

Azad Hind Fouz Smriti Mahavidyalaya
Domjur, Howrah

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

STUDY TOUR PROPOSAL
(SEMESTERS – II, IV and VI)

- Tentative Date: 29th July 2025 (Tuesday)
- Sites:
 - a. **Hooghly Imambara**
 - b. **Bandel Church**
 - c. **Lahiri Bagan Ashram**
 - d. **Bhagirathi-Hooghly River erosion and deposition**
- Mode of transport: Bus (From College to College)
- Number of seats: 15
 - a. Geography: 15
 - b. Teachers: 4
- Distance from College:
 - a. College to Hooghly Imambara – 50 kms. (1 hour 30 mins.)
 - b. Hooghly Imambara to Bandel Church – 2 kms. (5 mins.)
 - c. Bandel Church to Lahiri Bagan Ashram – 7 kms. (30 mins.)
- Timings:
 - a. Departure from College: 10 am
 - b. Return to College: 5 pm
- Contribution from participants: Rs. 550/ per head
 - a. Breakfast
 - b. Lunch
 - c. Evening Snacks
 - d. Entry Tickets
 - e. Reserved Bus fare
 - f. Study Tour Outcome Activity

- **Hooghly Imambara:**

The Hooghly Imambara is an architectural splendour of the 19th century, is a holy shrine open to people from all faiths. Among the many heritage structures of West Bengal, which demonstrate the rich culture and architectural grandeur of the region, Hooghly Imambara is one of them. The majestically long corridors of the Imambara, its massive clock and the splendid architecture of its main prayer hall, all remind of the magnificence of the past.

The Hooghly Imambara was built by a Persian salt merchant, Mohammad Aga Motahar, who settled down with his family in Chinsurha. He built a single storied structure where he lived with his family till 1717. Then he dedicated the building in the name of 'Allah' and renamed it '*Nazargah Hossein*'. Later, in 1735, his son-in-law, Mirza Saleh-ud-din added extensions to the original building and named the new extension *Tazia Khana*. This old building no longer exists. The grand Imambara that we see today was built by **Haji Muhammad Mohsin**, who was one of Bengal's greatest philanthropists. He was related to Mohammad Aga Motahar through his daughter, Mannujan Khanam. After his death in 1812, the Imambara went into dispute due to internal conflicts among the trustees until the government took over the trust and the then British Governor General, Lord Auckland appointed Syed Keramat Ali as the new trustee and gave him the responsibility to build the Imambara. Syed Keramat Ali, from Jaunpur, Rajasthan, was a man of genius with proficiency in geometry and science. The construction began in 1841 and took twenty years to be completed. Although **Haji Muhammad Mohsin** had funded quite a few educational institutes in Bengal and in Bangladesh, his legacy lives through the magnificent Imambara in Hooghly.





River Hooghly from the Imambara

- **Bandel Church:**

The Basilica of the Holy Rosary, Bandel (Bandel Church) is one of the oldest Christian churches in West Bengal. It was constructed in 1599 by the Portuguese merchants who settled on the banks of Hooghly River. The Basilica of the Holy Rosary is dedicated to Nossa Senhora do Rosario, also known as 'Our Lady of the Rosary'. It was declared as Basilica on November 24, 1988, by Pope John Paul II. It is a part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta and one of the 23 Basilica Churches in India. The church enshrines the shrine of Mother Mary, three altars, a huge chandelier, glass windows, grand tower clock, the main hall and tomb. The church and the monastery remain the only relics of the Portuguese settlement in Bandel.

A huge ship's mast stands in front of the church which was presented to the church by the captain of a passing Portuguese ship that had encountered and survived a storm in the Bay of Bengal, which he believed was due to the grace of Mother Mary.



The Bandel Church



The Altar of Mother Mary

- **Lahiri Bagan Ashram:**

Lahiri Bagan Ashram, also known as Lahiri Babar Ashram or Aadharaloy, is a spiritual retreat located near Bandel in Hooghly. It was built in 2023 and is dedicated to the teachings of Yogiraj Shyamacharan Lahiri and is known for its unique architecture and peaceful ambience. The temple rises from a reservoir like the Golden Temple. The architecture of the temple showcases a wonderful blend of North and South Indian temple architecture.

