



Celebration of World Heritage Day

April 18, 2023

Integration of Built, Natural and Intangible Heritage of West Bengal

ICOMOS India





TM



An ICOMOS India Publication

Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas

Focus West Bengal



GENESIS & BACKGROUND



2019 :
WEST BENGAL HERITAGE
COMMISSION

declares

COOCHBEHAR & NABADWIP
FIRST HERITAGE CITIES

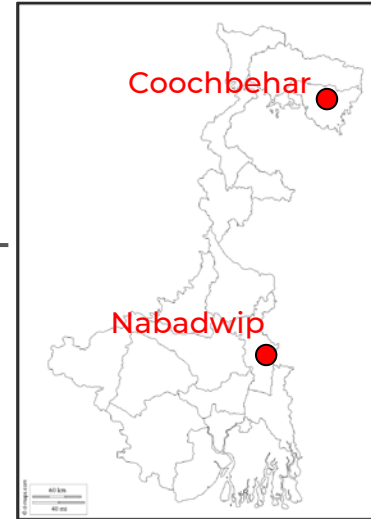
Both the cities have a rich cultural and historical past

Built , Natural & Cultural Heritage

Heritage Plan & Management

considered as a part of

Land Use Development Control Plan (LUDCP)



GENESIS & BACKGROUND

State level organisations for heritage protection and preservation :

- State Archeology Department
- West Bengal Heritage Commission
- Kolkata Municipal Corporation

Existing legal framework for heritage resources in West Bengal

- Grading of heritage structures lack of rational approach for grading
- Heritage Precinct is mentioned in the document but no legal status and
- Economic and Legal issues

GENESIS & BACKGROUND



KOLKATA
HERITAGE AREAS AND
PRECINCTS

Sir Stuart Hogg Market
New Market of today



Park Street

GENESIS & BACKGROUND



KOLKATA
HERITAGE AREAS AND
PRECINCTS

Art Deco
South Kolkata

Darzeepara
North Kolkata



GENESIS & BACKGROUND

Challenge : Planning for Special Heritage Areas

- to carefully preserve the historical heritage and cultural diversity
- to cater to contemporary aspirations

Protection of heritage

should not end up in converting a living heritage in a 'museum city'.

Heritage as an integral part of development

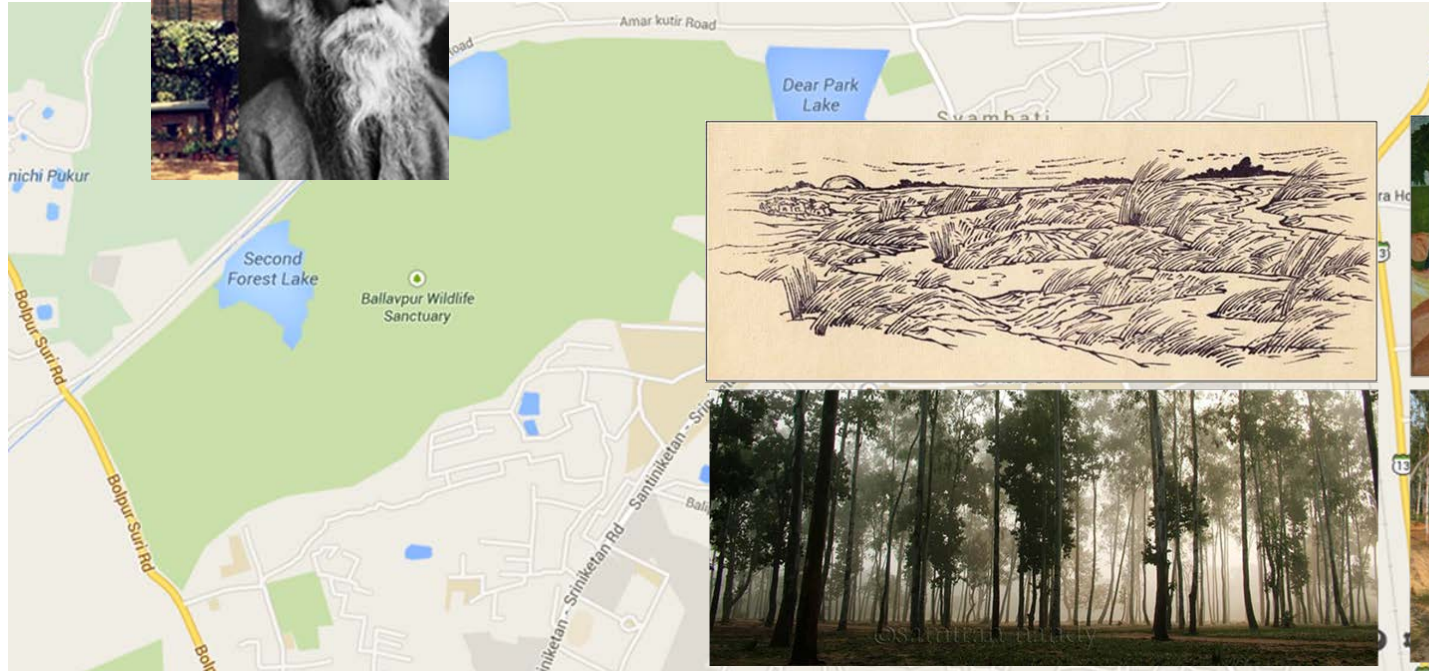
- What can be the role of our heritage resources, both tangible and intangible?
- How can we adapt the cultural institutions - formal and informal, the built legacy and living heritage towards a sustainable goal and a resilient future?

GENESIS & BACKGROUND

2014

A project by WB State Urban Development Department
WHAT IS KHOAI ? HOW TO DEFINE KHOAI ?

