

KOLKATA
on

WHEELS

your autoventuring guide around the city

VOLUME I | ISSUE 8 | MAY 2009

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HOUSES
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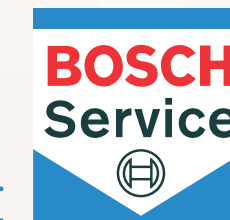
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EDITORIAL

Stand up please! Show some concern



Concern and care for Kolkata car owners does fall under wishful thinking and is to a degree, missing.

Who for instance, are the authors of unauthorised speed breakers? Who gives birth to such thoughtlessness?

Potholes and craters have been

part of Kolkata's geography and have damaged cars no end.

The unconcern shows.

And promises are hogwash.

Adding insult to injury, the surfeit of deception by 'Parking Agents' is on the rise. Parking literally tantamounts to getting fleeced.

Strangely, why are we slapped with a five year road tax unlike other states of India?

To address all these important issues on behalf of the car owners of Kolkata and to regularly organise events and activities, both competitive as well as recreational for its subscribers, we at 'Kolkata on Wheels' magazine have activated the 'Forum 4 Wheelers'. The members of this Forum are exclusively the subscribers of the magazine, who are admitted to the Forum on payment of the subscription fee.

The first meeting for the members of Forum 4 Wheelers is being organised on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 10.30 a.m. at the ITC Fortune (adjoining the Lake Land Country Club on Kona Expressway) wherein all the subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels' magazine are invited. Please make it convenient to attend.

With your active participation as a 'Wheeler', we hope to surely drive ahead.

Your's in wheeling

Souvik Ghosh
Editor

Forum 4 WHEELERS NOW GET, SET & GO

The time has arrived to let the fun, frolic and excitement flow.

'FORUM FOR WHEELERS' PRESENTS ITS FIRST MEGA EVENT on Sunday 31st May, 2009.

We promise to take your family to a greener pasture and experience a much awaited fun-filled Sunday - **A FUN DAY !!**

WELCOME TO ITC FORTUNE (a 4 star property adjoining Lake Land Country Club on Kona Expressway) - YOUR ELITE ADDRESS FOR THE DAY.

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So, **HURRY** and GET REGISTERED for only Rs 495/- per head.

Register at:

Guide India Publication, 19B Allenby Road, Kolkata 20 (Near Elgin Rd's Forum)

For further details call Suranjana: 98300 21012 / 9830 370 370

Event Log:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 9:30 am | : | Reporting at Rabindra Sarobar, for a car Treasure Hunt startup |
| 11.00 - 1:00 pm | : | Swimming and outdoor games |
| 1.00 - 2.30 pm | : | Lunch |
| 2.30 - 4.30 pm | : | Indoor Games at the Banquet Hall. |
| 4:30 - 5.00 pm | : | Tea and Snacks |

Please Note:

- Offer open for the first 50 entries only.
- Registered members should report at Rabindra Sarobar, opposite Calcutta Rowing Club's entrance at 9:30 AM, on 31.05.09.
- Those interested in swimming, please carry your swim suites.



TREASURE HUNT

Happy Hunting



Want to add some speed to your dull weekends?

Welcome to the 'Kolkata on Wheels' Treasure Hunt Contest.

With every issue, we will give 2 clues to check your *funda* on Kolkata.

Just take your car and hunt around the city. Rush in your entries to

win bumper gifts from us and Castrol. The winner will be decided

through a lucky draw from all the correct entries received.

Here are your two keys to the treasure for this month

1 On which date was 'Calcutta' officially renamed as 'Kolkata'?

2 Kolkata has been the home to a number of Nobel Prize winners. Name them.

The correct answers to last month's 'Treasure Hunt' questions are as follows :



Prinsep's Ghat

Prinsep's Ghat with its Doric columns is a fine structure and was intended to be a ceremonial place of arrival for dignitaries. King George V was ceremonially received at this Ghat in 1911.



Sabarna Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata's history is intimately related to the British East India Company and the British Raj. The East India Company bought three villages - Kolikata, Sutanuti and Gobindapur from the local landlord family of Sabarna Roy Chowdhury, to set up a trade post.



CONGRATS

The winner of last month's
Treasure Hunt Contest is
Mr. Kalyan Dasgupta



THE BUMPER
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The winner
will get
a Castrol GTX

Rush your replies to:
SMS: 98310 48220 or
E-mail: reply@guideindiapublication.com

NOTICE: for Subscribers

All subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels' magazine being members of the forum 4 wheelers are hereby invited for the first General Meeting as follows:

Date: 31st May Sunday 2009

Time: 11.00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Venue: ITC Fortune (Adjoining Lake Land Country Club on Kona Expressway)

Note:

- The invitation is extended only to the subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels' magazine.
- There is no registration fee.
- Complimentary soft drinks and beer will be served.
- Please register over phone at 9830 370 370 / 9830 270 270

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WHAT HAUNTS KOLKATA'S HAUNTED HOUSES?

Arjun Mukherjee

Are we terrified of the bizarre? Is it weird to sound 'plausible'?

Haunted houses in Kolkata are part of the illusive and the eerie. They still do spread a bit of phobia and are escapable diet for the chickenhearted.

Certain occurrences at Kolkata's Heritage Houses appear strange because unpreventable ghosts are proving to be less than neighbourly.

There's a rumour in circulation about our dear old National Library at Belvedere Estate. Or is it unverified supposition? That if you are alone amidst book-racks, footsteps keep following you. Heresay has it, that lord Metcalfe's wife still saunters around the library rooms!

How do you counter the imperceptible?

What about the Warren Hastings story? Is it a yarn? Well there are those who believe that the version should not fall under senseless writing.

Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of British India was compelled to leave India shaken and disgraced through impeachment by the British Parliament on bribery charges in the late 18th century. Those who had packed and shipped his belongings somehow forgot an old black bureau which contained documents that could have proven his innocence. This is where the legend gets a bit uncanny. History has it that this loss actually did come to pass and caused Hastings considerable distress.

Ghosts usually don't forget

The Governor General makes it a point to drop in at midnight on New Year's Eve every year at the portico of Hastings House in a horse drawn coach that crunches to a halt on the gravel outside. Warren Hastings, the ghost mind you, floats up the staircase in search of his lost documents and pride.

Hastings so loved this house that when he returned to England, the gardens of his mansion at Daylesford were laid out after his garden at Alipore.

Now all this, for those who can verify it, is actually spooky and unearthly, and is not hocus-pocus or a blatant lie.

