector Undertaking				
Owner's Name	Life Insurance Corporation of India				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Office			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Oriental Assurance Building features a 9-bay-wide frontage, with the central and side bays projecting outward. The central bay displays a pediment on the second floor, featuring what appears to be the Oriental Life Assurance crest: an inverted five-pointed star within a blazing sun, surrounded by flowers. The building has five floors, although the top floor, which appears somewhat dilapidated, may have been added later, possibly without proper authorization. Faux Ionic columns separate the bays, and the ground, first, and second floors are rusticated. The side entrances, located beneath the projecting bays, each have a pediment, and the façade is adorned with intricate stucco ornamentation.
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	On a prime location of B.B.D.BAG, surrounded by many Heritage buildings, next to it is Gillander House.				
Architectural Style	Neo-classical			State of Conservation	At risk.
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Architecture➤ Socio-economic			Threats to property	Neglected precinct. Severely damaged by plantations. Heritage @ Risk.
				Condition Description	Poor. Vegetation growth are seen all over the building causing damage to the building.Requires attention for immediate action for its Conservation
Statement of Significance: The ‘Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company’ was a pioneer company of 19th century, in the field of Life Insurance policy for Indians. In 2003, it became a public sector company owned by GOI. It is one of the beautiful building in BBD Bag					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	Medium	Technological/Scientific	high		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	Front photo-PC: Kamalika Bose http://double-dolphin.blogspot.com/-Concrete Paparazzi by Dipanjan Ghosh

Additional Photographs: -



View from Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarani





Architectural features



Huge plantations damaging the building



Architectural features

Sr. No. 78		BALMER LAWRIE & CO			
					
Past Name	Balmer Lawrie & Co			History and Evolution	Balmer Lawrie was founded by two enterprising Scotsmen Stephen George Balmer and Alexander Lawrie . During Pre-Independence era, it dealt with various fields, such as, Merchants, Banking, Army & General Agents, engineering etc., however their major interest was in Tea. Even after Independence, they owned many tea gardens . Imperial Tobacco Company (ITC) in 1952, collaborated with Balmer Lawrie to set up Tribeni Tissues for production of packaging papers for cigarettes. Balmer Lawrie is now a Mini-Ratna-I Public Sector Enterprise , under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GOI. It has grown to a big extent now, and dealing with eight different units, like Industrial Packaging, Greases & Lubricants, Chemicals, Travel & Vacations, Infrastructure, Logistics Services, Cold Chain and Refinery & Oil Field Services, with offices spread across the country and abroad.
Address	21, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata- 700001				
Geographic Coordinates	22.5757159N, 88.3459661E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1924				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Balmer Laurie & Co.				
Property Type	Building			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	The Balmer Lawrie, originally a four-story building with a rectangular plan, features a Neo-Baroque façade. The front is divided into six bays: the two end bays project with a large semi-circular arch on the ground floor, flat arches on the first and second floors, and narrow windows with Ionic pilasters on the third floor, topped with a circular porthole windows and segmental pediment. The four central, recessed bays display varying arch styles: semi-circular on the third floor, segmental on the second, and flat on the ground and first floors. Rusticated ground and first floors and ornate European elements like keystones, cornices with dentils, and balusters complete the design.
Property Sub -type	Commercial				
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at Netaji Subhas Road at BBD Bag, next to RBI. Surrounded by many heritage buildings.				
Architectural Style	Neo-Baroque			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Socio-economic➤ Architecture➤ Multi-ethnicity			Threats to property	Inappropriate additions and alterations
				Condition Description	While the façades of the structure is in a fairly good condition with some issues like addition of large signage boards, the interiors of each floor show multiple inappropriate additions and alterations in incongruous materials.
Statement of Significance: One of the most prominent business houses of 20 th century. Balmer Lawrie is a Mini-Ratna-I Public Sector Enterprise , under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It was founded by two Scottish men .					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Economical	High	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	https://www.balmerlawrie.com/ , https://en.wikipedia.org/



Additional Photographs: -





Front View



view before (Archival Photo)

Sr. No. 79		COAL BHAWAN			
					
Past Name	Coal India Limited			History and Evolution	Coal has been part of India's history since time immemorial. It was first commercially mined in 1774 from Raniganj coalfield, West Bengal. The adoption of unscientific mining practices and poor working conditions of labour in some of the private coal mines was the concern for the Government in the Post- Independence era. Central Government under Indira Gandhi’s administration nationalized the private coal mines. The nationalization was done in two phases-first phase was in 1971-72 and the second one in 1973. Then onwards it was renamed as Coal India Ltd (1975) and continued its headquarters at Kolkata on the same building i.e. Coal Bhawan since then.
Address	10, Netaji Subhas Road, BBD Bag (Dalhousie Square), Kolkata, West Bengal 700001				
Geographic Coordinates	22.576105 N, 88.349231 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1904				
Ownership	Public				
Owner’s Name	Government of India				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The Coal Bhawan is rectangular in plan, G+3 stories high. The building has a gabled tower like structure on one end of the front façade. On the other end, the façade takes a curvilinear form rising up like a tower with a dome. Between the two ends are five bays with arched window openings on the upper floors. On the ground floor, the bay with the gable above has an ornamental entrance.
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located in BBD Bag (Dalhousie Square) on Netaji Subhash Road amongst dense commercial settlements, near Gillander House and Martin & Co Office and opposite to Reserve Bank of India.				
Architectural Style	Mixed- with influence of European Architecture			State of Conservation	Poor
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio-economic</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>			Threats to property	Lack of regular maintenance
				Condition Description	The façade of the structure has been altered substantially. There are inappropriate additions and alterations in the interiors too.
Historical	High	Architectural	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-economical	High	Final Grade	IIA		