SANTINIKETAN: VISVA-BHARATI & KHOAI
A Tentative WHS - Cultural & Natural Heritage

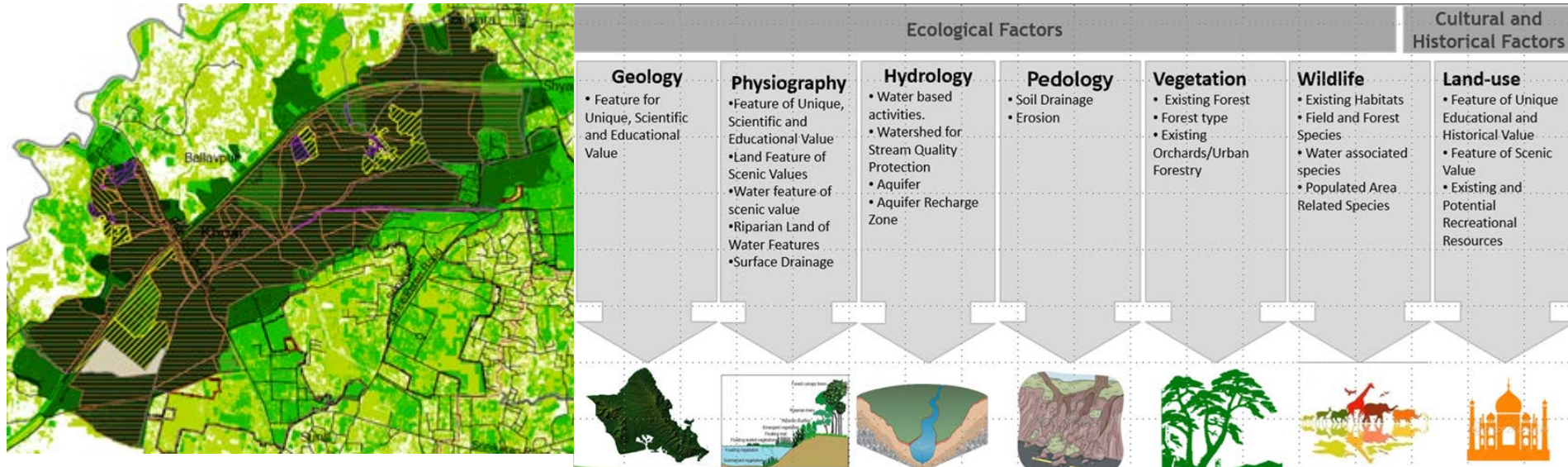


GENESIS & BACKGROUND

2014

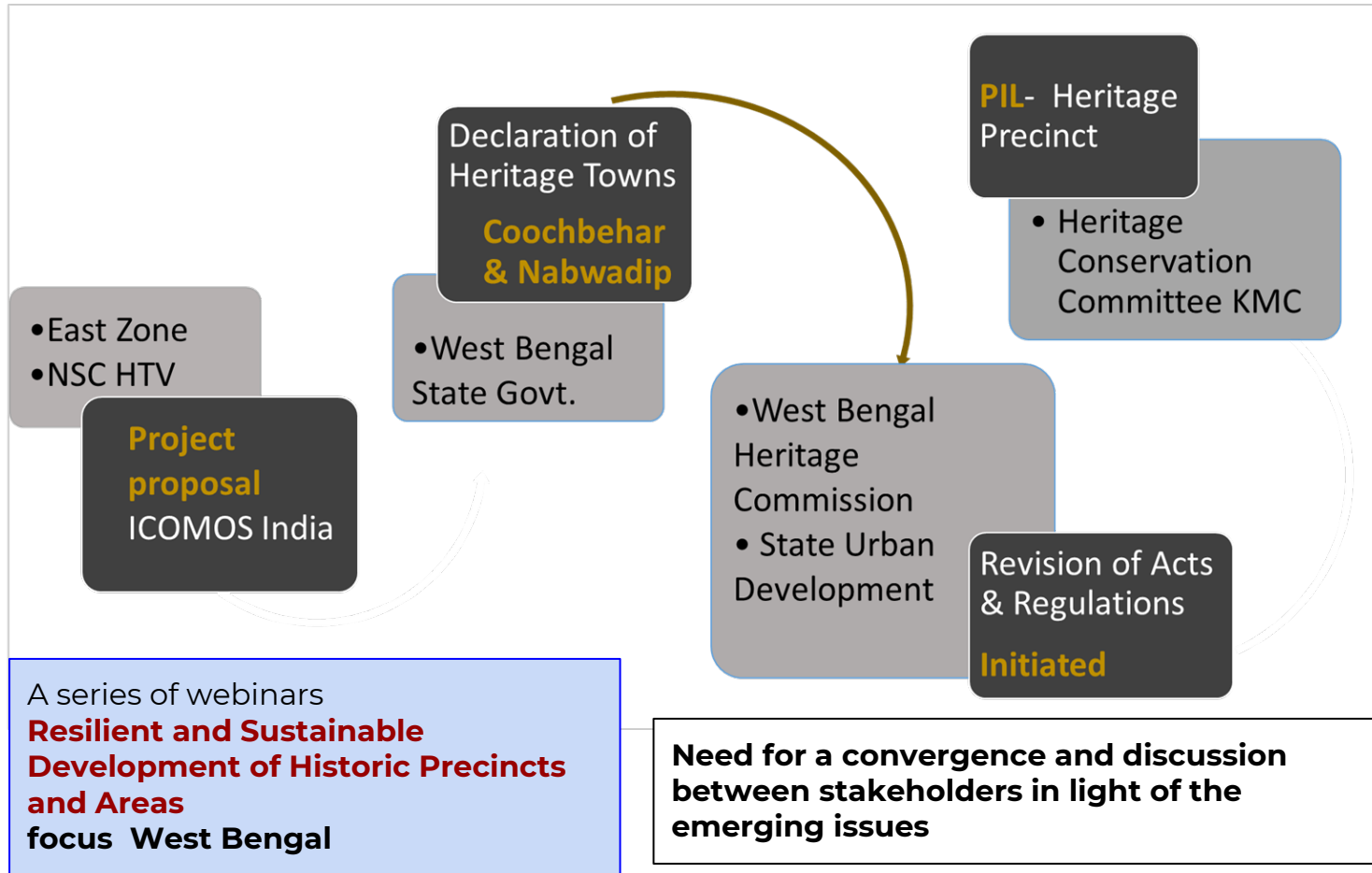
A project by WB State Urban Development Department
WHAT IS KHOAI ? HOW TO DEFINE KHOAI ?

