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HOWRAH

**DIRECTORATE OF CULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

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Howrah

(Of long-distance train journeys and an order of monks)

The iconic Howrah Bridge, one of the most enduring symbols of the city of Kolkata, is in this district, so is Belur Math, the headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission, the order of monks established by Swami Vivekananda

A. People & Eminent Personalities :-

Bhawani Prasad Majumdar

Bhawani Prasad Majumdar is an eminent Bengali poet of 21st century. He has written more than 20 thousand poems. He was born on 9th of April, 1953 in Howrah district. His father's name was Narayan Chandra Majumdar and mother was Nirupama Devi. He worked as the headmaster of Kalitala Primary School in Shanpur village of Howrah district. He wrote thousands of poem for children such as *Mojar Chhada, Sonali chhada, kolkata tor khol khata, Howrah Bhora Horek Chhada, Daino Chhada*. His '*Chhadaay Chhadaay Satyajit*' about eminent film maker Satyajit Ray, and '*Rabindranath Noile Anath*' on world-famous poet Rabindranath Tagore are the two most important literary works of Bhawani Prasad Majumdar. Apart from this, *Aamory Bangla Bhasha, Bangla Ta Thik Aashena* are among his popular poems.

Biharilal Sarkar

Biharilal Sarkar was born in the year of 1855 on 18th of October at Andul in Howrah District. He was a Bengali editor and author and historian. His father was Umacharan Sarkar. He studied in Scottish Church College and later on appointed as the supervisor of Kolkata Press Club .He became popular as a biographer of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He was designated as "Raisaheb" on 3rd June in the year of 1915 for the editorship of "**Bongobashi Patrika**".

Narayan Debnath

Narayan Debnath was born and brought up in Shibpur of Howrah district. Formerly, His family lived in Bikrampur, Bangladesh, and shifted to Howrah prior to his birth. He was privileged to learn jewelry designing as his family members were goldsmith by profession. DICO, Howrah

Thus he found interest in drawing-painting and afterwards he became a cartoonist. His creations such as '*Handa- Bhonda, Bantul The Great, Nontey Fontey, Bahadur Bedaal, Daanpite Khandu Aar Tar Chemical Dadu, Kaushik Roy, Shutki ar Mutki*' are very famous comics and became popular among youngsters as well as older readers. Popular Bengali cartoon '*Handa-Bhonda*' had regularly been published in *Shuktara* Magazine. His writings and drawings, and comics strips had entertained a large number of readers for more than five decades. In 2013, he received **Bongo Bibhushan Award** and **Sahitya Academy Award**. In 2021 he was honoured with **Padmashree** by the President of India.

Shankari Prasad Basu

Shankari Prasad Basu was a Bengali writer and critic. He was born on 21st of October, 1928 in Howrah district of West Bengal. He did his M.A. in Bengali language and literature with the distinction of being 1st class first in the year 1950. He started his career as a professor at Howrah Vivekananda Institution. Periodically he served as the same in other colleges like Howrah Girls College, City College, Kolkata and then permanently in Calcutta University. Later, he became the director of Swami Vivekananda Archives in Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark. He was popular as a Ramkrishna-Vivekananda researcher. "*Vivekananda O Samakalin Bharatbarsa*", *Sahasya Vivekananda*, *Bondhu Vivekananda* are three popular literary works of Shankari Prasad Basu. In 1978, he was awarded **Sahitya Academy Puraskar** for "*Vivekananda O Samakalin Bharatbarsa*".

Sudhir Chakraborty

Sudhir Chakraborty was born in the year of 1934 on 19th of September in Howrah district. He completed his higher studies from Calcutta University in the year 1966. He started researching on Rabindranath, Lalan fakir, For twelve years, he published a Bengali magazine **Dhrubapad** from Krishanagar. He had written more than 60 books. He received **Ananda Puraskar** in 2002 and **Sahitya Academy Award** in 2004 for his book "*Baul Fakir Katha*"

Raigunakar Bharatchandra Roy

Raigunakar Bharatchandra Roy was born in the year of 1712 at Pero Basantapur in Howrah. Later, he took shelter in the royal family of Krishnanagar, Nadia. He is still considered as the best poet of Bengali literature of 18th century. He was the last and most powerful composer of *Mangal Kavya* (Hindu religious text). In 1737, just at age of 15, Bharatchandra created '*Satyanarayaner Panchali*'. He was designated as "**Raigunakar**" for his '*Annadamangal*'

Kavya'. . His many poems and verses are used in Bengali language as impactful proverbs. World poet Rabindranath Tagore compared his literary works as "Rajkonther Monimala". He died in 1760 at Shyamnagar in North 24 Paraganas.