Sr. No. 80		GILLANDER HOUSE	
			
Past Name	Gillander House		
Address	8, Netaji Subhas Road , Kolkata - 700 001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.576612 N, 88.349103 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1909		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Original owner- F. M. Gillanders & G. C. Arbuthnot. Present Owner- Kothari Group of companies		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Commercial		
Property Past Use	Office		
Property Present Use	Office		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	A prime location in BBD Bag (Dalhousie Square) area, next to Coal Bhavan. Situated at the crossing of N.S. Road and Clive Row. Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Reserve Bank of India, Writers' Building are in the near vicinity.		
Architectural Style	Revivalist- a combination of Neo-classical with Art- Deco style- precursor to Modern		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Architecture</div> <div>➤ Socio- economic</div> <div>➤ Multi-ethnicity</div>		
Statement of Significance: Architectural landmark and a prestigious headquarter of Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co- one of the firms which still continues its legacy of trading in Kolkata since early 20 th century.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	Good	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. Ltd. (GACL) originated as a partnership firm since 1935, started by F. M. Gillanders and G. C. Arbuthnot of Scottish origin. It became part of Kothari Group of Companies in the late sixties. Gillander House , one of the famous buildings in Calcutta recognized for its legacy of business and architecture. It is the headquarter of Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co headed by Mr. A.K. Kothari. The firm is one of the very few original founders of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce still operating under its original name. The building houses multiple offices at the prime location of Calcutta.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		Designed by British architect Harry Stuart Goodhart-Rendela , the Gillander House is a four storied building with a curved front façade, at the junction of two streets, flanked on each side by circular towers with a dome atop, flanked on either side. The rusticated ground floor has grand semi-circular arches, the central one forming a gateway with an ornamental iron gate. The first floor has a row of rectangular window openings surrounded by moulded bands. The second floor has a row of three narrow windows without any ornamentation. Above this, on the top floor is a projected balcony supported on pairs of ornamental brackets supporting twin columns and a decorative railing. The ground floor and top floor is clad with sand stone. The two circular side bays, which have staircases within, have vertical bands running down the façade, with each bay having a narrow rectangular window.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		No threats visible at present	
Condition Description		Good	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar	
Bibliography		http://double-dolphin.blogspot.com/ https://www.gillandersarbuthnot.com/	

Additional Photographs: -



Front View (2023)



A Thoroughfare



The Gate



Lionhead on Gate



Staircase Tower





The brackets







The grand arched stone cladded Gateway


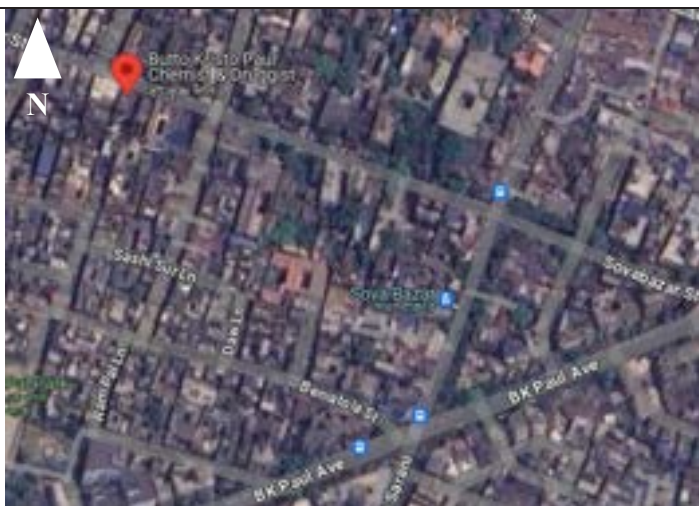


Archival Photo (PC: Purano Kolkata r Golpo-fb)

Sr. No. 81		MARTIN BURN LIMITED			
<div></div>					
Past Name	Martin, Burn & Co.				
Address	1, R.N. Mookherjee Road (Mission Row), Kolkata, West Bengal 700001				
Geographic Coordinates	22.572330 N, 88.351539 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1946				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Original Owner- Sir Rajen Mookherjee Present Owner – Mr. Kedarnath Fatepuria				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial- Office				
Property Past Use	Commercial- Office				
Property Present Use	Commercial- Office				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	In the Central Business District (CBD) area of Kolkata i.e. B.B.D. Bag, surrounded by many heritage buildings.				
Architectural Style	Art-Deco				
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Architecture</div><div>➤ Socio- Economic-Associated Value</div></div>				
	Statement of Significance: one of the most significant office buildings of a renowned business group, namely Marti Burn Co. Associated with three iconic personalities, like, Industrialist Sir R.N. Mookherjee, Sir Biren Mookherjee and philanthropist Lady Ranu Mookherje.				
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	IIA		
				Bibliography	Rana, T. (2000) <i>Mukherjee's of Martin Burn- A forgotten Legend</i> https://www.martinburnltd.com/ ,

Sr. No. 82		UCO BANK	
			
Past Name	UCO Bank		
Address	10 BTM Sarani (Brabourne Road), BBD Bag Kolkata - 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.574911 N, 88.351949 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1943		
Ownership	UCO Bank		
Owner's Name	UCO Bank		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Office		
Property Past Use	Office		
Property Present Use	Office		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The building is located near Tea Board on Brabourne Road. There are Radha Bazar Clock Market on the beside this building. Between Tea Board and this UCO Bank head office building there is road named Babu Tarapada Mukherjee Sarani (BTM Sarani).		
Architectural Style	Modern		
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- Economic</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		
Statement of Significance: It is one of the oldest and major commercial banks in India by maintaining strong presence with its 44 zonal offices spread all over India. It is a commercial bank and a Government of India Undertaking. Established in 1943 by Shri Ghanshyam Das Birla, who is a renowned industrialist during the Quit India Movement of 1942 and it is a part of Aditya Birla group. Now it is a Nationalized Bank.			
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	Medium	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		UCO Bank, which stands for United Commercial Bank, is a Nationalised bank at present. Founded in 1943 by the renowned industrialist Shri Ghanshyam Das Birla during the Quit India Movement to establish the dominance by the Indian business house in the socio- economic sector, UCO Bank is a Government of India undertaking and part of the Aditya Birla group. The bank offers a wide range of banking products and services, with its head office situated in the BBD Bag area. UCO Bank's slogan, "Honours Your Trust," effectively reflects its commitment to meeting the banking needs of its customers.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The building is designed with the modern architectural style of post- Independence era, a multi-storeyed structure, and rectangular in plan. The ground floor façade is covered with mosaic tiles. The first floor is a form of box covered with RCC Jali. From second floor onwards up to six floor it has vertical slanted fins, acting as a sun shading device. The side facades have rows of rectangular window openings. There is minimal ornamentation on these facades.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		NA	
Condition Description		Moderate	
Name of Surveyor		Dr. Sutapa Joti (Architect)	
Bibliography		www.ucobank.com	