Composite Map generated by combining all the maps resulted from individual importance factor scores



Source : **Preparation of Revised LUDCP of SSDA Planning Area (LUDC)**, ARP Dept. IIT Kharagpur 2014-2016

GENESIS & BACKGROUND



Series 1

Concepts, Frameworks, Needs and Experiences of Historic Precincts and Areas

Concern

A lacuna in terms of proper definitions for heritage precincts and areas, and a rational approach for heritage grading and its implications

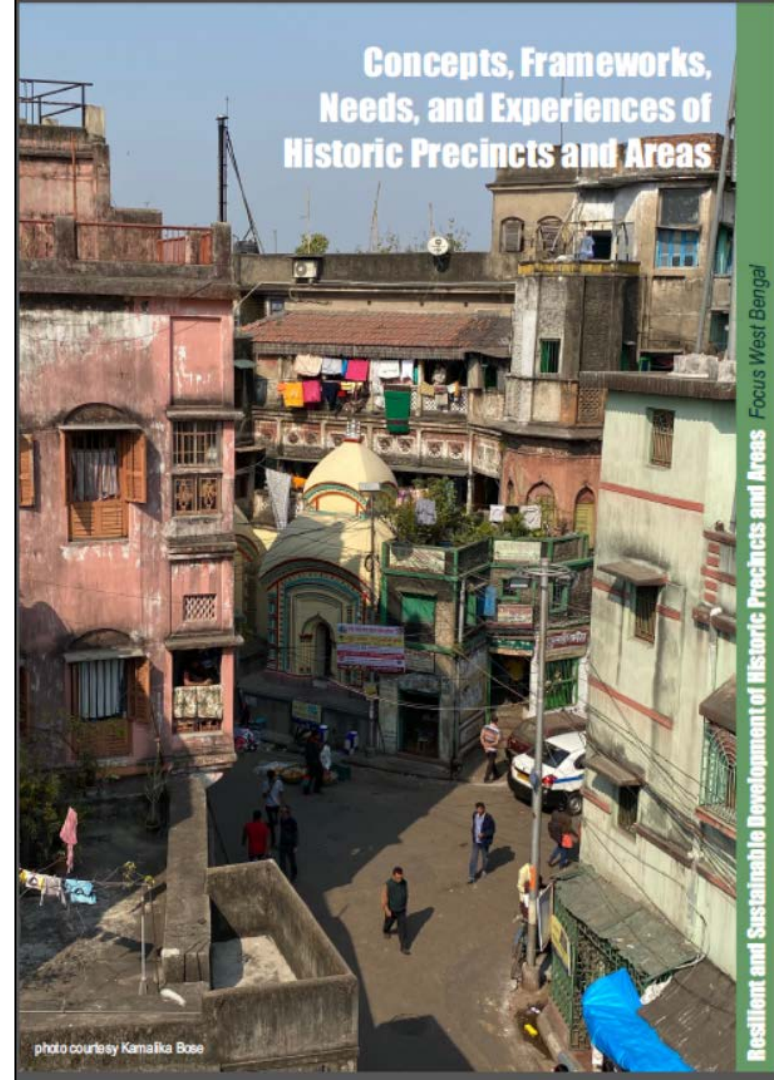
Heritage precincts and areas - inclusive, participatory approaches, heritage economics and development alternatives, and resilience

The inaugural sessions :

relevant concepts, frameworks, needs and experiences
in order to address these issues and arrive at
new directives for historic areas and precincts

first day : **West Bengal**

second day : **Kolkata**



Series 2

Heritage Economics, Legal tools, and Management Mechanisms

Legal, administrative, and financial mechanisms that would enable economically viable and sustainable conservation of heritage precincts and area.

The first day:

global and national experiences of initiating a dialogue between the local stakeholders

The second day:

keynote address : **financial tools for conservation of heritage precincts and areas**

case studies : **management and financial mechanisms, possibilities of reactivation of local pride and economy**



photo courtesy Soham Mukherjee

Series 3

Emerging Communities for Sustainability and Resilience

Conservation of historic precincts and areas by engaging local community — how it valorizes local heritage, strengthens values and builds custodianship.

keynote, case studies , panel discussion:
scope and means of community engagement and participation in heritage conservation and management,
which, in turn, would also work towards the **socio-economic development** in historic areas and precincts.



**Engaging Communities for
Sustainability and Resilience**

photo courtesy Kamalika Bose

Series 4

Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

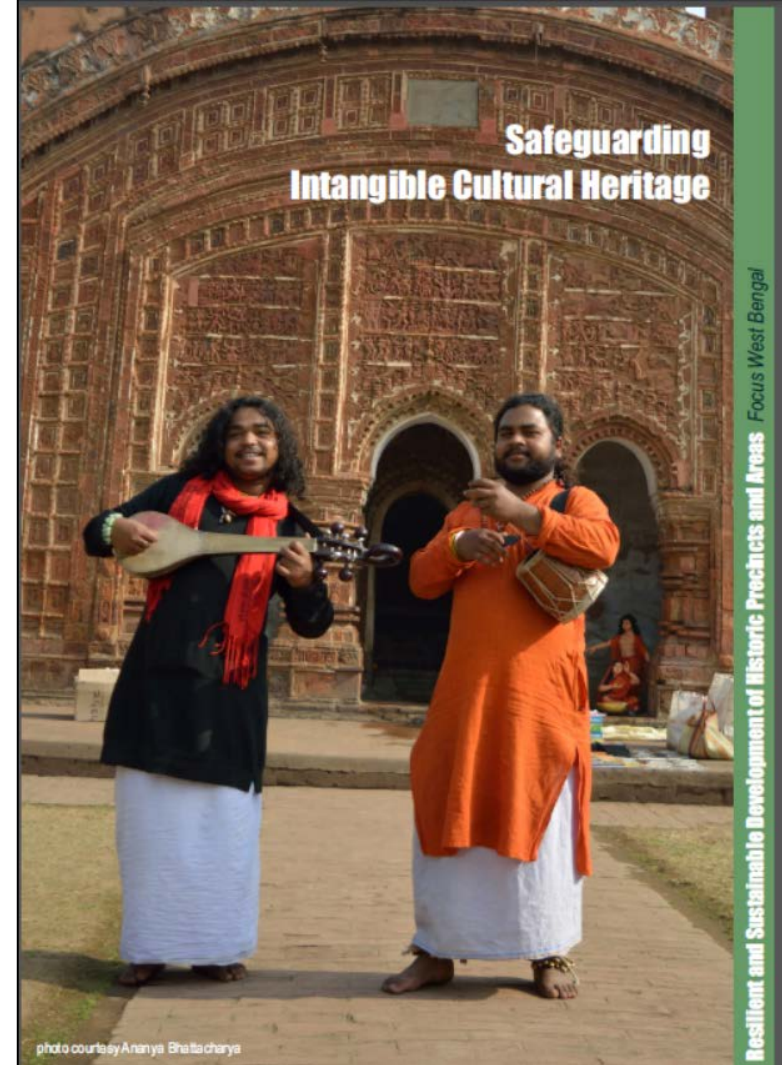
Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

- inherited traditions as well as rural and urban contemporary cultural practices
- oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature
- knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts

keynote, case studies , panel discussion:

interventions integrating efforts of revitalizing intangible cultural heritage along with conservation of historic areas and precincts, and

harnessing the contribution of culture in achieving the sustainable development goals



Series 5

Resilience to Disaster, Pandemic, and Climate Change

Strategies for building resilience to disaster, pandemic, and climate change, and

How culture and heritage may be mobilized for risk reduction and ensure **local actions to achieve SDGs** in historic precincts and areas.