To me it is not entirely unintelligible

The GPO at Dalhousie Square is not altogether neutral on ghosts. Freakish incidents keep happening. What Nirmalya Ghosh, an official has reported, borders between the incredible and the plausible. "I was working late in the evening at the MSN point. What I felt was a sudden ruffling sound behind me — a lady dressed in white raced up the staircases and vanished".

Another incident that keeps happening needs to be tolerated. Way back in 1948 an ABPO died of heart failure at the GPO. Matters did not end there. The present security, Pran Krishna Bhattacharya vows to have seen him on various occasions. A fact repeated by other guards. This sounds like Ripley's next edition, but you can't keep disbelieving everyone either.

Writers Building claims its share of sightings. Some suggest they still see beckoning pale figures of Sahibs at night. The security guards avoid trouble by mumbling words that make little sense.

Ghosts prefer the Government Art College also for refuge.

History has it that two English principals committed suicide at the college. One of them, E.B. Havell, experimented with Tantra, to the degree that he drove himself insane and managed to jump off the college roof.

Students who work late at nights, have added the right ingredients to their sightings. Fleeting glimpses and knocks on window panes are some of them.

Mr. Percy Brown hanged himself on the first floor of the then Principal's quarters. Chintamani Kar, one of our greatest sculptors, once got the impression that he was directly in front of the ghost of Mr. Brown.

Brown, blue, white whatever.

Ghosts will remain a non-issue till they bother to prove themselves.

The faint-hearted will continue to remain out of fashion. And panic or phobia is out of sync.

Unless of course, you found this worth your while.



INDUSTRY NEWS

Used Car Business Booms

Pradeep Goptu in a candid conversation with Joydip Sur discusses how the closure of Nano bookings have left other car companies in a mixed situation.

Lakhs of the Tata Motors Nano cars have been booked and most of the bookings are not for the basic Rs 1 lakh version but for the upper-end versions with luxury fittings and special



Santro Xing

features — versions that cost around Rs 1.5 lakh on the road.

This represents a unique situation in the Auto industry because this has identified lakhs of buyers with a budget of around Rs 1.5 lakh but without a car to ride.

As a result, used car dealers will stand to gain from the long waiting period for the Tata Nano.

Against the lakhs of bookings for the Nano that have already been made, just about one lakh units of the car will be available for delivery initially.

This will mean few options for those who do not get the Nano in the first lot.

In fact, most Nano applicants may have to wait for over one or two years before they can finally drive the car.

Industry analysts have dared to point out that in case the waiting period gets too long, these potential car buyers are bound to look for other, similarly priced options.

This is where the used-car business becomes significant.

A number of used car dealers are offering attractive financial packages to car buyers and have slashed the prices of 5-year old Ford Ikon and Opel Corsas to under Rs.1.5 lakh, say auto industry pundits.

The dealers of second hand cars therefore have an opportunity they can cash in on the time factor and convince consumers that they can own better cars, with more features for a price that would be similar to the price they are paying for the Nano.

Many second hand car dealers are also offering free maintenance to customers for three years to improve sales.

Other car companies are trying different approaches to the market.

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) is leaving no stone unturned in pursuing rural markets in India.

The company recently held an exclusively rural road-show in April, known as 'Hyundai Utsav'.

The show focussed primarily on pushing the sales of Hyundai's popular hatchbacks like the Santro and i10 in tier II and tier III centres.

The company initially launched this campaign in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh and aimed to cover over 50 centres in these two states.



Hyundai i10

'Hyundai Utsav' will not only be a promotional event but will also offer finance options to prospective buyers.

These developments come at a odd time for the Indian automobile industry.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has reported that passenger vehicle sales in the country have grown by 3.44 per cent from FY 2007-08 to 2008-09.

While domestic passenger vehicle sales grew by 0.13 per cent, passenger car sales went up by 1.3 per cent.

There are reports which establish that there was a spectacular rise in the export segment, with passenger vehicle exports going up by 53.73 per cent in the given period.

In contrast, commercial vehicle sales fell by 24 per cent, bringing down the cumulative growth percentage in the Auto sector to 2.96 per cent.

In fact, most car manufacturers in the country have reported a rise in vehicle sales in March 2009, compared to sales in February 2009.

However, compared to sales in March 2008, the sales figures for March 2009 were low.



Ford Ikon

Honda Siel's sales fell from 8,895 units in March 2008 to 7,368 units in March 2009.

HMIL reported a 15.8 per cent decline in sales in the same period.

Tata Motors' sales too declined in March 2009 by 4 per cent.

The one exception was Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), which posted a 30 per cent increase in UV sales in March 2009, over sales in March 2008.



Mahindra Xylo

This was largely due to the success of its latest MPV, the Mahindra Xylo.

According to auto industry analysts, the improvement in sales has come about due to the two stimulus packages introduced by the government in December and January.

Public sector banks claimed to have eased lending conditions and cut interest rates, leading to some sort of a positive effect.



CAR REVIEW

Ritz

Technical analyst Fershid Dastur reviews the Maruti Ritz

Looks ★★★★★

Maruti seems to have done it again. They have launched another model which definitely stands out from the rest. The exterior looks very European with flowing lines in front complimented with an almost flat vertical rear. The tail lamps help give the rear some character which is otherwise a little bland. The sides look sporty, thanks to the flared wheel arches which has become a trademark of the new generation of Suzuki cars.

Interiors ★★★★★

Though the car looks compact on the outside, it is surprisingly spacious inside. The fabrics and plastics are of good quality and are light colored which makes it extremely pleasing to look and touch. The center console is well laid out and also houses the gear lever which frees up much space between the driver and passenger. The external tachometer pod is sporty and looks good, as well as the speedometer which is big and easy to read though the digital fuel meter is a little difficult to see clearly due to its small size. Due to the tall boy design there is tons of head room inside. Also getting in and out is quite easy and will be appreciated by older people. The rear seats are comfortable too with adequate leg and shoulder room. The seats are soft at the same time supportive. Boot space is at a premium which might be a problem when taking the family on a weekend get away. Overall, Suzuki has done a good job with the interiors which are very practical for daily use.

The drive ★★★★★

Like all Suzuki cars, the Ritz too is fun to drive. It comes with two engine options, a 1.2 K series petrol engine and a 1.3 DDiS Diesel. The Diesel though will contribute to the bulk of sales. While the petrol engine is smooth and peppy to drive as well as fuel efficient, the diesel is outright powerful and a driver's delight at the same time it is frugal. The performance of the diesel is exhilarating and will leave the competition far behind. The throttle response on both cars is crisp due to the drive by wire system adopted like on the SX4. The high seating position gives the driver a good view which helps making city driving a breeze. Ground clearance is excellent and should take on our pathetic road conditions with ease. The

engine is BS-4 and OBD-1 compliant which is above the current regulations. Overall, like most Suzuki products, its fun and reliable too.