Sr. No. 83		VIRGINIA HOUSE			
					
Past Name	Virginia House		History and Evolution	ITC Limited, an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Kolkata, was founded in 1910 as the Imperial Tobacco Company of India Limited. Renamed India Tobacco Company Limited in 1970 and I.T.C. Limited in 1974, it is now known as ITC Limited. On August 24, 1926, the company acquired land at 37 Chowringhee Road, Kolkata, for Rs 310,000. This site became home to "Virginia House," the company's headquarters, completed two years later, and it remains one of Kolkata's most cherished landmarks.	
Address	37, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road Kolkata, West Bengal 700071				
Geographic Coordinates	22.563910 N, 88.351544 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1928				
Ownership	ITC Limited (India Tobacco Company Limited)				
Owner's Name	ITC Limited				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Office		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century built heritage)	Virginia House is a G+4 storied building with a rectangular plan and Neo-Classical façade, featuring seven bays, with the side bays slightly recessed. Each bay includes a rectangular opening bordered by a band. The ground floor displays rustication on all bays, and the side bays of the first three floors also feature rustication. The central bay of the ground floor has a cantilevered portico, while the central bays of the upper floors have balconettes and triangular pediments. The third floor boasts an ornamental frieze and is separated from the top floor by a continuous eave with modillions.	
Property Past Use	Office				
Property Present Use	Office				
State of Protection	Protected.				
Property site and surroundings	It is situated near the Park street metro station on Chowringhee Road (Now Jawahar Lal Nehru Road). American Library is one side of the Virginia House and ITC centre is back of this building.				
Architectural Style	Neo- Classical		State of Conservation	Good, Well maintained	
General Criteria for Listing	<div>➤ Socio- economic</div> <div>➤ Architecture</div>		Threats to property	NA	
			Condition Description	Well maintained. At its rear plot, multi- storied building with modern architecture has come up as an extension due to paucity of space.	
Statement of Significance: The Virginia House has great socio-economic significance due to its association with the Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) and continues to remain their headquarters. ITC is one of the leading conglomerate companies and the largest FMCG Industries in India. The structure also has architectural significance for its Neo-classical façade.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Dr. Sutapa Joti
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I		
				Bibliography	https:// www.itcportal.com/about-itc/profile/history-and-evolution.aspx

Sr. No. 84		B.K.PAL'S MEDICINE SHOP AND HOUSE	
<div></div> <div></div>			
Past Name	Botto Kristo Paul Chemists & Druggist		
Address	92 B, Shobhabazar Street, Chitpur, Kolkata 700005		
Geographic Coordinates	22.597349 N, 88.360191 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1904		
Ownership	Private		
Owner's Name	Boto Krishna Pal		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Mixed use (Commercial and Residential)		
Property Past Use	Shop cum residence		
Property Present Use	Shop cum residence		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Located on Sovabazar Street in North Kolkata surrounded by dense mixed-use settlement.		
Architectural Style	Regional architectural style with Neo - Baroque influence		
General Criteria for Listing	<div><div>➤ Architecture</div><div>➤ Socio- culture</div><div>➤ Socio-economic</div></div>		
Statement of Significance: It is not only a beautiful architectural example, but also possess a rich historical background of Bengali entrepreneurship of 20 th century. It represents high socio-economic and socio-cultural value of the then society.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	High	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio- Cultural	High	Final Grade	I
History and Evolution		This is a Residence cum medicine shop owned by a Bengali business man, Sh Botokrishno Paul , the founder of Kolkata's first Bengali-owned medicine shop, with a pioneering concept of multi-specialty clinic in the early 20th century. On those days I t used to open for 24xdays. His establishment offered services including an eye department, dental section, minor surgery room, laboratory, medical apparatus repair, homeopathy, Ayurveda, and allopathic medicine under one roof. During a malaria epidemic, the business generously distributed their patented ‘Edward Tonic’ for free. They also engaged in international trade with European countries and were listed as one of the top Indian companies in the 1906 UK Encyclopaedia. B.K. Pal also a renowned name as a rich businessman, who owned many properties in and around Kolkata. A major street at North Kolkata renamed after him to pay homage for his charitable works.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The BK Pal House is an elaborate three-story, rectangular structure featuring a traditional layout with a central courtyard dividing the Bahir and Andar Mahal. Its façade blends traditional Indian and European Baroque styles and is organized into three bays. The central bay, wider and double-storied, features verandahs with composite columns, cast iron railings, and a decorative screen. The side bays have Jharokha-style balconies on the upper floors, with Jali and stucco screens and wide sloping eaves on brackets. An ornate pediment with stucco work crowns the central bay. The richly adorned interiors include antique artifacts, grandfather clocks, mirrors, chandeliers, and rare medical books.	
State of Conservation		Good	
Threats to property		Due to age, regular maintenance is required for its preservation.	
Condition Description		The owners are passionate about their heritage and thus the structure is fairly well maintained with minor defects like deterioration of exposed brick masonry in small areas, vegetation growth on cornices.	
Name of Surveyor		Indrani Sarkar.	
Bibliography		Primary Source – Interview with family members of B.K.Pal & Co.	