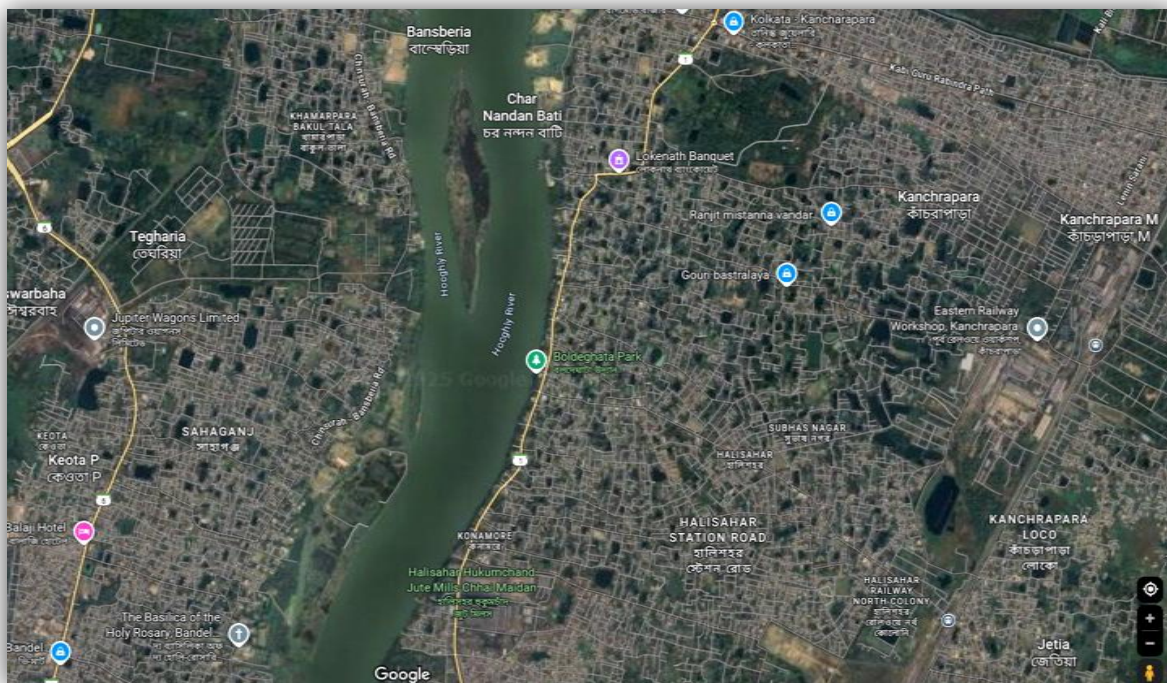


- **River Bhagirathi / Hooghly Erosion and Deposition:**

The **Hooghly River** is the western-most distributary of the Ganges, in West Bengal. It is known in its upper reaches as the **Bhagirathi River**. The Bhagirathi splits off from the main branch of the Ganges at Giria. A short distance west, it meets the man-made Farakka Feeder Canal, which massively increases its flow. The river then flows south to join the Jalangi at Nabadwip, where it becomes the Hooghly River. The Hooghly continues southwards, passing through Kolkata. Thereafter, it empties into the Bay of Bengal. Its tributaries include several rivers: Ajay, Damodar, Rupnarayan, and Haldi.

Satellite data shows that the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River's riverbank has faced severe erosion during the decades 1990 to 2020, with the middle stretch of the river being more prone to erosion. This huge sediment load derived from upstream erosion is coming to the estuary. A continuous huge sediment load is found in the estuarine water. The sediment concentration was higher pre-monsoon than post-monsoon as the region is highly influenced by monsoonal rainfall and runoff.

The impact of this high sediment load contributes to the deposition. Despite the impact of continuous sea level rise in the estuary, island and *Chars* areas have increased in the past decade due to the upstream erosion-driven sediments.



Study Tour Rules:

A Study Tour is an opportunity to explore new places, ideas and cultures. For the safety of the participants, it is important to follow some basic rules and regulations:

1. IDENTITY CARD:

All participants must wear college identity cards.

2. PUNCTUALITY:

All must be on time for scheduled activities and departures.

3. BUS BEHAVIOUR:

The bus must be kept clean. Noise should be kept to a minimum so that the bus driver is not distracted.

4. TOUR SITES:

All must be respectful of property and people at the sites and on the way. Damage to property or rowdy behaviour will not be permitted during the tour.

5. LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS:

Each participant will be solely responsible for his/her belongings.

6. SAFETY:

- a. No tour participant may leave the group to explore alone for any reason whatsoever, without permission. Be aware of the surroundings and exercise good judgment at all times.
- b. Any student indulging in risky behaviour, disobeying authority or possessing illegal substances will not be allowed to continue the tour.

NOTE:

These are basic guidelines for the tour. There may be additional directives depending on the situation for the safety of all.

Breach of rules will result in a call to the student's guardian.

Under extreme circumstances, the student may be sent home at own expenses.

- **Objectives of the Study Tour:**

1. The study tour will give the students some glimpses of Bengal culture and history.
2. They will realize the importance of preservation of historical artifacts.
3. The study tour near the river will help students understand the role of rivers and dangers of river erosion.
4. The study tour will also foster interest in an inter-disciplinary approach to teaching-learning.
5. The students will enjoy the natural surroundings of the Hooghly and Bhagirathi Rivers.
6. Finally, the students will get a much needed break from the conventional classroom study.

- **Study Tour Outcome Activity:**

The Study Tour will be followed by curricular / co-curricular activity to assess the students' involvement and interest in the tour. E-Certificates will be given to all participants.

Date: 28.7.2025

Dr. H. M. Kutub Uddin
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