Sashtipada Chattopadhyay.

Sashtipada Chattopadhyay was born in the Bengali year 1347 at Khurut-Sashtitala in Howrah. He is famous for his mystery novels and stories featuring five teenage detectives known as '*Pandab Goyenda*'. He was awarded **Sahitya Academy Puraskar** for his contribution to Bengali children's literature by the Govt. of West Bengal.

Madhumala Chattopadhyay

Dr. Madhumala Chattopadhyay is an Indian anthropologist. She was the first female anthropologist to be able to establish friendly relations with the people of the North Sentinel. She was also able to mingle with the women of the Jaroa tribe like a daughter. Her book, *Tribes of Car Nicobar* and research papers are housed in the libraries of the British Museum, Oxford and Harvard Universities. Chattopadhyay grew up in Shibpur of Howrah in West Bengal. She studied the various aboriginal tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. She did extensive research on the *Jaroa* people and the *Sentinel* people and worked with a total of six tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands - the '**Great Andamanese**'; '**Onge**', '**Jaroa**', '**Sentinelli**', '**Shompen**' and '**Nicobarese**'.

B. Events & Festivals :-

Howrah Book Fair:- Arguably, the first book fair of India was held in Howrah in 1956 at Howrah Girls School. At present Howrah Book Fair is being held at Howrah Municipal Corporation Stadium with official administrative and financial support. Howrah District Library Department took charge of this book fair. It is the largest book fair in the district. The book fair is accompanied by a nine-day discussion program, music, drama, poetry reading session, etc. The book fair started with a rally called "Hatun" with the participation of library staff, school students and local organizations.

Bankim Mela:- Bankim Mela started in Howrah city through citizen forum. To mark noted author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's birth anniversary, this fair is held from 22nd-26th June and has become a popular event over the years in Howrah. Dignitaries come to pay their respects to Bankim Chandra's house at Panchanantala Road. Govt. and Non-Govt. stalls and various food stalls are set up in the fair. Various cultural competitions programmes are other key attraction of this fair.

Ram Raja Mela / Fair:- The Ram-Sita Pujo of Ramrajatala, Howrah, begins every year on the Ram Navami in the month of Baishakh and ends on the last Sunday of the month of Shraavan, There is a statue of Ram-Sita at the Ram temple at Ramrajatala which is almost 23 feet high. A four-month long festival and fair is held in the area centered on this puja.

Sarat Mela:- The autumn fair was organized in the village of Panitras, which is associated with the memory of the acclaimed novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. The Sarat Mela is organized by the nearby Smriti Library and the Sarat Mela Management Committee. The fair is held on the grounds of Panitras High School.

Damodar Mela / Fair :- Damodar Mela is organized by a voluntary organization called "Pragati Gana Sangathan" of Amta. The fair started on December 6, 1992. Damodar Mela is held on and from 9-13th December every year at Amta Raspur School Football Ground. Agro-industry, science, history and folk culture are the main focus in the fair. Baul, Tarja songs, Krishna Jatra etc. are performed in the fair. People of both Hindu and Muslim religions participate in this exposition.

Uluberia Ras Mela :- Among the Ras melas of this district, Uluberia Ras Mela is the most well-known. This fair is built around the attractive Navaratna Kali temple in Uluberia. Beginning in 1951, it has grown in popularity steadily. An exhibition of pottery based on mythology and social stories is held on this fair, which is organized on the banks of the Ganges adjacent to the temple.

Bhaikha'r Mela / Fair :- Held around the shrine of Bhai Khan Pir at Singti of Udaynarayanpur Police Station, it is said to be the one of the oldest and largest fairs in Howrah district. The fair, which is about five hundred years old, is held on the first day of the month of *Magh*. People from different communities come and pay homage to the shrine during the fair.

Birshibpur Festival :- The two-day folk-festival is held at Birshibpur in Uluberia in the month of March. The aim of this festival is to keep the folk culture of Bengal alive.