Equipment level ★★★★★

The top end version comes loaded with an in dash cd/mp3 system with steering mounted controls along with power windows and central locking, although it lacks an automatic climate control system. This is a feature that we feel Maruti should offer in the top end version. Besides this, it comes equipped with front passenger and driver air bags along with ABS (anti-lock braking system) and EBD (electronic brake force distribution). Height adjustable drivers seat and steering is also available. There are some interesting storage spaces available which can be quite useful. Alloy wheels are standard on the Zxi version.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Length | 3715 mm |
| Overall Width | 1680 mm |
| Overall Height | 1620 mm |
| No. of cylinders | 4 |
| Displacement | 1197 cc |
| Maximum Power | 85 ps @ 6000 rpm |
| Maximum Torque | 113 Nm @ 4500 rpm |

BODY COLOURS



Colours shown may vary from actual body colours due to printing on paper.



Verdict ★★★★★

The Ritz makes perfect sense for a family car. It is spacious, fuel efficient and fun to drive. It is a car which would not look out of place at a shopping mall or an evening party. It's design sets it apart from the competition and in the right colours, dare I might say, it looks stunning. With the right price, it will be a very strong contender in this segment as it has all the right qualities to be a winner. After all its got the backing of Maruti Suzuki along with the most wide spread after-sales service. It is a smart choice for today's generation.



Fershid's summer tips:

- Keep a check on your coolant level, make sure it's filled till the max mark. If the coolant bottle gets dry frequently have the radiator and hoses checked for leaks. Overheating can cause many problems which could be expensive to repair. Always keep an eye on the heat meter to make sure it's not crossing the normal temperature mark, if so, get it checked immediately.
- Ensure your car tyres are properly inflated. Heated road conditions not only cause higher tyre wear but frequent punctures. An under inflated tyre stands a higher chance of getting flat than a properly inflated one.
- If your car air-conditioner is not effective, get the gas checked. Note, if the gas is less, get the entire unit checked for leaks before refilling the gas. Get the cooling coil also cleaned to improve the air flow.





KOLKATAN OF THE MONTH

Team Wheels brings you another inspiring tale of an individual who personifies the undaunting spirit of Kolkata



Lighting Up The Dark

The Koran says, "The seeing and the blind are not equal". The unseeing becomes the blackboard for their creations to take shape. They rise above mediocrity of the seeing and fill lives with new visions ...

Mr Dilip Loyalka is one like them. Since birth he wrestled with his destiny to prolong the dying lights of his ever failing vision to seep in the beauty of green grass and story books, dusty playgrounds and brown school-bags before it all went off like a bad fuse in Class VII. But this was only the push he needed to kindle his soul.

In 1979, he graduated as a B.Com with distinction from Calcutta University. In keeping with the family tradition he joined the Chartered Accountants of India in 1983, becoming the first visually impaired person to do so. He is also a law graduate.

Presently a partner of J.Loyalka & Co., a reputed Chartered Accountants' firm of Kolkata, he has also co-authored five books. The book "How To Handle Income Tax Problems" is in its seventeenth edition. "Practical Guide To VDIS 1997" helped even the layman understand Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme 1997 rules and regulations. His Hindi Book "Kaise Suljhaye Aaykar Samasyayen" has received an award from the Central Board Of Direct Taxes and his other two books are "Income tax Pleading and Practice" and "Tax Planning and Conveyancing". He is also in the expert panel of the tax website "incometaxinfo.com".

In 2002 he received the National Award presented by President APJ Abdul Kalam. In 2005 he received an award again from President Kalam as the most outstanding blind person in India on the occasion of AICB Silver Jubilee. In 1990 he received the "Outstanding Young Persons Award" from South Calcutta Junior Chamber among a host of other distinguishing awards. Mr Loyalka is actively involved in the welfare of visually handicapped, and he is the Vice President of National Association for the Blind. This proud father of a daughter who is a qualified CA herself and a teenage son, is the man behind the success of his wife. Today Mrs. Veena Loyalka is the fellow member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

"Kolkata on Wheels" salutes this shining star who has made this city proud.



Send in your recommendations for the 'Kolkatan of the Month' at editorial@guideindiapublication.com

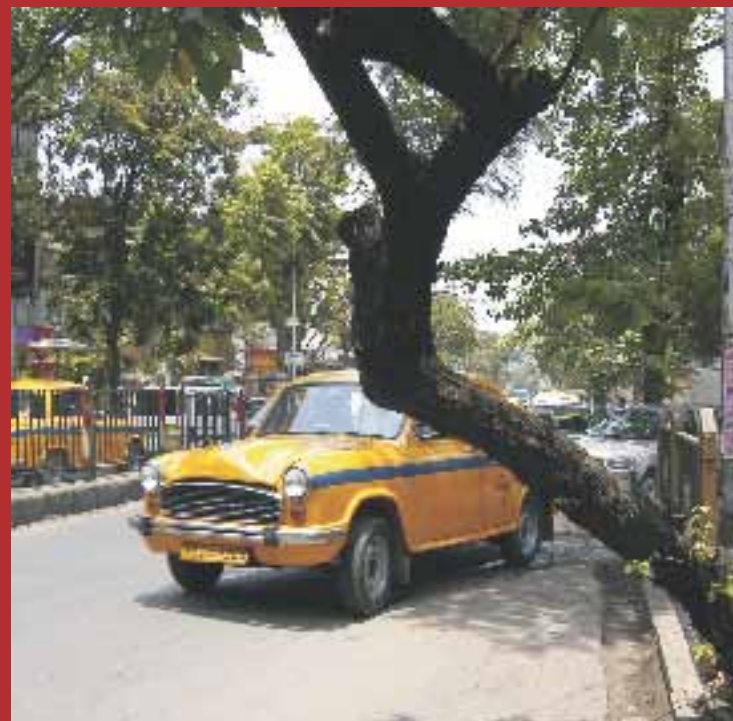


BEWARE

Whose responsibilities are these ??

■ Iron pegs are protruding on the Sarat Bose Road surface at the following places:

- 1) Opposite Ramkrishna Mission Hospital (North-bound traffic lane)
- 2) Crossing of Ramesh Mitra Road (North-bound traffic lane)



A tree is jutting out dangerously on the south-bound traffic lane on Sarat Bose Road just before the Hazra Road crossing and many cars are ramming into it.