Additional Photographs: -



*Original Architectural style(Before)
(Archival Photo)*



*Almost maintained with little change (At present)
(Recent View)*



Drawing Room




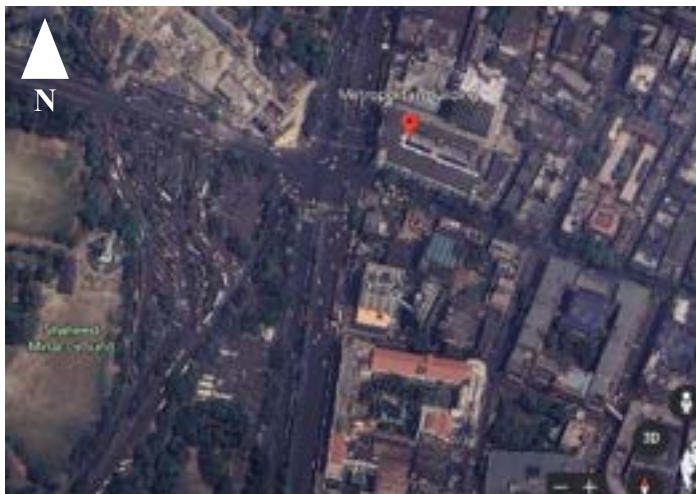
Dining Room



Pal's Library of rare books on medicine



oldest medicine shop (1904- still in running condition)

Sr. No.85		Metropolitan Building /LIC			
					
Past Name	Metropolitan Building			History and Evolution	The building, originally housing the well-known Whiteway & Laidlaw Departmental Store during the British era, built at Dorina Crossing under the ownership of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1950, post-independence. Consequently, it became widely known as the Metropolitan Building. Following the merger of Metropolitan Insurance with the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the building has since been under LIC's management. The then famous Whiteway & Laidlaw departmental store was located here which was subsequently taken over by the Central Cottage Industry Emporium, after Independence - became a popular destination and landmark in Kolkata's Esplanade area. After being damaged by a fire in 1991, restoration work on the building commenced in 2006 and was completed in 2011 and re-opened for public.
Address	140, S.N. Banerjee Road, Dharmatala, Kolkata -700013				
Geographic Coordinates	22.563910 N, 88.351533 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1905				
Ownership	Public				
Owner's Name	Life Insurance Corporation				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Commercial cum residential			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The L-shaped building on a corner plot is widely recognized for its graceful, iconic corner clock tower with a domed roof. Notable features include rustication on the ground floor and a semicircular arched arcaded veranda on the first floor. The facade is enhanced by protruding semicircular verandas with round columns and Corinthian capitals under triangular pediments at the centre, breaking the monotony of the first, second, and third floors. The parapets on the roof and verandas are adorned with 'kalasha', a distinctive element of Kolkata mansions. The building was built by Mackintosh, Burn Ltd.
Property Past Use	Whiteway Laidlaw Departmental Stores on ground and first floor, rest were residential				
Property Present Use	Cottage Industries Emporium, shops, stores, offices, residences etc.				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	A landmark building of the city at a prime location at a corner plot at the junction of J. L. Nehru Road (Chowringhee Road) and S. N. Banerjee Road (Dharmotala Street) i.e. Esplanade				
Architectural Style	Neo-Classical			State of Conservation	Fair
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture			Threats to property	Lack of maintenance. This iconic building's rich potential is underutilized. An appropriate and successful adaptive reuse to this building could provide a critical model for Calcutta.
				Condition Description	After a fire hazard in 1991, Architect Dulal Mukherjee was appointed in 2006 to restore the building, focusing on the façade and upgrading services to prevent hazards. Due to tenant's non-cooperation, restoration took long but was completed in 2011.
Statement of Significance: one of the best architectural examples of Kolkata. A landmark example of Neo- classic architecture. One of the classiest stores in the city, and perhaps in Asia, White-away Laidlaw was once housed in this building.					
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Associational	Good	Technological/ Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	Courtesy: Dulal Mukherjee and Associates https://www.wmf.org/project/metropolitanbuilding

Additional Photographs: -



Before Restoration-2006 (PC: <httpswww.wikiwand.com>)



After restoration -2011



Corner Clock Tower







Central bay (before Restoration)





Central bay(after Restoration)

(PC: <https://www.wmf.org/project/metropolitan-building>)

Sr. No. 86		KOLKATA FIRE BRIGADE HEADQUARTER			
					
Past Name	Calcutta Fire Brigade			History and Evolution	Calcutta’s fire services, the oldest in India at about 190 years old, began with five imported fire engines—three horse-drawn and two man-driven—after they were brought under the Calcutta Corporation in 1871. Initially, the Calcutta Fire Brigade had a 12-mile jurisdiction from Lalbazar. Until 1893, it was managed by the Calcutta Municipality commissioner, after which control shifted to the police commissioner. Over time, the service has evolved into a Multi-Hazard Disaster Response Force. Today, it comprises about 8,000 personnel and over 350 fire appliances, handling a wide range of emergency situations. It is one of the major civic amenities introduced in 20 C for the citizen of Kolkata.
Address	127, Chittaranjan Ave, Kolutolla, College Square, Kolkata, West Bengal 700073				
Geographic Coordinates	22.578011 N, 88.360180 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1921				
Ownership	Public				
Owner’s Name	West Bengal Fire Service				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Civic Amenities /Infrastructure			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building spans three floors and prominently incorporates classical architectural features, with a symmetrical design throughout. It features a central pediment and columns on the front façade, along with casement windows and visible louvers. Palladian architecture is evident in the partial use of balusters in the parapet. The ground floor includes flat-arched openings for fire engine parking, and the exterior is finished with sandblasted concrete. Additionally, brackets are positioned beneath the parapet wall and along the pediment.
Property Past Use	Civic Amenities /Infrastructure				
Property Present Use	Civic Amenities /Infrastructure				
State of Protection	Protected				
Property site and surroundings	Located centrally on a major Road Chittaranjan Avenue at Central Kolkata. Nearby landmark is Mohammed Ali Park				
Architectural Style	Neo-Classical			State of Conservation	Well Maintained
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Rapid Urbanisation- Civic Amenities			Threats to property	None
Statement of Significance: It provides fire services to the entire City since British era and the first fire station in India.				Condition Description	Well Maintained
Historical	High	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar, Oindrila Chakraborty, Sagar Das, Atrayee Majumder
Associational	Medium	Technological/Scientific	High		
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	I	Bibliography	https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/brigade-heyday/cid/1277702