C . Cultural Traditions & Art Forms :-

(i) Music and Dance:-

Kalikapatari Dance - Kalikapatari Dance Form relates to stories of Lord Shiva and based on the ancient scriptures of Kalikapurana. It is mainly performed on the auspicious occasion of Neel Puja.

Ghentugan – Ghentugan is a kind of traditional cultural song, sung during the monsoon season. This song is performed for three consecutive days by constructing a huge mandap in the Amta area of Howrah district. Satyacharan Porel of Mandaria community is one of the eminent Ghetu gaan performers in the district.

Krishna Jatra – A popular folk form in Howrah district, its main theme is ‘*devotion to Lord Krishna*’. Krishna Jatra is mainly prevalent among the people of Scheduled Castes. Both boys and girls take part in the Jatra (Act) to portray different roles. Dancing and singing are key components of Krishna Jatra.

Fakiri song - This song is sung by people of Muslim community and focuses on spiritual aspects of life and the world. Fakiri performers are mainly found in Sankrail, Bauria and Domjur areas of Howrah district.

Adibasi Dance - Howrah district is home to a small number of indigenous people. Mainly centred around Jagatballavpur block. The adivbasis have preserved their cultural heritage in the rhythm of their dance-songs. Adibasi dances of Tilu Hansda and community are notable in this region.

Tarja - Tarja song is a form of folk poetry contest, based on contemporary social conditions. Two groups perform against each other in a single stage. Sukumar Mandal, an artist from Ravibhag village in Bagnan, Nepal Chakraborty from Udaynarayanpur and Gunadhar Santra from Panchla are among the famous Tarja performers in Howrah.

Baul – Like other art forms, Baul is also a very popular folk art form of Howrah. The subject of most Baul songs is related to spiritualism and devotion. There are several Baul artists in Howrah district, and they also compose songs on and socio-economic

condition, latest events and even state welfare schemes, Shibnath Das and group of Basantapur, Bhaskar Manna of Nakol, Prabhat Chakraborty of Shyampur and Haradhan Das Baul of Bally-Jagachha are considered among notable Baul singers in the district.

D. Historical , Anthropological & Heritage Sites :-

(i) Heritage sites

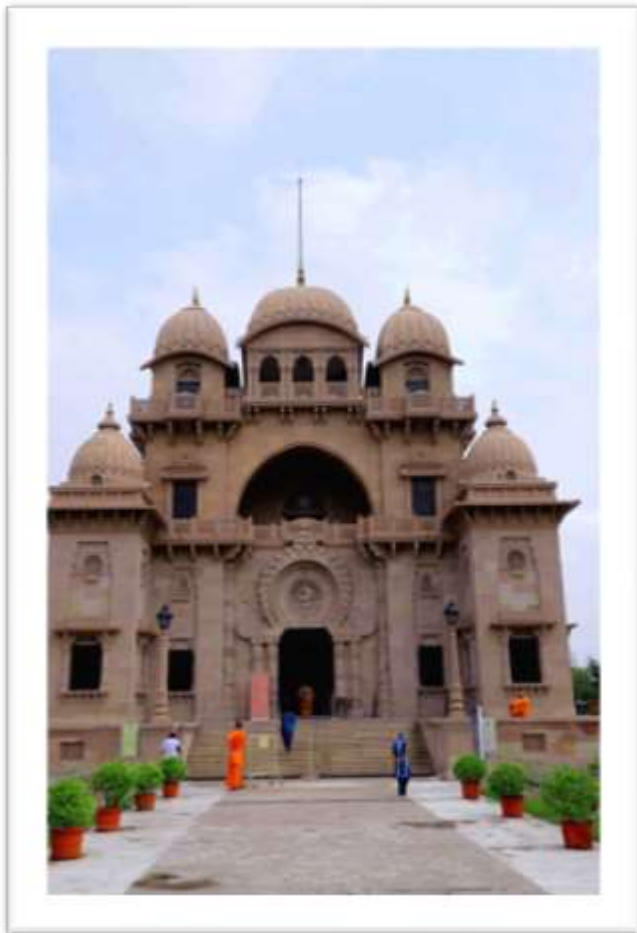
Howrah Railway Station:- It is one of the busiest train stations in the world. About 800 passenger trains pass through the station every day and serve more than one million passengers daily. The station is the divisional headquarters for the Eastern Railway. In the 1960s, the station was expanded to include 4 new platforms on the south side. At the same time, a new passenger accommodation (transit passenger facility) was built south of the front of the main station. The new terminal complex was finished in 1992, creating a total of 19 platforms. This was extended by a further four platforms in 2009. Great crowds celebrated the first public departure from Howrah for the 23.5 miles to Hooghly on 15 August 1854. On March 3, 1989, the first Rajdhani Express left Howrah for New Delhi. In October 2011, India's first double decker train left Howrah for Dhanbad. The first service of Antyodaya Express started on March 4, 2016 between Ernakulam Junction and Howrah.