Send in your cautions for the city motorists at editorial@guideindiapublication.com



STAR TRACK

Having shared screen space with the likes of Aamir Khan and Saif Ali Khan actor Sreelekha Mitra is now busy playing the lead and raring to shed her inhibitions to fly high. In a freewheeling interview to Nasreen Khan, she talks about her future plans, likes and dislikes....

When you look at yourself in the mirror who do you see?

■ I see a very humble, sensitive and an emotional person.

What is the best thing about being in your profession?

■ The fact that I get to live so many lives in one life.

Which is your favourite film?

■ I can't name any particular film but *Mege Dhaka Tara* is one name that comes immediately to mind.

What is your favourite cuisine?

■ Continental.

What is the craziest thing you have done?

■ While in school I was going to my *mamar bari* during some Puja. I was in class 9 or so. There was some *para* function happening and two guys were dancing away. My *mami* challenged me to go and dance with them and I just hopped up to them and began dancing without any inhibitions.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

■ That I won't want anyone to know!(Laughs) Hmm...That I am a very good mother and I love to cook and love to eat as well.

Which are your upcoming films?

■ I just finished a Hindi film based on Tagore's novel *Ghaire Baire* called *Arhangini Karva Kartya*. Then there is this film with Babul Supriyo named *Ogo Bodhu Sundori*. There were other offers which I could not take up due to date problems.

Who is your favourite co-star?

■ Aamir Khan. I had a very strong liking for him since my school days. I love his acting and his involvement with the film. Here at Tollywood I have worked with all and have shared a very good relationship with everyone.

Which is your favourite outfit?

■ I look best in a sari. For day to day wear I prefer a jeans and a shirt.

What is your stress buster?

■ Being with my three year old daughter.

How did you meet your husband?

■ We were shooting for a telefilm and he was the chief assistant director or so. Sparks flew.

How were you wooed?

■ I proposed!

What is the craziest thing a boyfriend did for you?

■ During my college days I was staying with some friends and on a Bandh day he cycled all the way from his home and took me out for a ride.

Which is the one quality of your spouse you love?

■ I used to love his honesty.

The most memorable date you have been on...

■ First day I met my husband.

Your favourite romantic getaway is?

■ Goa. We have been there for our honeymoon.

Describe your ideal man.

■ There is no man you can call ideal.

Is there any social cause you would like to endorse?

■ I am appalled by child labour and poverty. I would love to do something to end it.

How comfortable are you with skin show?

■ I wish I had been more comfortable. I am open to European films and world cinema. When I see actors performing without any inhibitions I wish I didn't have the inhibitions that I have.

Describe yourself in one word.

■ A very friendly person. I am what I am. I am not a hypocrite.

How would you like to be remembered?

■ I would like to be remembered as a cerebral actress. If people associate me with adjectives like hot and sexy I wouldn't mind!

I don't mind people associating me with adjectives like hot and sexy!!!!

Fact File:

Kolkata in one word: Home

Favourite street food in Kolkata: Nostalgic about north Kolkata street food joints, as I grew up there. Phuchka.

Favourite place in the city: Parent's home! Coffee House during my college days.

A place other than Kolkata where you would like to live: Nowhere!

If you get one wish fulfilled for Kolkata what would it be: Eradicate child labour, begging and poverty.

Favourite car make: The car I am driving now!

The car you drive: Honda City.

Favourite car colour: Black but due to an astrologer's advice I settled for a cream.

Favourite drive in town: Rajarhat.

Best time to go for a drive: Night.

Favourite driving destination: Mumbai to Goa. Kolkata highways are so crowded.

Nothing succeeds more than success! So dream 'bibi' dream 'succeed' best wishes Anuruddha Mitra



Photography: Rana Bose
Make-up: Aniruddha Chakradar



PAST PERFECT

GPO

A collector's stamp by itself

Joydip Sur

As you enter the realm of the Kolkata General Post Office, one is immediately transported to a bygone era. The GPO is one of those places, which is thronged by thousands of people everyday who go on with their daily mundane business without realising the significance of this stunning building in the annals of the postal history of India.

The construction of this breathtaking edifice has an equally fascinating story. The site of the old Fort William in the Dalhousie Square was selected for the construction of the new GPO. The southern and eastern corners of the Fort were then in ruins and desolate. Later it had to be cleared during the years 1856 - 57 to 1862 - 63 at a cost of Rs. 3000. The removal of the old foundation was a work of great difficulty owing to the extreme hardness of the masonry, which in many cases, could only be removed by blasting.

The construction of the Kolkata General Post Office commenced in 1864 based on the design of renowned architect Walter B. Granville and the new building was rendered immortal by the great obstetric engineering of Dr. Slop. In 1865, the Government of Bengal was satisfied with the progress of the construction of GPO and it was expected to be completed in the month of May 1866, but the failure of the lofty columns of the eastern portico delayed the completion of the building.

The original plan was prepared to afford a convenient substantial post office, large enough to meet the requirements of Kolkata for a century and capable of enlargement at any future period as may be deemed necessary, but the plan did not work even during the progress of the construction. The construction of the new GPO was a long drawn affair, witnessed with keen interest by historians and architects.

The Imperial Government made all possible efforts with reasonable expenditure to build a splendid architectural exterior befitting the once British Capital in India. The famous contractors Mackintosh Burn & Co constructed the GPO dome.

It is interesting to note what the PWD Bengal stated in 1867, "The new Post Office is now completed with the exception of a few trivial works. The dome has been completed and scaffoldings removed. It has been finished off with a moulded octagonal finial but it is regretted that the funds did not admit of it being surmounted with a lantern, which could have added much to the artistic effect of the dome."

The government could not sanction the additional funds as it was diverted due to the outbreak of famine in Bengal and plague in western India by this time. Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, presented a costly and decorative lantern in order to beautify the building. Finally, the construction work concluded in 1868.

The GPO consists of two lofty storeys, the east and south fronts being faced with handsome Corinthian columns, flanked by massive piers which provide the platform for the staircases. The southeast angle of the building is semicircular, also faced with Corinthian columns, leading to a lofty circular hall in which are the public letterboxes. This majestic edifice is crowned by a dome, which forms one of the most conspicuous landmarks of Kolkata.

The building is approached by handsome flights of steps. These flights of steps on both sides of the building are considered longest in the world. The building has a floor area of 48184 square feet with a height of 220 feet. The big clock of the imposing building, purchased in 1896 at a cost of Rs. 7000 from the famous manufacturer of Big Ben clock of London, fixed in 1897 above the semi circular entrance and below the dome, is an eternal testimony which attracts the attention and admiration of millions of public daily in its loud but musical gongs, during the long 112 years of its existence.