Sr. No. 87		TALA TANK					
<div></div> <div>PC : Anandabazar Patrika(File picture)</div>				<div></div>			
Past Name		Tala Tank		History and Evolution The Tala tank, is a water tower in Kolkata. Construction started in 1909 and it was inaugurated in May 1911 by Edward Norman Baker , the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. The tank, which is owned by Kolkata Municipal Corporation, is fed by Palta Water Works near Barrackpore. More than 113 years after construction, the tower remains the major water supplier to the city of Kolkata. It has survived multiple calamities including the 1934 Nepal–India earthquake, World War II Japanese bombings from 1942 /1944 and Cyclone Amphan in 2020.			
Address		71, Barrackpore Trunk Road, Paikpara, Kolkata, West Bengal 700037					
Geographic Coordinates		22.610141 N, 88.378880 E					
Date/ Period of Construction		1909- 1911					
Ownership		Public					
Owner’s Name		Kolkata Municipal Corporation					
Property Type		Overhead Water Reservoir					
Property Sub -type		Infrastructure		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20th century built heritage) The water tower, 98 m wide and 4.5 m deep, which is claimed to be the world's largest overhead water reservoir, covers 3–4 acres (12,000–16,000 m2), has a capacity of 9.9 million imperial gallons (45,000 cubic metres), stands 110 ft (34 m) off the ground and weighs 44 thousand tonnes – including water – at maximum capacity. This steel structure has 49 four-legged trussed grouped columns. The bottom of the reservoir rests on wooden sleepers above the columns with no bolts or welding. The tank has four individually isolated chambers and a single pipeline for source from Palta and supply to the city. The steel was imported from the United Kingdom.			
Property Past Use		Water Supply					
Property Present Use		Water Supply					
State of Protection		Protected					
Property site and surroundings		Located at Paikpara / Belgachia in North Kolkata Nearest landmark is Tala Park and Tala bridge.		State of Conservation Restored recently with a project cost of Rs. 100 Cr. by the joint effort of Central & State Govt, WB.			
Architectural Style		Modern- Engineering Marvel					
General Criteria for Listing		➤ Rapid Urbanization-Civic Amenities		Threats to property No threats visible at present. Well- maintained.			
Statement of Significance: The landmark overhead Tala water tank in north Kolkata, built by the British 113 years ago to provide treated water to Kolkata's population and which still supplies 3.6 crore litres of potable water every day to the city.				Condition Description In 2016, experts from IIT Kharagpur and Jadavpur University identified structural weakness, leading to its restoration plan. The renovation work that started in 2018 and was completed in March 2023, included structural member replacement, strengthening of the compartments with the wooden lid at the top of the tank and the base being replaced by MS Plates to ensure longevity. About 9,000 litre of special type-food grade epoxy paint has been used in the interior.			
Historical	High	Architectural	high	Name of Surveyor Om Dayal College of Architecture- Dipro Mukherjee, Tania Karmakar, Oindrila Chakraborty, Anubhav Roy Sarker, Atrayee Majumder, Sagar Das			
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	high				
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	Protected	Bibliography www.wikipedia.com , https://dbpedia.org/ , https://www.millenniumpost.in , https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/			

Sr. No. 88		HOWRAH BRIDGE/RABINDRA SETU	
<div></div> <div></div>			
Past Name	Howrah Bridge		
Address	Kolkata, West Bengal 700001		
Geographic Coordinates	22.585593 N, 88.346707 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1941-43		
Ownership	Public		
Owner's Name	The Calcutta Port Trust		
Property Type	Bridge		
Property Sub -type	Infrastructure		
Property Past Use	Transportation and communication		
Property Present Use	Transportation and communication		
State of Protection	Protected		
Property site and surroundings	Howrah Station in the west. Burrabazar in the east.		
Architectural Style	Modern -Engineering Marvel		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Rapid Urbanisation -Infrastructure		
Statement of Significance: Howrah Bridge is one of the iconic landmark infrastructures set on Kolkata by the British administration, to connect Kolkata and Howrah establishing easy transportation between these two cities. It is Kolkata's one of the oldest and structurally significant bridges.			
Historical	High	Architectural	High
Associational	Low	Technological/Scientific	High
Socio-Cultural	Medium	Final Grade	Protected
History and Evolution	The earlier pontoon bridge was constructed in October 1874 and handed over to Port Commissioners who managed and maintained it. The new Howrah bridge was commissioned in 1943 to replace the earlier pontoon structure. Designed by Sir Bradford Leslie , it had a total length of 1528 feet between centres of abutments and provided a 48 feet roadway and two 7 feet footways. The bridge, although still better known as the Howrah Bridge, was renamed Rabindra Setu , after the great poet Sri Rabindranath Tagore, in 1965. It had a history of openable mechanism from centre to pass the larger ships, but now it has been stopped as the navigability of the River Hooghly gone down for big ships.		
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	This is a Cantilever Bridge constructed with girders and trusses and riveted joints instead of nut-bolts. Spanning 172 metres across the suspended members and a central span of 460 metres, it is one of the longest cantilever bridges of the world. The deck is made of stringers, cross girders and beams. The steel and concrete pillars at both ends support the carriageway and this bridge, an iconic structure even today, acts as the gateway to Kolkata. Installation of MS railing with GI safety wire, footpath with paver blocks is added at later date for its beautification. Its mesmerizing view with illumination at night is a picturesque scene of the city.		
State of Conservation	Good		
Threats to property	None		
Condition Description	Under the maintenance of Kolkata Port Trust and PWD.		
Name of Surveyor	Students of Om Dayal College of Architecture Rishi Pal, Soumili Banerjee, Moulima Roy Sroddha Datta Banik		
Bibliography	https://www.myhmc.in https://www.india.com		