Howrah Bridge:- Howrah Bridge is a balanced cantilever bridge over the Hooghly River in West Bengal. The bridge was completed in 1874, at a total cost of 2.2 million, and opened to traffic on 17th October of that year. The bridge was then 1528 ft long and 62 ft wide, with 7-foot wide pavements on either side. Commissioned in 1943, the bridge was renamed the New Howrah Bridge because it replaced a pontoon bridge at the same point connecting the two cities of Howrah and Calcutta (Kolkata). On 14 June, 1965, it was renamed Rabindra Setu after the great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, who was the first Indian and Asian Nobel Laureate. With around 100,000 vehicles and possibly more than 1,50,000 pedestrians plying daily, it is one of the busiest cantilever bridges in the world. The third-longest cantilever bridge at the time of its construction, the Howrah Bridge is currently the sixth-longest bridge of its type in the world. The bridge does not have nuts and bolts, but was formed by riveting the whole structure. It consumed 26,500 tons of steel, out of which 23,000 tons of high-tensile alloy steel, known as Tiscrom, were supplied by Tata Steel. The Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) is vested with the maintenance of the bridge.

Botanical Garden :- Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden, formerly known as Indian Botanic Garden and Calcutta Botanic Garden, is located at Shibpur, Howrah. The gardens display a wide collection of rare species and a total of more than 12,000 specimens spread over 109 hectares. It is under the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The garden was established in the 18th century by Colonel Robert Kidd, an army officer of the East India DICO, Howrah

Company, primarily for the purpose of identifying new plants. Over the years, attractive display gardens have been created for the public and many types of plants have been cultivated for scientific observation. In the 1980s, the park launched a program to introduce improved food plants and other diversity of economic benefits to the people. The garden was named Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden on June 25, 2009 in honor of Bengali polymath and natural scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose. The most famous landmark in the garden is The Great Banyan, a giant banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) which is considered to be the largest tree in the world, more than 330 meters in circumference.

Belur Math:- Belur Math is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission, established by Swami Vivekananda, the chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. The 40-acre campus of Belur Math on the shores of Hooghly includes the temple dedicated to Ramakrishna, Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda. The campus also houses a museum containing articles related to the history of Ramakrishna Monastery and the mission. Sri Ramakrishna Temple was consecrated on 14 January, the Makar Sankranti day, in 1938. It is notable for its architecture that fuses Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist and Christian art and motifs as a symbol of unity of all religions.



The Belur Math conducts medical service, education, work for women, rural uplift and work among the labouring and backward classes, relief, spiritual and cultural activities. The centre also celebrates annual birthdays of Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Sarada Devi and other monastic disciples of Ramakrishna. The annual celebrations of Kumari Puja and Durga Puja are among the main attractions.

Sarat Chandra Kuthi :- Sarat Chandra Kuthi is located in the village of Samta in the Howrah district on the banks of the river Rupnarayan. It has been mentioned as the home of Bengali novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay for twelve years. Sarat Chandra passed away in February 1923. Sarat Chandra Kuthi is a heritage-historical site protected under the West Bengal Heritage Commission Act (IX) 2001. Parts of the house, such as the mud-walled kitchen, had collapsed and the house was damaged in the 1978 West Bengal floods. The Zilla Parishad repaired the house. In 2009, the house was renovated and the novelist's personal belongings were preserved. The house is still owned by the descendants of Sarat Chandra and the same has been converted into a museum.