Upon entering the portico through the elegantly curved entrance one would witness modest counters devoted to the sale of stamps, franking, enquiry and other services. Right in the middle of this grand hall stands a wonderful statue depicting a postman sculpted by renowned sculptor Sanatan Rudra Pal. The all-important dome, sixty-eight metres high, is truly a masterpiece. Twenty-eight modified Corinthian columns ornamentally hold up the dome on the exterior. When your eye travels up into the interior of the dome, the effects of the light within the sphere of suspended space tends to have an unusual effect on you.

During the early days, the postmaster general had his offices on the first floor of the main block. It is said that in 1880 there were as many as 558 clerks and 429 servants working in the GPO.

The GPO functions as the chief post office of West Bengal and houses an adjacent red brick building, the Postal Museum that was built in 1884. The museum displays a wide collection of artifacts and stamps, which includes antique cast iron postboxes, signal lights from the Railway Mail Service, franking seals, copies of charters, etc commemorating the history of postal services in India. At the south western end of the building is the Philatelic Bureau, which is a collector's delight. Visitors can buy some of the more recent first day covers and mint stamps at cost price from the Bureau.

As you step out of the GPO and look around, you will be smitten with the wave of life that surrounds this place. Around the periphery of the GPO are several small traders engaging in the sale of post-cards, inland letters, envelopes and stamps among many others postal items. The place is throbbing with life and activity.

The GPO is truly a fascinating place to visit. We had a wonderful time exploring this historical edifice and urge you to go on a trail to rediscover this beautiful structure. If possible, visit the GPO after the sun has bid adieu for the day. Trust us, when the moonlight shines down upon the GPO, it looks celestial. So don't waste anymore time. Just book your date with history.





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Continental Delight!!!

Nasreen Khan

If you are a foodie then Kolkata is your destination. The sheer number of eateries and the variety of cuisines available cannot but tempt even the die-hard home food lover to try a dish or two. And things couldn't get any better as the number of restaurants is growing by the day. This does not mean that the city is compromising on the quality of its meal. Stand-alone restaurants are bridging the gap with five-star hotels when it comes to quality and ambience along with authenticity of the cuisine. Even for the *machh-bhaat* loving perennial Mughlai and Chinese food lover, Continental cuisine is among the hot favourites. Let us find out what makes this cuisine so special.

Lovers of cheese love the melt in the mouth dishes and for those who just can't do without their *au gratins*, steaks and barbecues; continental cuisine is just what the doctor prescribed. What makes Continental cuisine taste different is the use of a lot of fresh herbs and the near absence of the chilli factor. There are many who are confused about what the cuisine is all about. This cuisine is also known as European/Western cuisine and the category in fact has 54 sub-categories.

Besides France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, there is Germany, Hungary, Holland, Belgium, Sweden,

Switzerland, Lichtenstein and many more countries that together give some of the most loved dishes that are characteristic of this cuisine. The recipes of these countries are often as different as day is from night. Even if the recipes have similar names, their ingredients are often different, and their preferred herbs and spices are different in every country. Hungary for instance likes to put *paprika* in most of their spiced foods. France cooks mostly with fresh herbs.

Compared with the traditional cooking of Asian countries, meat is more prominent and substantial in serving-size. Steak in particular is a common dish across the West. Similarly to some Asian cuisines, Western cuisines also put substantial emphasis on sauces as condiments, seasonings, or accompaniments. Wheat-flour bread has long been the most common source of starch in this cuisine, along with pasta, dumplings and pastries. Potato is a favourite starch.

So be it the different kinds of pasta from Italy, croissants (a sweet roll) from France, the Hungarian goulash, the typical Greek salad, seafood paella from Spain or an English Sunday roast, Continental cuisine makes the mouth of most food connoisseurs water.



Glossary

Steak: Is a slice off a larger piece of meat, usually beef. In North America, steaks are usually grilled.

Stroganoff: A Russian dish of sauted pieces of beef served in a sauce with sour cream.

Tetrazzini: A pasta dish with cream sauce and mushrooms.

Bisque: A rich shellfish soup made with the shells of the animal. This name is also used to describe vegetable soups prepared in the same manner as shellfish bisques.

Consommé: clear soup.

A la Kiev: A classic Ukrainian dish of boneless chicken breast pounded and rolled around cold unsalted butter, then breaded and fried.

Tartare: A preparation of finely chopped raw meat or fish optionally with seasonings and sauces.

Au gratin: Dish cooked with a topping of breadcrumbs and cheese.

Risotto: Rice cooked with broth and sprinkled with grated cheese.

Florentine: The word is most commonly associated with dishes containing spinach and sometimes a cream sauce.

Meuniere: A classic French dish consisting of a filet of sole served with a brown butter sauce and lemon.

Bagel: A glazed yeast-raised doughnut-shaped roll with hard crust.

Bleu: Cooked rare, usually for steak.

Bruschetta: Grilled slices of bread brushed with olive oil and fresh garlic.

Cannelloni: An Italian dish made of sheets or tubes of pasta filled with meat, cheese or fish, sauced and baked au gratin.

Croquette: A thick patty made up of cooked foods. These patties or balls are breaded and fried or sautéed.

Cordon Bleu: Thin slices of veal or chicken, ham and cheese breaded and sautéed.

Eggs Benedict: Toasted English muffin topped with ham and a poached egg (or an oyster) and hollandaise sauce.

Cold cuts: A North American term that refers to cheeses or precooked or cured meat, often sausages or meat loaves, that are sliced and usually served cold on sandwiches or on party trays.

Bolognese sauce: A thick sauce made from meat, vegetables, and tomatoes.

Baked Alaska: A dessert comprised of sponge cake topped with ice cream and covered with meringue.



Where to Find

- Mocambo**
25B Park Street
- One Step Up**
18A Park Street
- Flurys**
18 Park Street
- Tangerine**
2/1 Outram Street, Circus Avenue
- Peter Cat**
18 Park Street

- Moulin Rouge**
31 Park Street
- The Bistro**
Purna Das Road
- Afraa**
Shop No-G002, Block-G, Sector-I, City Centre, Salt Lake
- Comics**
45 S.R. Das Road, Lake Gardens

- Virgose / Myth**
Hotel Hindustan International, 235/1 AJC Bose Road
- Floatel**
9/10 Kolkata Jetty, Strand Road
- The Atrium**
Park Hotel, 17 Park Street
- West View Bar & Grill**
ITC Sonar
1 JBS Haldane Avenue



FREEZE FRAME

Do you know your city well?
Then identify this location in Kolkata.

Freeze Frame



Photo credit : Subrata Kotal



Send us your answer at reply@guideindiapublication.com to win an attractive prize. The winner will be decided through a lucky draw from all the correct entries received.