Additional Photographs: -



Howrah Bridge/Rabindra Setu over Hooghly river

PC:Indrani Sarkar





Unique design and a structural marvel

PC:Indrani Sarkar



Night View of Howrah Bridge

PC: Wikimedia Commons- CCA-SA-3.0

Sr. No. 89		DUTTA BARI, Dorjeepara			
					
Past Name	Dutta Bari		History and Evolution	Originally, this family were one of the settlers of Adi- Saptagram and used to do business of Suta/Cotton with East India Co along with Sets and Byasacks. Later on, engaged in Export / Import business of Readymade Garments with South Africa in the Pre- Independence era. Now they have diversified with Interior decoration.	
Address	8B, Jagannath Sur Lane, Dorjeepara, Kolkata, West Bengal 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.593952 N, 88.368256 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1905-10				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Nabakumar Dutta & his sons				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Residential		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	A three storied building with many ornamental architectural features, like arched windows, ornamental cornices, parapets, portico, terraces, balconies etc. Like most of the residential buildings of North Kolkata, this house also has a small courtyard inside surrounded by veranda all round supported on C.I. Columns. The verandas are also having C.I. Railings with wooden lattice. Windows are also typical with wooden adjustable louvered shutters. The building external faces are beautifully adorned with red exposed bricks.	
Property Past Use	Residential				
Property Present Use	Residential				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at Dorjeepara area of North Kolkata on a corner plot of a narrow winding lane. One of the beautiful houses of the street.				
Architectural Style	Bengal Baroque		State of Conservation	Very Good	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture		Threats to property	Nil	
Statement of Significance: Dorjeepara signifies typical characteristic of town planning and socio-culture of North Kolkata population since the inception of Kolkata as a city. This building is one of those, and has a heritage value for its architecture and history.			Condition Description	Well-maintained	
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High		
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific			
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar, P.I.
			Bibliography	Primary Source: Interview with family members	



Additional Photographs: -



View of Courtyard



Front view

Sr. No. 90		ROY BARI, Dorjeepara			
					
Past Name	Roy Bari			History and Evolution	Originally the family belonged to Adi Saptagram, however at a later date they migrated to Kolkata in search of fortune. The founder of this house Girin Roy was the founder member of Calcutta Stock Exchange. They were the Exporter of Chutney and owner of Bengal Bonded Ware house.
Address	87A, Masjidbari Street, Dorjeepara, Kolkata, West Bengal 700006				
Geographic Coordinates	22.594510 N, 88.368500 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1929				
Ownership	Private				
Owner's Name	Late Girin Roy				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Residential			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	This house is built to a long stretch of the street with a unique architectural style. It appeals with the variety of different style of ground floor a series of windows ornamental framed stucco work and first floor with a series of columns. There is a large courtyard inside with a thakurdalan. The thakurdalan is also very unique in style, with 3bays of multi-folded arches and columns having Indian motifs.
Property Past Use	Residential				
Property Present Use	Residential				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	Located at Dorjeepara area of North Kolkata on a narrow lane. One of the beautiful houses of the street.				
Architectural Style	Colonial influence			State of Conservation	Well-maintained
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architecture			Threats to property	Not really
				Condition Description	It is being rented out occasionally as a wedding destination to make it economically viable for its maintenance and survival.
Statement of Significance: Dorjeepara signifies typical characteristic of town planning and socio-culture of North Kolkata population since the inception of Kolkata as a city. This building is one of those, and has a heritage value for its architecture and history					
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High		
Associational	Medium	Technological/ Scientific	Medium	Name of Surveyor	Indrani Sarkar
Socio-Cultural	High	Final Grade		Bibliography	Primary Source: Field survey Kolikata r Rajpoth