Focus

local wisdom, and traditional knowledge and practices that help in disaster risk reduction, as well as the means to ensure local implementation of actions.

keynote, case studies, panel discussion:

- idea of resilience in the collective consciousness of the community
- their adaptability in coping up and living with the natural disasters
- dissipation of traditional knowledge system through capacity building.

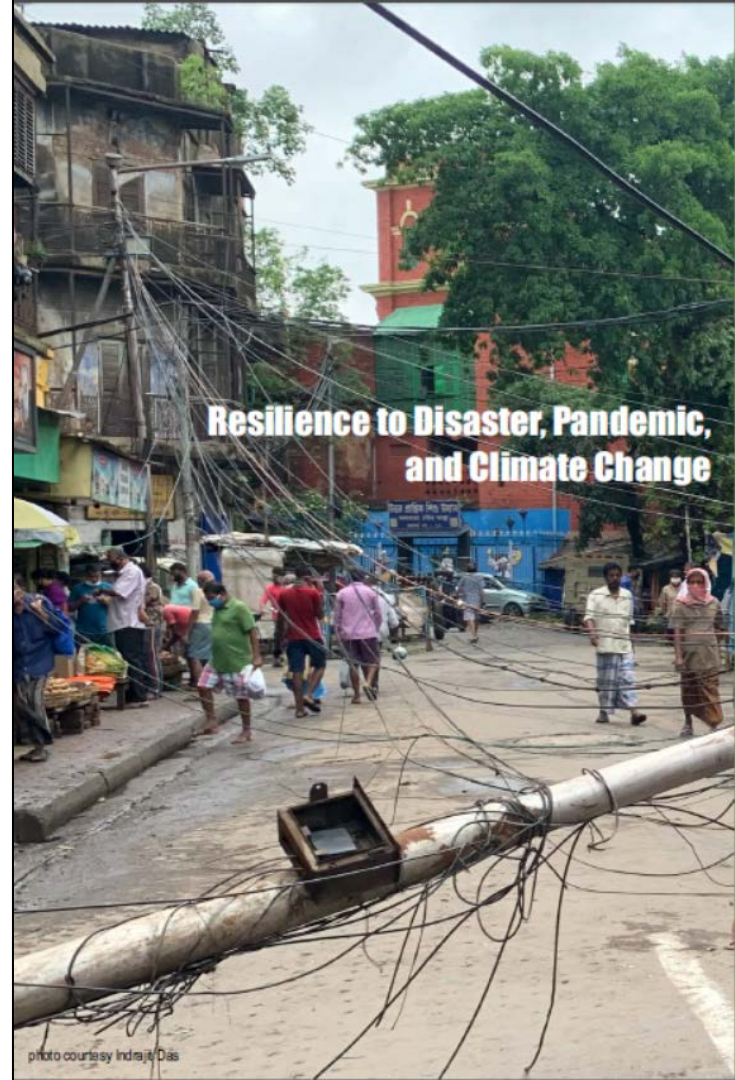
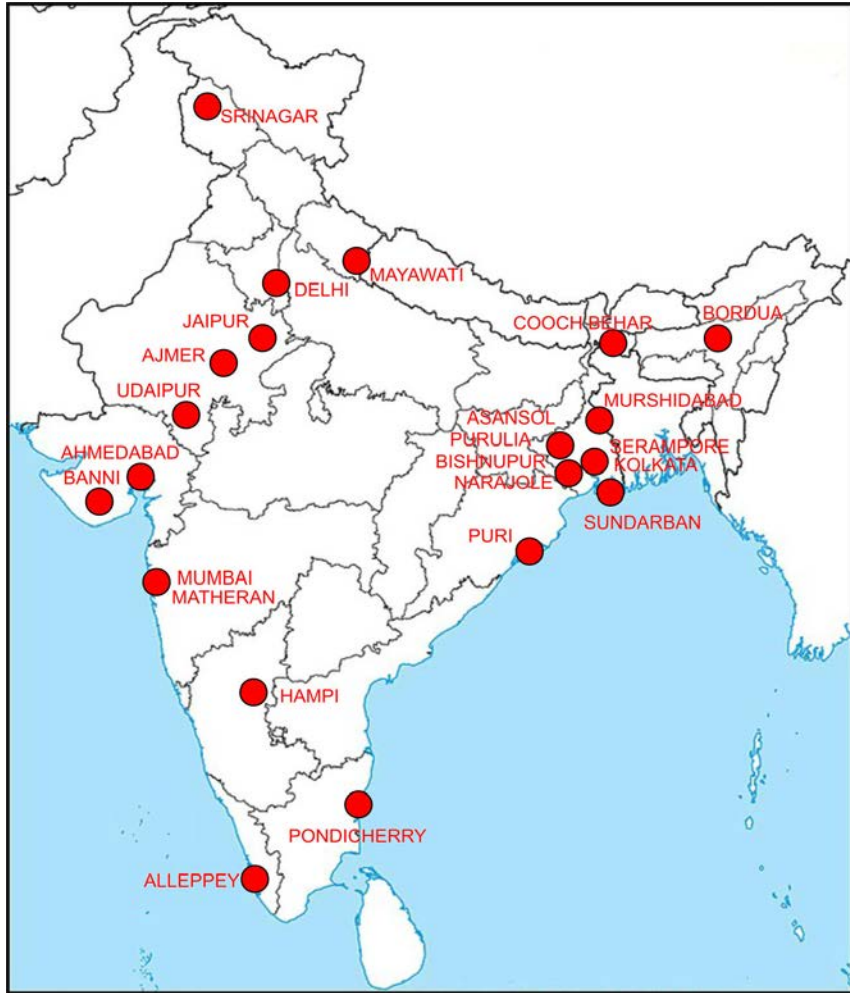
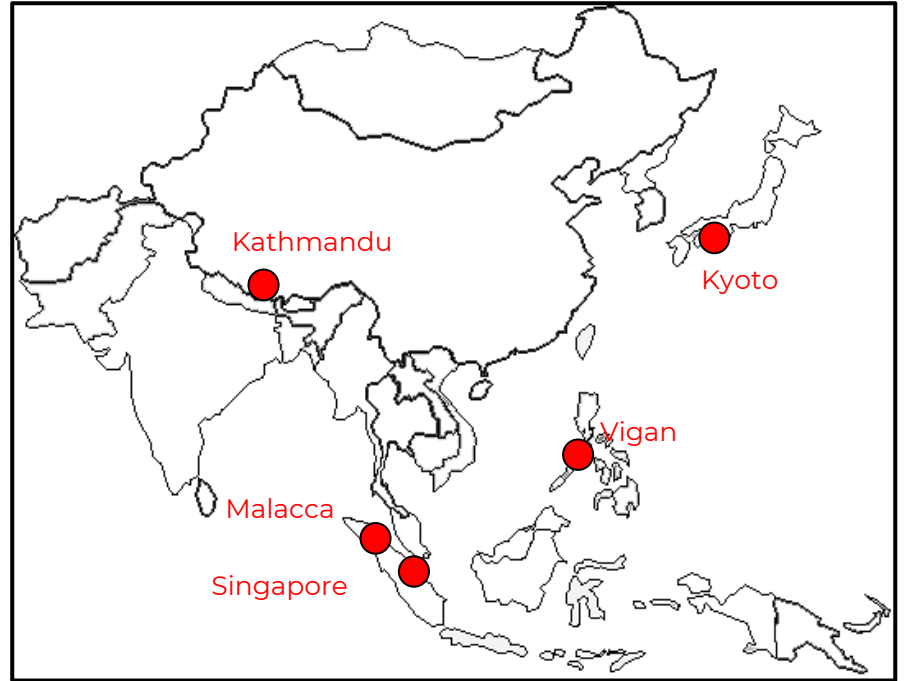