There's more. Read on.....

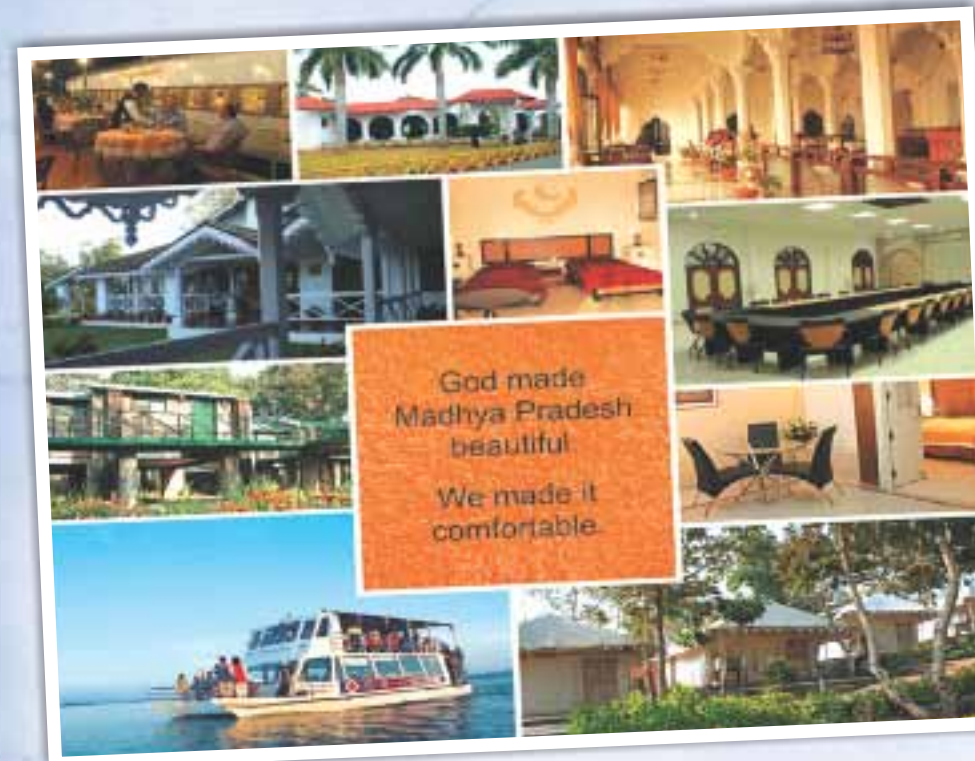
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The correct answer to last month's 'Freeze Frame' question is **C.R. Avenue and B.B. Ganguly Street crossing**

Congrats!
The winner of last month's Freeze Frame contest is **Ritwick Dey**

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“We are all born dancers”

One of the leading dancers and choreographers of contemporary dance in India, Tanushree Shankar has been taking the Shankar technique of “New Dance” to international audiences...she shares her feelings here with Nasreen Khan

Tell us something about yourself

- Basically I come from an army background and my father was a doctor. There was no dance anywhere in my family whatsoever but I had a very strong passion for dancing. In our times it was more like a hobby and a recreation rather than taking it up as a profession.

When did you start your training as a dancer?

- I started learning dance properly when my father got posted in Kolkata. I enrolled at the Uday Shankar Indian Culture Centre. That was the first time I started learning dance as a curriculum.

How did you meet your husband, the world famous music composer Ananda Shankar?

- It just happened that when I was at the academy I met Ananda. We started meeting up after the summer of 1970. He was 13 and half year elder to me. Everyone thought it was an infatuation.

Did he influence you as a dancer?

- I would get carried away but he used to be very strict and guided me. He encouraged me to do well, saying that if you made your parents happy, you would make me happy. In a way he inspired me. Whatever I am doing today is because of his inspiration.

Were you aware that you would be what you are today?

- I was very carefree during my growing up years without much restrictions being imposed on me. I did not have any ambition, but my husband motivated me from an early stage. He wanted me to find my own identity. I was very laid back as a person. I thought *ab shadi wadi ho gaya* now take it easy. But he did not let me do that. He would keep telling me that if an opportunity came my way, I should not let it slip out. He thought I had talent and I must not waste it.

His death must have been more than a personal loss...

- His death was sudden and shocking. Even today I feel he is somewhere around there inspiring me even now. Touchwood, now I am doing fine. I am very grateful to all those people who did not leave like the others and had faith in me.

How did Tanushree Shankar Dance Company happen?

- Ananda always felt I should grow out from under his umbrella. He felt it was not fair if I did not get prominence.

How do you see yourself, a choreographer or a dancer?

- On the stage I am very much a choreographer. With age your body is not able to do many things. But I still love dancing.

Any show that you cherish?

- The one fresh in my mind is the French opera *Padmavati* with Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Then there was this very interesting collaboration that I did with Margaret Jensen. The whole thing was co-ordinated over email till four of my dancers reached there. I did not know what the music was and followed only the one-liner directions she would email me and I would shoot it on video and email back. The dance too was very innovative that started in the outdoors and came indoors with dancers dancing on eight stages set up in the midst of the audience. The show has travelled all over the world.

Which is your favourite dance form?

- Among the Indian dance forms I am a great fan of Kathakali because of its postures and the fact that it is so masculine and Manipuri, because it is so very graceful and feminine.

Like other art forms, is dance also something you have to have in your genes or can you acquire it?

- We are all born dancers. Everyone is born with built in rhythm. When we walk or run or jog, there is rhythm. So there is some dance in all of us. It is just how we direct our energies.

How did Chirantan happen?

- We were always requested to do something with Rabindrasangeet. But I did not want to do the regular stuff. So I took up Tagore's English poems. When I approached Amitabh Bachchan he loved it and readily agreed to do the narration.

What next?

- There are two productions lined up awaiting sponsorship. One is based on poems by Jalaluddin Mir with songs by Sudha Mudgal and others.

Tanushree Shankar outside dance is...

- A mother, a very good and loyal friend.



This car has never bluffed me on the road

Mr. Gadai Chand Dey has more sides to him than what meets the eye. A retired police officer, a devoted follower of Lord Jagannath, a vintage car collector and a lover of exotic birds and dogs. In a candid conversation with Joydip Sur, he shares the story of his 1939 Morris 8.

How did you develop an interest in vintage cars?

I have been interested in vintage cars since my childhood. My father used to drive around in a 1934 Austin 10. He loved his car and took great care of it. His interest and love for cars brushed off on me. I was also greatly inspired by Field Marshal Manekshaw during my interaction with him at a vintage rally.