Bhot Bagan Math:- The famous Bhot Bagan Math is a Tibetan Buddhist Temple or Monastery located at Ghusuri, Howrah. It was built in 16 AD in order to restore the connection between Tibetan Buddhism and India in the 11th -13th centuries. The complex, surrounded by a brick fence, is a Vaishnava mahanta cemetery. Atchala temple has 8 east facing brick tombs and one west facing Shikhar style. There is also a south-facing brick flat-roofed temple dedicated to the Buddhist goddess Tara. The combination of Buddhist and Shaivite culture can be seen in this temple. Hindu rituals are followed in the temple and Prajnaparamita Lakshmi is worshipped in the temple.

Sovonuddyan:- The residence of Late Akshay Kumar Datta is located at Bally town in Howrah district. The name of Akshay Kumar Datta is known as one of the initiators of the Bengal Renaissance. He mastered the subject of Mathematics and had proficiency over several languages including English, French, German, Sanskrit and Persian. He also studied in the Medical College to acquire knowledge on Botany and Zoology. He was the editor of Tattwabodhini Patrika, the most well-known journal of the Renaissance period. Monier Williams, Max Mueller and Rajendralal Mitra were among the people who got impressed with his knowledge and scholarship.



He was also a great author and composed several scholarly books like Dharmaniti, Prachin Hinduder Samudrayatra O Banijyabistar. Charupath was one of his books for the school children that got recognised as mandatory text-book. The book earned him a lot of money and with it he purchased a garden house at Bally, on the banks of the Ganges. The house was named as Sovonuddyan. He set up a laboratory in his house and a botanical garden in the house premises. This house is the witness of the birth of Bharatbarsiya Upasak Sampraday - the magnum opus written by Akshay Kumar Datta. He also established a geological museum DICO, Howrah

which was later donated to the Indian Museum by him. Akshay Kumar Datta breathed his last at this house and later the house passed on to the hands of a ship repairing company.

(ii) Museums, Forts & Places :-

Andul Rajbari :- Andul Rajbari was established in 1834 by Raja Rajanarayan Raybahadur and the palace was built by the Granville Macleod Company. He was the descendant of Ramlochan Roy. Rajanarayana himself designed his palace following Greek architecture, at a cost of Rs 26.2 million. In the front of the huge three-storied palace, which is more than sixty feet high, there is a pillar about fifty feet high, imitating the Doric architecture. The palace has been declared as a "Heritage Building" by the state government.

Sri Mayer Ghat:- It is located on the west bank of the river Hooghly in the precincts of Belur Math. It is basically a bathing ghat known as Sri Mayer ghat. Originally, this huge brick structure consisted of 30 steps, with a total length of 15 meters and width 7.9 m. These steps are of bricks laid with lime mortar made 140 years ago. The holy mother Saradamani Devi used to sit regularly on the steps of the ghat here and so it is considered a sacred place.



Andul Rajbari

Chintamani Ghat :- Chintamani Ghat is located in Chaura slum of Howrah city. The ghat was established by Chintamani Dey. In 1896, Swami Vivekananda came here by boat with his disciples. He came to the house of Sri Nabagopal Ghosh in Ramakrishnapur chanting the name of Sri Ramakrishna. He worshiped Sri Ramakrishna here. In 2016, the West Bengal Heritage Commission declared the ghat as a heritage site.

Herbarium House:- One of the two oldest houses in the Botanical Garden. The house was built in the last half of the eighteenth century. Established in 1795 at Howrah, the CNH holds ca. 2 million specimens of seed plants. It includes 15,000 type specimens, 12,340 Wallichian specimens and 15,000 non-flowering plants. Dr. William Roxburgh, a Scottish surgeon of East India Company was appointed as the first salaried Superintendent of the Company's Garden in 1793. Roxburgh established the 'Calcutta Herbarium' in the ground floor of his house in 1795 in the garden at Shibpur. The herbarium was shifted to a 2-storied building in 1883 by Sir George King. The present herbarium is in a 5-storied building constructed during 1971–1972.

Semaphore Tower :- The semaphore tower at Khatirbazar, Andul is one of the easiest to spot. There was no telegraph then. The East India Company decided in 1817 to build the eight-mile-long tower from Fort William to Varanasi. The cable will reach far and wide through the Simafor signal. Lieutenant Weston was the architect of the tower.