photo courtesy Indrajit Das



CASE STUDIES

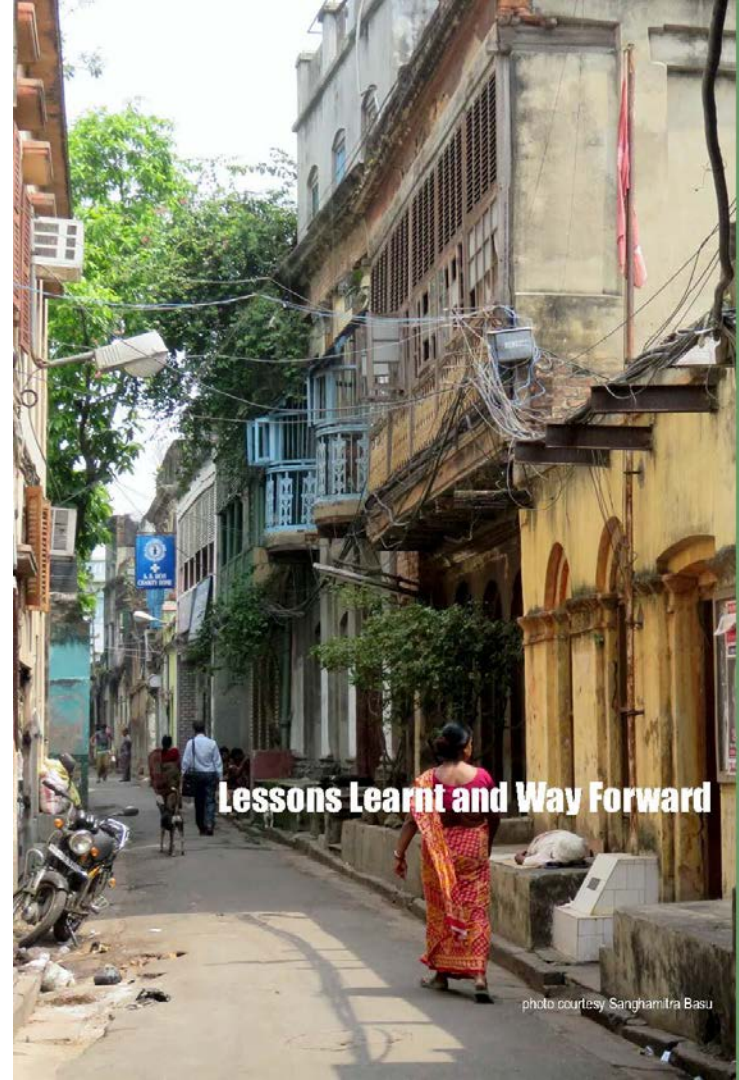




working together

Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

- **Key takeaways**
- **Call to Action:** Charting a stakeholder roadmap for heritage precincts



Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

photo courtesy Sanghamitra Basu

**CASE STUDIES FROM BENGAL:
Scenarios & Stories**

ZONAL DELINEATION

ZONE 1: KIRITANGI, THE BOMBASTIC ALONG THE RIVER FRONT

Is the location ripe for the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain? Is the ground the better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

Is the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

ZONE 2: INDIVIDUAL, PARADISE, CHARTING THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE

The Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

Is the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

Can people resist restore heritage between, Jain, Jain, and Jain?

ZONE 3: HISTING AT AZIMGANJ, TRANSFORMING INDUSTRIAL ZONE

The Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

What are the linkages between the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

How does the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

ZONE 4: RECONSTRUCTING THE SALIPATI, MARKING ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY

Is the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

Is the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

ZONE 5: BUILT UPON RAILWAY STATION OF THE JAIN RELIGIOUS CODE

Is the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain? How can the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?


What are the linkages between the Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?

Does the presence of Jain built, Jain use, the Bhagwan Jain be better an opportunity to Bhagwan Jain?