Additional Photographs: -


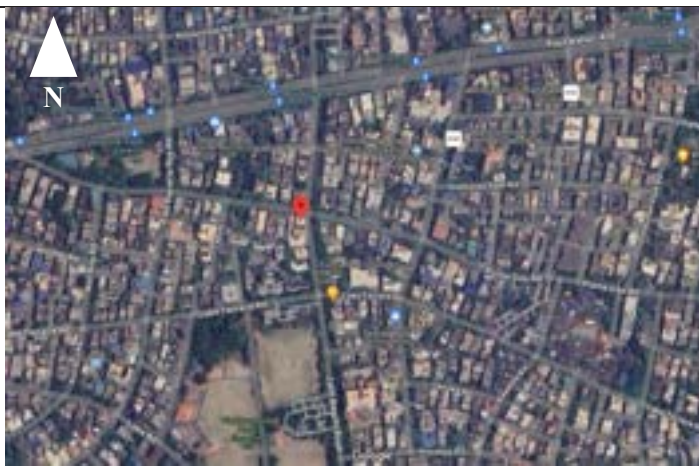



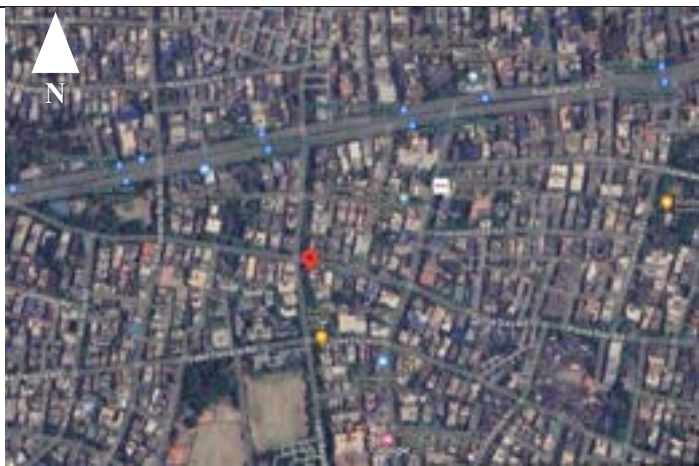
Thakurdalan with Indian motifs



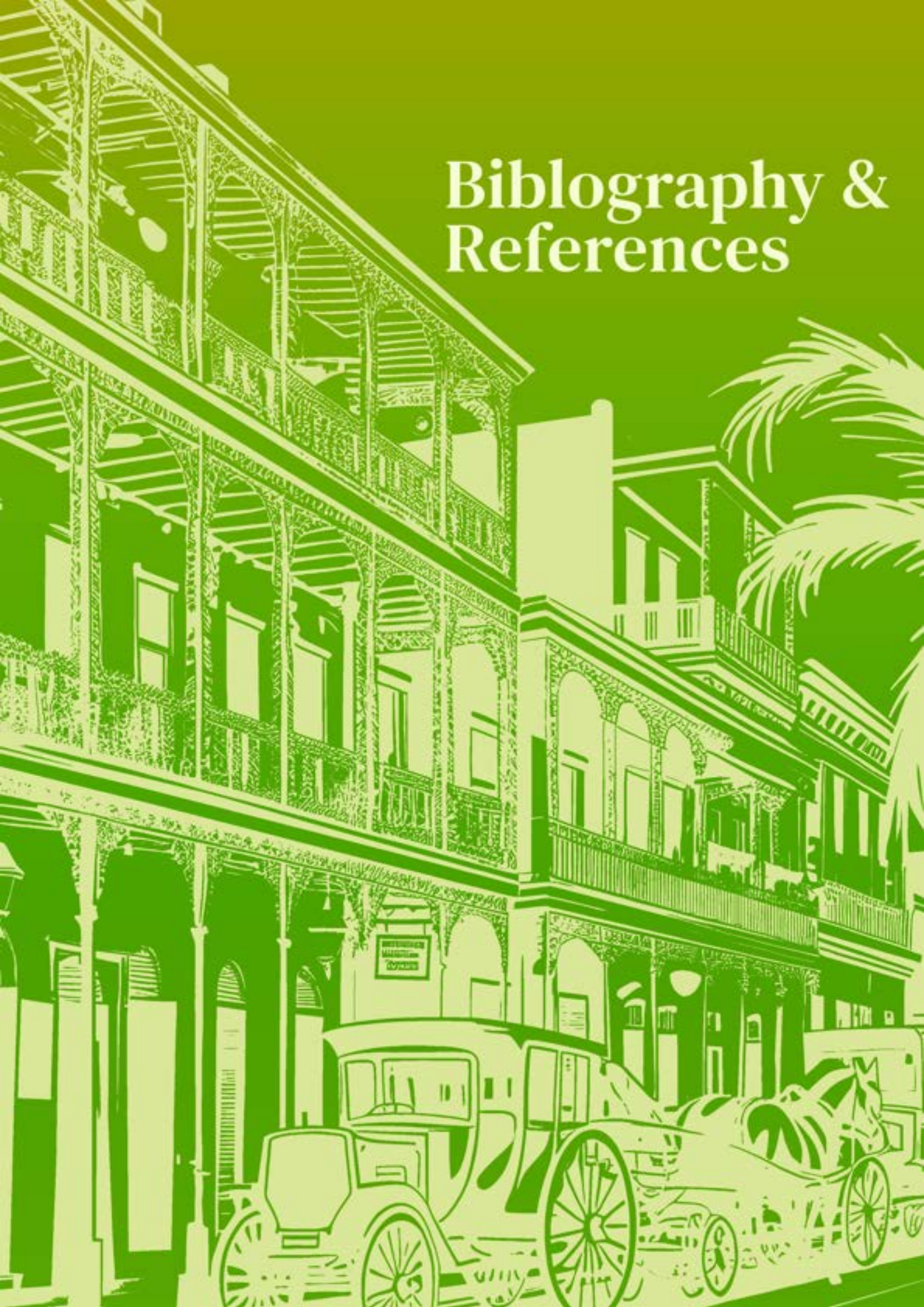
View from courtyard

Sr. No. 91		GOPAL BHAVAN	
			
Past Name	Not Known		
Address	177B, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007		
Geographic Coordinates	22.582931 N, 88.361743 E		
Date/ Period of Construction	1926		
Ownership	Private (Multiple)		
Owner’s Name	Not Known		
Property Type	Building		
Property Sub -type	Mixed Use		
Property Past Use	Residential and commercial		
Property Present Use	Residential and commercial		
State of Protection	Unprotected		
Property site and surroundings	The building is located to the western side of CR Avenue surrounded by dense mixed-use settlements.		
Architectural Style	Hybrid architecture style with Neo -classical and Baroque elements superimposed with native Indian features		
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architectural style		
	Statement of Significance: The Gopal Bhawan is a significant structure of the 20 th century built on the Chittaranjan Avenue in Kolkata, showing a mix of traditional and European architectural elements.		
Historical	Low	Architectural	High
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	Medium
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	
History and Evolution		Constructed in 1926, this building was commissioned by Rameshwar Nathany , a prominent investor and businessman of Marwari community. The Nathany family, who were well-off and connected to the jute industry in Calcutta, also lent money to European companies like Jardine. Gopal Bhavan served as both their family home and their commercial establishment. However, as the family grew and their wealth dwindled, they eventually left the property, and Gopal Bhavan has since been sold to new owners.	
Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)		The four-story building has a rectangular plan with two symmetrical courtyards on either side of the central bay. The ground floor features continuous shopfronts, while the upper façade is divided into five broad bays. The first and fifth bays each have verandas with columns and decorative capitals. The central bay is highlighted by four columns plus a continuous veranda on the third floor. The top floor boasts ornamental brackets and projecting eaves, with decorative pediment. ‘Gopal Bhawan’ is a ‘Bengal Baroque’ building in this stretch, showing a mix of traditional and European architectural elements. A striking element of this building is, the idols of ‘Ganesha’ with ‘Riddhi and Siddhi’ located on either side on a typical European ornamental pediment atop.	
State of Conservation		Poor	
Threats to property		Developmental pressures, lack of maintenance, additions and alterations in incongruous materials.	
Condition Description		The part of the building has been altered with structural glazing, a material and the style is totally mismatch with the Baroque style. Thereby mutilated the façade and the heritage character of the building is at risk.	
Name of Surveyor		Sohini Pyne	
Bibliography		https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/places/if-you-knew-calcutta-the-way-i-know-calcutta/cid/1978097	

Sr. No. 92		RESIDENCE AT 259/2, PURNA DAS ROAD			
					
Past Name	NA			History and Evolution	The house was built by Mr. SK Das, a Barrister, in the 1960s-70s. The exact date is unknown. His family hailed from Midnapore District. The Das family continues to live at this residence till date.
Address	259/2, Purna Das Road, Kolkata, 700029				
Geographic Coordinates	22.517358 N, 88.360065 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1960s-70s				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Das Family				
Property Type	Building				
Property Sub -type	Residential			Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The structure is rectangular in plan and four storied. It is built in the Art Deco style having balconies on the north-east and south-east corners with rounded or streamlined edges. The balconies have monolithic circular RCC columns. There are chajjas known as eyebrows with streamlined edges running continuously above the balconies and window openings. Railings with geometric patterns are present at the balconies. There is no ornamentation on the façade. There is patterned Terrazzo flooring on the interior.
Property Past Use	Residence				