How does your family react to your passion for vintage cars?

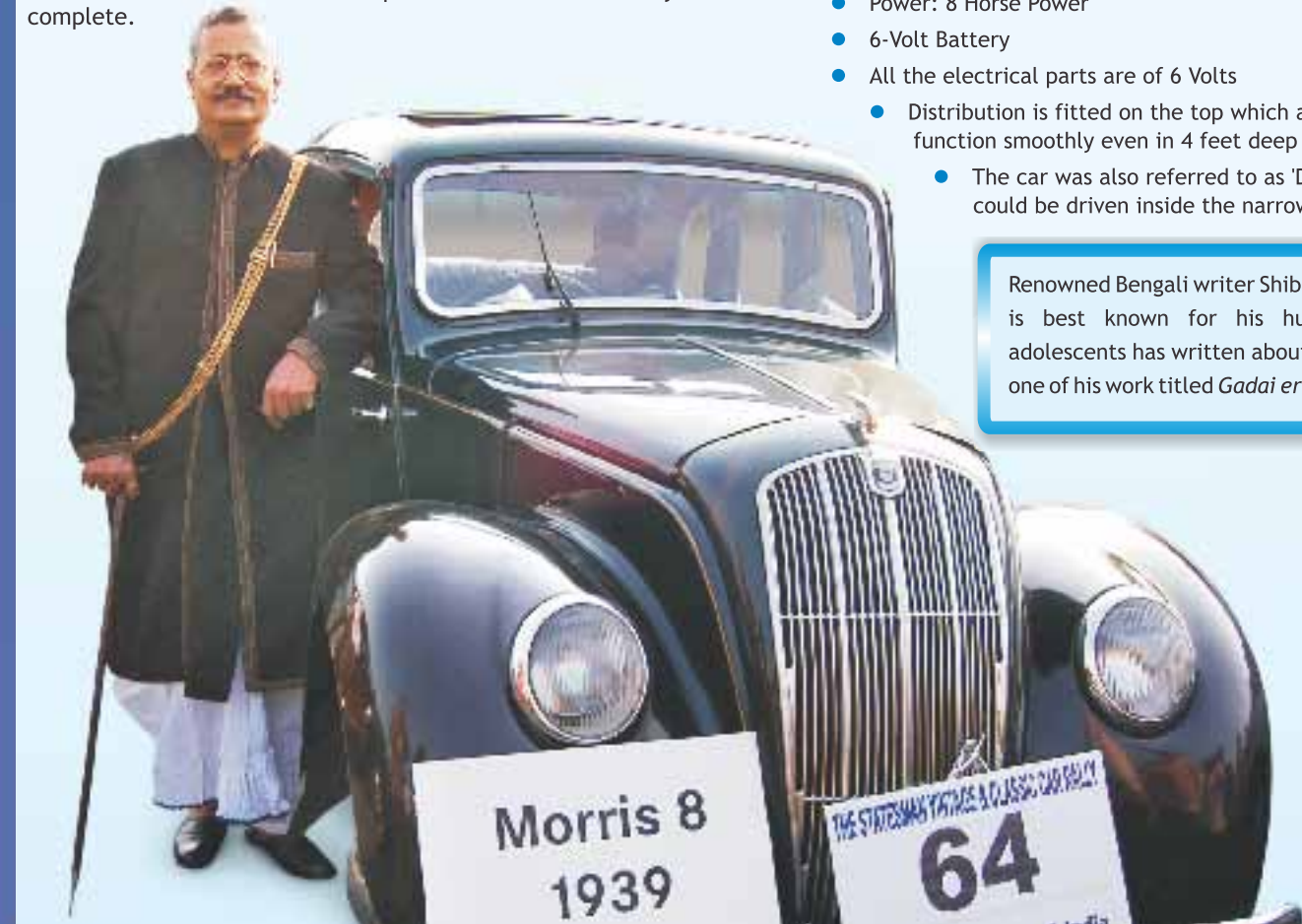
My wife and children are extremely supportive. They too share my passion for vintage cars. I strongly believe that it is next to impossible to indulge in a passion for vintage cars without the support of your family.

How did you acquire this car?

This car was lying in a dilapidated condition with Mrs. Pratima Debi. Initially she was not willing to sell this car but after months of persuasion I convinced her to sell this car to me at a princely sum in those days for Rs. 3000.

Who restored the car? How long did that process take?

Krishna Chandra Kar and his son Ganesh Chandra Kar restored the car under my guidance and supervision. It was due to their dedicated effort and relentless hard work that we were able to restore the car to mint condition. The restoration process took around two years to complete.



Technical Specifications: 1939 Morris 8

- 4 Cylinders
- Power: 8 Horse Power
- 6-Volt Battery
- All the electrical parts are of 6 Volts
- Distribution is fitted on the top which allows the car to function smoothly even in 4 feet deep water.
- The car was also referred to as 'Doctor's Car' because it could be driven inside the narrowest lanes of the city.

Renowned Bengali writer Shibram Chakraborty who is best known for his humorous stories for adolescents has written about Mr. G. C. Dey's car in one of his work titled *Gadai er gari*.



MAK makes it possible.



ROADSCAPE

Mahatma Gandhi Road: A cobbled road of history

Joydip Sur

Renowned American novelist and poet Don Williams Jr. had once said, "The road of life is filled with twists and turns and no two directions are ever the same. Our most memorable moments come from the journey, not the destination." We couldn't have possibly agreed more with these remarkable words.

Truly, no two roads are ever the same. And here we are literally talking about the roads that complete the cityscape. In the everyday din we often forget the voluminous history stashed aside as these roads continue to be christened and re-christened. This month we set out on a trail to rediscover Mahatma Gandhi Road.

Mahatma Gandhi Road is beyond doubt one of the most important east-west thoroughfares of Kolkata, connecting two of its major railway terminus. It starts from the Sealdah flyover in the east and stretches till Barabazar in the west.

But long before this road was renamed after Gandhiji, it was known as Harrison Road named after Sir Henry Leland Harrison, the then chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. Starting as a district Magistrate of Midnapore, he rose to the position of Chairman in April 18, 1881 and held the seat till April 15, 1890. A dynamic town planner he received his knighthood in 1887, and died of cholera at the age of 55 on May 5, 1892.