'HERITAGE AS AN ASSET'

29th JANUARY, 2017



Murshidabad
Heritage Development Society

AZIMGANJ, MURSHIDABAD: REACTIVATING LOCAL ECONOMY THROUGH HERITAGE PRECINCTS

LOCATION: Azimganj

YEAR: 2015 – 2018

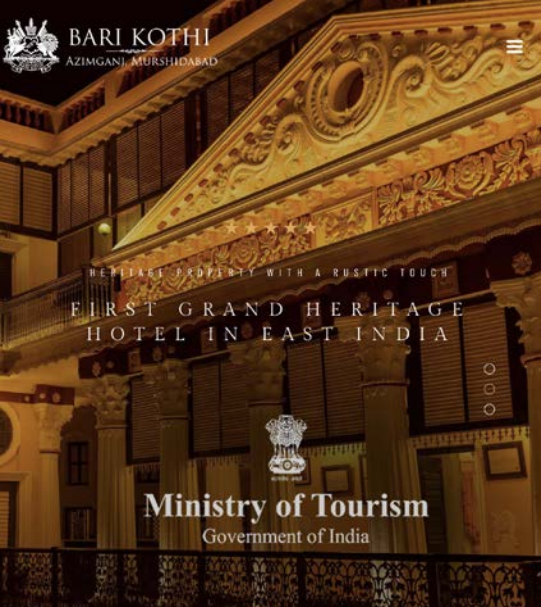
PROJECT BY: Kamalika Bose

CLIENT & STAKEHOLDERS:
Murshidabad Heritage
Development Society

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

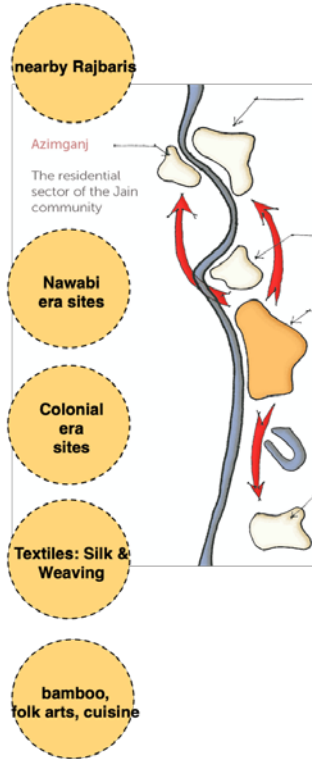
- Heritage Precinct
- Built cultural heritage
- River/natural heritage
- Intangible heritage





AZIMGANJ, MURSHIDABAD: REACTIVATING LOCAL ECONOMY THROUGH HERITAGE PRECINCTS

Unlock Sectoral Linkages



- **Creating an Ecosystem for Heritage-led Economic Drivers**
- **Demonstration through pilot project which became milestone/ gamechange**
- **Incubating an Ecosystem of Partners and Stakeholders**
- **Catalysing independent arts initiatives for ICH**
- **Local actions > Sectoral linkages > Regional impact**



RANIGANJ AND ASANSOL: EFFORTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF BENGAL'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

LOCATION: Raniganj & Asansol

YEAR: 2015 – Ongoing

PROJECT BY: Asansol Heritage Research Group

CLIENT: Self-initiated

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Industrial heritage
Cultural landscape
Built cultural heritage
Intangible heritage



 NIT Durgapur
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Talk on Heritage

Topic for Talk:
Architectural Heritage of Asansol-Raniganj Industrial Belt
Tuesday, 28 March 2023
Time: 11 am to 1 pm

Topic for Story-Telling Session:
Cultural Heritage of Asansol-Raniganj Industrial Belt
Tuesday, 28 March 2023
Time: 3 pm to 5 pm

For more Info : hod@hu.nitdgp.ac.in



 **Prof. Edward Hollis**
Professor of Interior Design,
University of Edinburgh

 **Asansol Heritage Research Group**

Venue: Assembly Hall





RANIGANJ AND ASANSOL: EFFORTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF BENGAL'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

- **Citizen-led initiative for heritage advocacy through community and place stories**
- **Framing a methodology to create awareness for preservation of historic industrial towns and landscapes**
- **Building people-to-people networks to prevent demolition and loss of heritage**



CHITPUR ROAD NEIGHBORHOODS: HERITAGE PRECINCT DOCUMENTATION

LOCATION: Kolkata
YEAR: 2017 – Ongoing
PROJECT BY: Kamalika Bose
CLIENT: Self-initiated



CHITPUR LOCAL: HERITAGE PRECINCTS AS PUBLIC CULTURAL HUBS

LOCATION: Kolkata
YEAR: 2013 – 2018
PROJECT BY: Hamdasti
CLIENT: Self-initiated



STREETSCAPE OUTSIDE ORIENTAL SEMINARY



CHITPUR ROAD NEIGHBORHOODS: HERITAGE PRECINCT DOCUMENTATION

CHITPUR LOCAL: HERITAGE PRECINCTS AS PUBLIC CULTURAL HUBS

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Heritage Precincts
Built cultural heritage
Historic trades and diverse community heritage
Intangible heritage

- Designating heritage precincts that represent indigenous urbanism
- Recognise an integrated approach to community-oriented urban conservation
- Chitpur as an ecosystem of historic trades, industrial arts and urban heritage – viewed holistically
- Chitpur's heritage spaces as vibrant cultural centres and civic spaces with the community at the forefront.





KOLKATA'S CHINATOWN: A COMMUNITY RISES LIKE A PHOENIX

LOCATION: Kolkata

YEAR: 2013–2018

PROJECT BY: Cha Project & Intach Kolkata

CLIENT: Proposal to West Bengal Tourism
Dept

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Heritage Precinct

Built cultural heritage

Historic trades and ethnic heritage

Intangible heritage



- **Preservation of Cheenapara's tangible and intangible heritage through sensitive transformations**
- **Adaptive reuse and community-driven regeneration**
- **Liveability and urban improvements for locals as key to enhancing tourism potential**



SERAMPORE: MULTI-PARTNER INITIATIVES

LOCATION: Serampore

YEAR: 2008 onwards

PROJECT BY: National
Museum of Denmark

CLIENT & STAKEHOLDERS:
Govt of WB
Serampore Municipality
INTACH
Realdania

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Built cultural heritage
Historic Town

SERAMPORE:
MULTI-PARTNER INITIATIVES



- **Partnership of multiple stakeholders can mobilize conservation efforts**
- **Targeting community needs and aspirations**
- **Pilot projects mobilize community interest**