Property Present Use	Residence				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located at the junction of Purna Das Road and Jatin Bagchi Road. It is surrounded by three-four storey residential structures of a similar vintage.				
Architectural Style	Art Deco			State of Conservation	Good
General Criteria for Listing	Architectural style			Threats to property	Developmental pressures due to high real estate values
				Condition Description	The structure is a fairly good condition. There are no noticeable defects or additions and alterations on the front façade. The interiors were not accessible.
Statement of Significance: The Art Deco houses on Purna Das Road is testimony to the wide prevalence of the Art Deco style in Kolkata between the 1940s and 1980s. It reflects a shift from the traditional architectural style of Kolkata to a more contemporary style and is a result of the changing socio-political and economic times and increased urbanization in the city.					
Historical	Low	Architectural	High		
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	IIB	Bibliography	Primary sources

Sr. No. 93		CHARU KUTIR- 251/B, P.D. Road			
					
Past Name	NA		History and Evolution	While the history of the house is largely unknown, the house can be said to have been built between the 1940s – 1970s.	
Address	251/B, Purna Das Road, Kolkata, 700029				
Geographic Coordinates	22.517316 N, 88.360378 E				
Date/ Period of Construction	1960-70				
Ownership	Private				
Owner’s Name	Not known				
Property Type	Building		Architectural Merit (mentioning special features of 20 th century-built heritage)	The building is a G+2 storied structure in the Art Deco style. Both the north and west facades have single bays with a rectangular balcony on the first and second floors. The balcony has curvilinear or streamlined edges. Emphasizing its position as a corner building, the building also curves between the north and west facades and has large circular balconies on the first and second floor at the junction of the two streets. All the balconies have railings with geometric patterns. The ground floor of the building has rows of rectangular windows with louvered timber shutters. The main entrance to the building has bands surrounding the door with an Art Deco motif above. There is minimal ornamentation on the façade of the structure.	
Property Sub -type	Mixed Use				
Property Past Use	Residential				
Property Present Use	Residential and Commercial				
State of Protection	Unprotected				
Property site and surroundings	The building is located at the junction of Purna Das Road and Jatin Bagchi Road. It is surrounded by three-four storey residential structures of a similar vintage.				
Architectural Style	Art Deco		State of Conservation	Fair	
General Criteria for Listing	➤ Architectural style		Threats to property	Additions and alterations due to change in use, developmental pressures due to high real estate values	
Statement of Significance: The Art Deco houses on Purna Das Road reflects a shift from the traditional architectural style of Kolkata to a more contemporary style and is a result of the changing socio-political and economic times and increased urbanization in the city.			Condition Description	The structure is fairly well maintained with the ground floor having alterations in interior floor and ceiling finishes. There has been addition of a porch with a large shopfront signage.	
Historical	Medium	Architectural	High	Name of Surveyor	Sohini Pyne
Associational	Low	Technological/ Scientific	Medium		
Socio-Cultural	Low	Final Grade	IIA	Bibliography	Primary sources

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ICOMOS India has designated Kolkata's 20th-century historic framework as a tool to assess built heritage from 1900 to 2000, spanning from the colonial era to the post-independence modern age.

This period marked Kolkata's vibrant transformation from colonial influence to a hub of cultural and national movements across political, religious, social, educational, and business domains. Kolkata stands as a living heritage, exemplifying the profound impact of these developments on the city and their significance in India's freedom struggle and nation-building efforts.

This research aims to serve as a tool to advocate for the preservation of both 19th and 20th-century heritage assets, highlighting their significant cultural value amidst the pressures of modern development. It includes activities such as field survey, documentation, publication, seminars (both online & offline) and workshops collaborating with academic institutions to raise public awareness.