Fort Morning Point :- In Gadiara, where the Bhagirathi and Rupnarayan rivers meet, there are ruins of an ancient fort. It is said that Lord Clive built this fort so that no foreign ships could enter the river. The wreckage was visible after the 1942 floods. It was unique in construction style.

Howrah District Magistrate Bungalow :- The bungalow is constructed in nineteenth century tradition. It is said that a jute mill manager once had a bungalow on the banks of the Ganges which was later acquired by the then District Magistrate and formally renamed at Howrah District Magistrate Bungalow.

Bagnan Ananda Niketan :- Ananda Niketan Bagnan is located Tempur Nabasan village of Bagnan Block under Howrah district. The Meseum was set up by the initiative of Amal Ganguly. Later it also got associated with various social welfare work. Ananda Niketan is now known as one of the best museums in Howrah. Various archeological materials of the district are found here.

Howrah Town Hall The construction of the Howrah Town Hall was completed in 1884 and on 14th March 1884 the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal of that time inaugurated it. The town hall is located in front of the court and the main post office in Howrah. The hall is 6 DICO, Howrah

feet long, 42 feet wide and 21 feet high. There are verandas on both sides of the hall and beside the staircases portraits of various eminent personalities are displayed.

(iii) Temples, Mosques & other religious places of historical importance.

Ramrajatala Temple :- Ram-sita temple of Ramrajatala was established by Ayodhya Ram Chowdhury about 250 years ago. It is said that Chowdhury saw an idol of Ram-Sita in a dream. On the advice of Kulpandit Haldhar Nyaratna, he erected the idol in a grand procession. In 1909, Maa Sarada came to Ramrajatala to visit Ramthakur. The worship of Ram-Sita begins on the day of Ramnavami in the month of Baishakh (April) and it continues for four months. Every year on the day of Saraswati Pujo, the preparation of the huge mud idol is started through Kathampujo in the mansamandir of Chowdhurypara. The immersion of the huge idol is done on the last Sunday of the month of Sravan in river Ganga (Hoogly). Fairs are held surrounding the temple premises in this four months. On the first day of pujo in Ram Navami, lakhs of people gather at Ram Mandir. There are various stories and beliefs associated with Lord Rama of Ramrajatala.

Khalore Kali Bari Temple:- The main attraction of the village 'Khalor' on the border of Howrah is this famous Kali temple. Bagnan was once part of the zamindari of Maharaja Kandarp Narayan of Burdwan, a famous zamindar during the Mughal period. Later, the king erected a Dakshinakali idol of about 6 feet high on the banks of Damodar. Inside this brick temple is the traditional idol of Goddess Dakshinakali. This idol is made of neem wood. However, it is rumored that the old statue may have been destroyed, but later the statue was rebuilt. In front of the temple, two temples of Lord Shiva have been established on either side of the Nat Mandap -- Banlinga form of Lord Shiva in the eastern side and Mrityunjaya form of Lord Shiva in the western side. In the months of Bhadra and Poush, the goddess is worshipped here with special arrangements and a fair is organized entitled as "Mulokali Mela" during this period.

Hazar Hath Kali Temple :- The ancient Kali temple at Olabibitla in Shibpur, Howrah is a hundred years old temple. It is believed that tantrik Ashutosh Mukherjee, son of Mukherjee family at Olabibitla in Shibpur, saw Goddess Chandi in the form of a deity with 1000 hands in his dream. According to the holy scriptures of Chandipurana, during the slaying of Asura, Goddess Durga took many forms, one of which was the incarnation of her thousand hands. The local Haldar family came forward to build the temple with such a form of idol. The Idol's armors and crown are made of 11-12 kg of silver. The umbrella on the head of the goddess is also made of silver.

Salkia Boro Sitala Mata Temple :- An ancient Shitala temple situated at the crossroads of Shalikhia. The locals address the Goddess as "Boro maa". About 300 years ago, when

Shalikha was a village, Sukdev Bera, a devout man from Medinipur, came here and established the temple of Goddess Shitala. The significant occasion of the temple is where the idol is taken on a chariot for a Snan Jatra (bathing journey) on the date of Maghi Purnima. Thousands of people gathered to celebrate the occasion on the road. In the front yard of the temple, there is a sacrificial wood pot. In the surface of the sanctum one could find the Goddess Shitala worshipped in the form of Sila (large Stone).