PURULIA:
INTANGIBLE
HERITAGE AS
DRIVER OF
DEVELOPMENT

LOCATION: Purulia

YEAR: 2006 onwards

PROJECT BY: Banglanatok
dot come

CLIENT & STAKEHOLDERS:
EZCC
MSME&T
Khadi and Village
Development Board

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Intangible heritage



PURULIA:
INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AS DRIVER OF DEVELOPMENT

- **Intangible heritage can become the driver for socio-economic development through multi-party collaborations**





SUNDARBANS: NATURE-CULTURE JOURNEY

LOCATION: Sundarbans

YEAR: 2020

PROJECT BY: Self-initiated

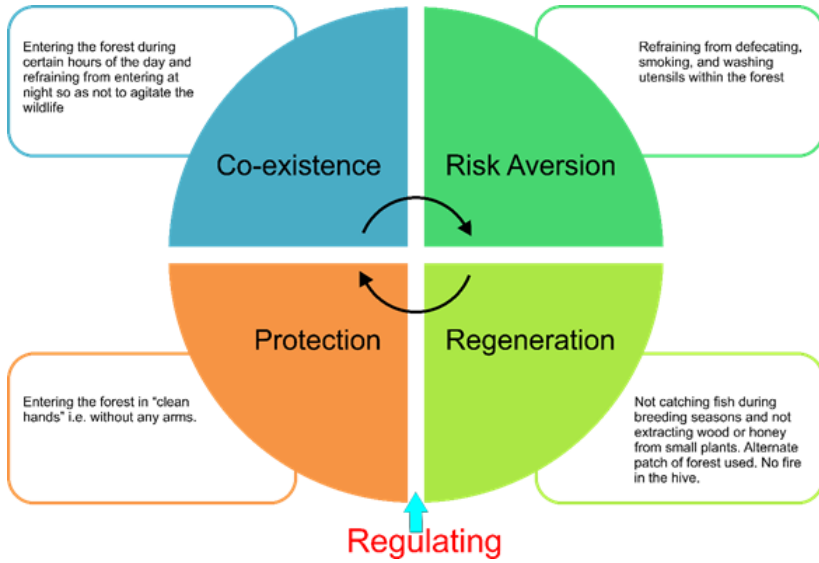
TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Natural heritage
Intangible cultural heritage

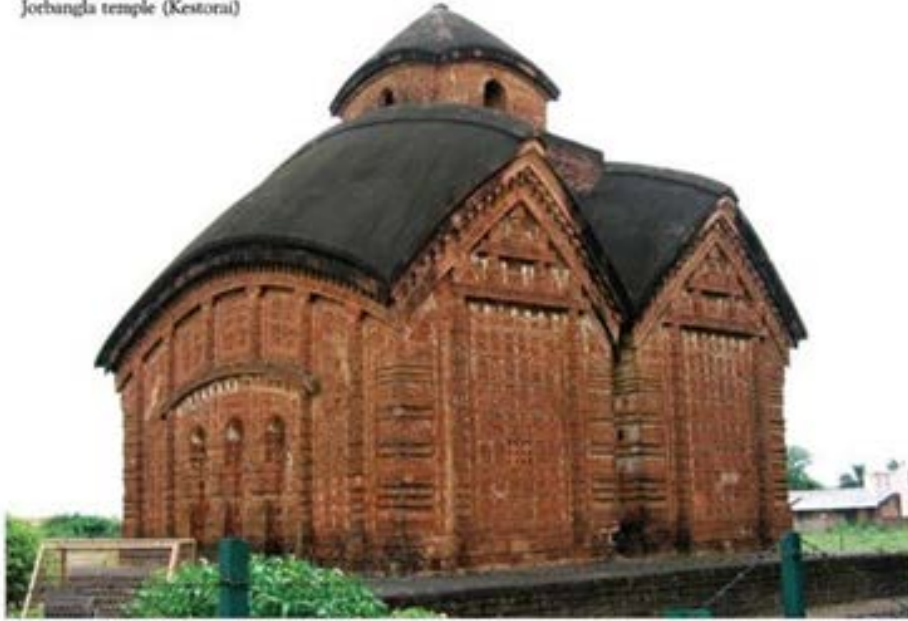


SUNDARBANS: NATURE-CULTURE JOURNEY

- **Intangible heritage, including cultural norms and practices, are effective in conserving the natural heritage.**
 - Coexistence
 - Risk Aversion
 - Regeneration
 - Protection



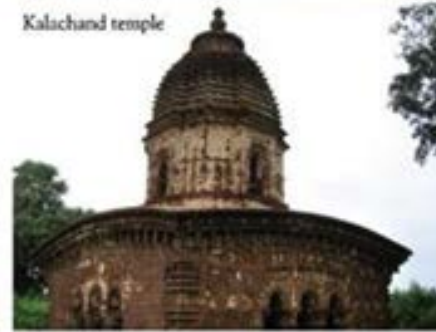
Jodbangla temple (Kestora)



Muralimohan temple



Kalachand temple



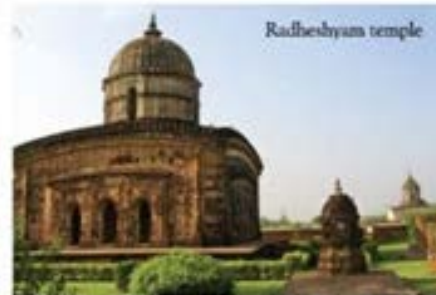
Madanmohan temple,
Natmandap



Lalji temple



Radheshyam temple



BISHNUPUR: **FOCUSSING ON THE** **COMMUNITY AND** **ICH**

LOCATION: Bishnupur

YEAR: 2018 – 2022

PROJECT BY: The
Appropriate Alternative

CLIENT & STAKEHOLDERS:
Govt of WB
Bishnupur Municipality

TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Built cultural heritage
Intangible heritage



BISHNUPUR: **FOCUSSING ON THE COMMUNITY AND ICH**

- **Holistic approach to heritage is required**
- **The communities and their Intangible heritage needs to be seen in conjunction with built heritage for a holistic development**