Amta Melaichandi Temple :- Melai Chandi Mandir is located in the area adjacent to Amta Bazar of Ganeshpur village of Uluberia sub-division in Howrah district. The Dalan style temple, dedicated to Goddess Malaichandi was established by the local zamindar Chaitanyacharan Ray in the early half of 19th century. The front wall is decorated with floral motifs. This old temple is currently not used anymore and a new temple has been constructed just beside it. According to the inscription on the temple, the temple was built in 1056 BS. Many consider it to be the oldest temple in Howrah district. The idol of the goddess is made of stone which is about four feet in height and dark red in colour. The idol of goddess was established on the day Buddhapurnima and the annual ceremony of the temple is held on that day with great pomp.

Madan Gopal Jiu temple :- The 450-year-old temple located at Mellok village near Samata in Deulti town of Howrah district is locally known as Gopal's Temple. The temple is terracotta ornamented and built in the *ath-chala* style, referring to the eight slopes of its roof. It was built in the 16th century by Mukunda Prasad Roychowdhury, a member of the the Roychowdhury family, then Zamindars of Mellak. Hindu festivals including Dol Yatra and Janmashtami are celebrated at the temple.

Shiva & Singhabahini Temple:- The Shiva temple of Jagatballavpur is one of the oldest temples of Howrah district. Scenes of war are intricately carved out on terracotta tiles on the walls of the temple. Some of them got ruined over the years and some of the figures can hardly be distinguished now. There was a *Shivalinga* made of *kashti pathar (touchstone)* inside the temple.

When Binod Behari Pal, a cashier at the court of Maharaja of Burdwan, received some 102 bighas land in Jagatballavpur, he decided to settle with his family on the banks of Kana Damodar that flowed in this part of Howrah at that time. He played a key role in establishing the *Singhabahini Temple* inside the Pal Mansion. Benod Bihari Pal is said to have found the idol of *Singhabahini* (made of 8 metals) while bathing in Kana Damodar. The Durga puja had started in this house after Singhabahini's worship at the time of Buddhimanta Pal, youngest son of Benod Behari Pal. Durga is not in the form of Mahishasuramardini here. Instead, the deity is seated with Shaiva alongwith her two disciple-friend *Jaya & Bijaya*.

Narayan (Sridhar) Temple :- It is located in Patihal village of Jagatballavpur in Howrah district. The temple is dedicated to Narayan Sridhar Ji. It was founded by the Majumdar DICO, Howrah

family. It is popular for its terracotta sculptures on the front of the temple. Archaeological evidence suggests that the temple was established in the late 18th century. It is an east facing brick temple of Pancharatna style. A battle scene of Ramayana is depicted on the east door of the temple.

Siddeshwari Kali Temple :- The Siddheshwari Kali temple in central Howrah is also several centuries old. The present idol of the deity is made of precast stone about 60 years ago. Apart from daily Puja, special arrangements are made on every Saturday and Tuesday.

Amaragori Dadhimadhav Temple:- This is one of the notable temples of Howrah district. This temple is rich in terracotta carvings. The temple was built 35 years after the nearby Ghajalakshi temple was established which is around 1764 A.D.

Uluberia Kalibari :- Anandamayi Kali Mandir is a famous, century-old Kali temple located in Uluberia town of Howrah district. On the 18th day of Baishakh of 1327 Bengali year, the bow-shaped Navaratna Anandamayi Kali Mandir was established on the banks of the river Bhagirathi.

Sri Sri Lakshmi Janardan Mandir :- Sri Sri Lakshmi Janardan Mandir is situated at Ganeshpur village in Amta of Uluberia sub-division in Howrah district. It was established by the local zamindar Chaitanyacharan Ray. The temple was constructed in 1820 (1742 Saka era, 1227 Bengali era) by the architect Ramprasad Chandra Mistry from the village of Rautara. The temple is the abode of a Salgram Sila (Sila or stone dedicated to Lord Vishnu) and no idols. It is an east facing brick built temple of Navaratna style standing on high plinth. The temple is dedicated to Sri Sri Lakshmi Janardan. There are three arched doors and a Garva Griha (Sanctum). There are two Dwar-pals on both side of the main door of the sanctum. There are mythological scenes on the frontal wall of the temple.



DICO, Howrah

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