COOCH BEHAR: INTEGRATION OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION WITH URBAN PLANNING

LOCATION: Cooch Behar

YEAR: 2018 – 2022

PROJECT BY: IIT Kharagpur

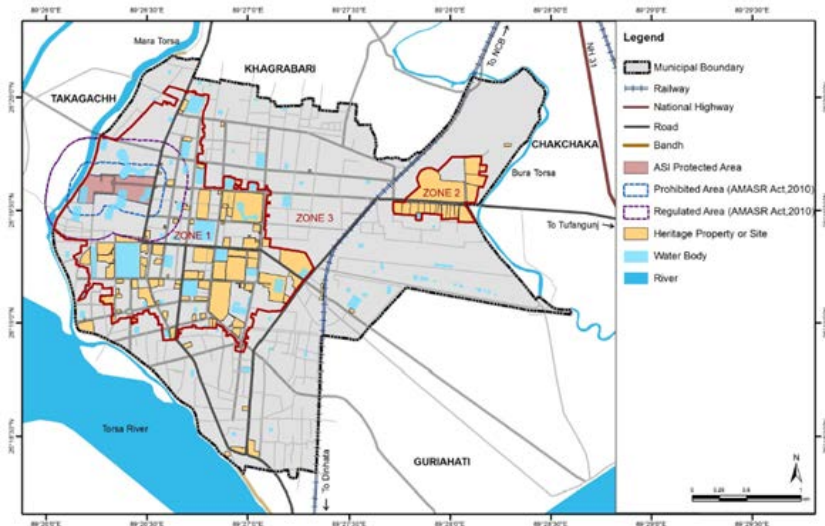
CLIENT & STAKEHOLDERS:
UDMA, Govt of WB
Cooch Behar Municipality
WBHC



TYPE OF HERITAGE:

Built cultural heritage
Heritage Precinct
Heritage Town
Cultural Landscape
Intangible Heritage

COOCH BEHAR: INTEGRATION OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION WITH URBAN PLANNING



PRECINCT DELINEATION



PEDESTRIANIZATION

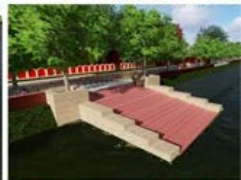


MUNICIPALITY GARDEN

WATERFRONT EDGE



SAGAR DIGHI ILLUMINATED BY NIGHT



PROMENADE, VIEW DECK & GHAT

- Integration with statutory planning mechanism: HDMP and Tourism Plan as a part of LUDC
- Regulatory reforms
- Holistic view of heritage including built, natural, and intangible
- Systematic Heritage Assessment
- Evidence building

**Key Takeaways
&
Call to Action**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A **paradigm shift** in approach to conservation of historic areas
- A **multi-pronged approach** for conservation of the heritage context
 - Knowledge systems
 - Legal and regulatory environment
 - Incentivizing heritage conservation
- Integration of heritage concerns in **urban development planning**
- Contribution of heritage conservation towards **creation of new possibilities**
 - Motivation through demonstration and evidence building
- **Localizing** heritage management systems
 - Community-led participatory approach for heritage conservation
 - Risk-informed approach to integrate technology and traditional knowledge

CALL TO ACTION:

This 'Call to Action' outlines actionable ways in which **all stakeholders can play an active role and do our bit towards resilient and sustainable development of historic precincts and areas.**

The publication address:

1. Conservation professionals
2. Urban planning and design professionals
3. Students and educational institutes
4. Community stakeholders
5. Private property owners, and real estate groups
6. Citizen collectives, advocacy groups, media, and heritage enthusiasts
7. State government departments, and urban local bodies
8. Non-governmental organizations, funding agencies, and the corporate sector
9. Legislature and judiciary

CALL TO ACTION: For Systemic Change

URBAN PLANNING LEVEL

1. To mainstream heritage concerns in the urban planning process
2. Finding equitable solutions between planners, conservationists and urban local bodies
3. Authorities should support pilot heritage projects as model examples for community initiatives and local livelihoods.

ECONOMIC LEVEL

1. Develop pro-homeowner mindset offsets liabilities from Rent Control etc regulations for upkeep of heritage properties.
2. Reduce sole dependency on TDR to incentivise heritage conservation. There are several other tested options which should be considered.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

1. Heritage Cells should be present within all key municipalities, with its own financial resources..
2. Need for a wholly government controlled company for managing heritage projects at state level.

Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas

Focus West Bengal



concepts & frameworks

legal tools & management

community participation

intangible heritage

disaster & resilience

Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas

Focus West Bengal

Contributors

ACK Menon
Amit Choudhury
Ananya Bhattacharya
Anvaya Karfoma
Anjan Mitra
Arjun Mukerji
Ashish Trambadia
Benry Kurukose
Bente Wolff
Bikramjit Chakraborty
Darshan Duthoria
Debashish Nayak
Dhriti Ray
Donovan Ryzkema
GM Kapur
Haimanti Banerji
Kakoli Banerjee
Kamaika Bose
Kiran Kalamdani
Kirtida Unwalla
KT Ravindran
Madhura Dutta
Mansh Chakraborty
Monalisa Mahajan
Mukul Agarwal
Nikhil Joshi
Partha Ranjan Das
Puja Bhowmik
Rajesh Sen
Ranit Chatterjee
Rashmi Nanda
Rezaul Karj
Rinkoo Bhowmik
Rohit Jyotsna
Saleem Beg
Sandeep Khan
Sandeep Virmani
Sanghamitra Basu
Sanjib Kumar Borjakoti
Santanu Banerjee
Saptarshi Sanyal
Shalini Dasgupta
Shama Fawar
Shikha Jain
Soumen Mitra
Sromona Burman
Sukanya Mitra
Sukti Sen
Sumanika Gupta
Sumona Chakravarty
Sunaina Mandsen
Sushil Mohta

Historic areas and precincts have been a less debated subject in the realm of heritage conservation studies in India, and this publication intends to fill this lacuna. It is the outcome of a series of webinars held between August and December 2020 organized by ICOMOS India East Zone in collaboration with the National Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages, ICOMOS India. The overall theme of the webinars was 'Resilient and Sustainable Development of Historic Precincts and Areas', with a focus on West Bengal. With contributions from highly skilled experts in their respective fields, the different sessions threw light on important aspects such as concepts, frameworks, legal tools, heritage economics, management mechanisms, community participation, intangible heritage, resilience, sustainable development, and disaster mitigation. The publication includes keynote speeches, articles and case studies, as well as transcripts of panel discussions, concluding with a summary of the lessons learnt and actionable points. Written in an extremely readable style, and illustrated with relevant images, the compilation is bound to appeal to both the expert as well as the curious, non-expert reader. Links to digital video recordings of all the webinar sessions are also included.