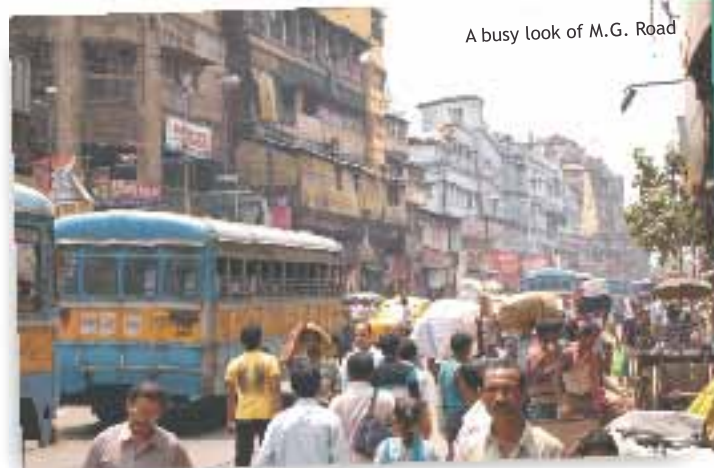
The decision to name this road, till then known as Central Road, as Harrison Road was reached at the Special Meeting of the Corporation held on May 17, 1892.

However, the real credit behind the road goes to Kali Charan Ghosh, the first Bengali Deputy Collector of Land Acquisition Department. He was the man in charge to acquire the land for the construction of Harrison Road. The construction of this road is considered to be one of his greatest achievements.

At the time of its construction the road had a length of 8900 feet (1.685 miles) with a uniform breadth of 70 feet which included 50 feet of carriageway and two footpaths, each 10 feet wide.

The Calcutta Corporation spent over Rs. 47 lakhs to construct this road. The construction of the road was begun on April 11, 1889 and the work was completed in 1892-93. The first section of the road from Clive Street (Netaji Subhas Road) was opened to the traffic on June 28, 1890, absorbing the lane leading direct from Clive Street to the old Nimai Charan Mullick Ghat, constructed by the illustrious Singbahini Mullicks of Barabazar. The Mullicks of Barabazar gifted 4 bighas of land to the corporation for the construction of the road.

Harrison Road remained the central connector till almost a decade after independence. It was only in January 5, 1956 that



A busy look of M.G. Road



1938 view of M.G. Road



Fol patty

a proposal to rename it as Mahatma Gandhi Road was notified by the Calcutta Corporation. This notification appeared in the Calcutta Municipal Gazette on January 21, 1956. The municipal body at its weekly meeting held on August 31, 1956 is said to have sanctioned the above proposal.

The stretch of Mahatma Gandhi Road is as diverse as it gets. Once you start walking on Mahatma Gandhi Road from Sealdah, you would first come across the Sisir Market. This market is home to a huge number of stores selling everything

from clothing, electronic items and umbrellas to invitation cards, bicycles and food products. A few steps from here will take you to Chabi Ghar Cinema Hall. At one point of time this used to be the place where people from the Bengali middle class of North Kolkata used to come to watch the latest Bengali films. A few metres from here is the Surendranath College. This college wears the distinction of churning out some popular politicians of our times.

If you look rightwards from here, you will see a large number of lodges and guesthouses like Ideal Lodge, Hotel De Bengal and Hotel Cozy among several others.

As you continue your journey westward from here, on your left you will find loads of stores selling invitation cards. This is a unique feature of this road. Nowhere else in the city will you ever come across a stretch of road with countless number of stores just selling invitation cards. You will also find a large number of stores selling a wide variety of sports items ranging from cricket bats, footballs and basketballs to badminton racquets, running shoes and weight training equipment among others.

As you approach the Mahatma Gandhi Road and College Street crossing, on your left stands the Dikhusa Cabin. This small food joint tucked away right behind some roadside bookstalls is an institution in itself. This cozy little food joint is frequented by hundreds of customers everyday. Despite the mushrooming of several other fast food joints in the close vicinity, Dikhusa Cabin's popularity seems to be unaffected. And bang opposite to Dikhusa Cabin is a very popular saree store called Adi Mohoni Mohan Kanjilal.

Once you cross the Mahatma Gandhi Road and College Street junction and approach C.R. Avenue, on your left you will find several musical band stores. This is yet another unique characteristic of this road. Calcutta Band, Mahboob Band, India Band, Yousuf Band and Darbar Band are some of the popular names. And on the right you will come across a wholesale fruit market colloquially known as "fol patty".

A few hundred metres from here will bring you to Kolkata's largest wholesale market - Barabazar. This is possibly the busiest juncture in this stretch of the road. There isn't any item that you can think of that is not sold here. From dawn to the late hours of the evening, this place is hustling and bustling with trade and activities.

Dotted with old buildings and stores on both the sidewalks along the entire stretch of the road, Mahatma Gandhi Road is truly a visual treat for any passerby. Rediscovering Mahatma Gandhi Road is not only an enlightening experience, but also a romance unfolded. It's the romance of time, history and culture piled up on a stretch of road, that we so often tend to overlook.



View of modern day of M.G. Road

(WITH INPUTS FROM RENOWNED HISTORIAN P.T.NAIR)



LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE

Santiniketan, the Abode of Peace



| TURNS NO. | DISTANCE (km) | DIRECTIONS | ROUTE DESCRIPTION |
|-----------|---------------|------------|--|
| 1 | 0.0 | | Set your car trip meter to "0" at VIDYASAGAR SET TOLL TAX POINT Follow Kona Expressway Exit. Pay Toll Tax Rs.10/- |
| | 3.2 | | Go straight through Kona Expressway: Cross Bridge |
| | 4.3 | | Cross Santragachi Railway Station on your left on Kona Expressway |
| | 5.7 | | Go under the bridge on Kona Expressway |
| | 7.7 | | At the end of Kona Expressway do not take the left diversion-go on to the fly-over |
| 2 | 8.9 | | Get in the NH-2 Connector and take soft left to meet NH-2. Be alert for high speed traffic. |
| | 9.8 | | Go under the bridge on NH-2 Connector Road |
| | 12.0 | | Drive straight, do not take the left lane on the bridge on NH-2 Connector Road |
| | 15.9 | | Go on to the bridge on to NH-2 Connector Road |
| | 16.8 | | Follow direction towards Delhi to meet Durgapur Express Way |
| | 18.8 | | Dankuni Junction. Proceed straight towards Durgapur Express Way |
| | 19.7 | | Proceed straight towards Durgapur Express Way -UTTARPARA crossing. |
| | 21.1 | | Proceed towards Durgapur Express Way. Petrol Pump on left |
| | 21.2 | | Proceed towards Durgapur Express Way 4 way crossing. |
| | 21.8 | | Enter Durgapur Express Way at DANKUNI TOLL TAX POINT. (CAR - Rs.35/- one way & Rs.50/- if returned within 24 Hrs.) |
| | 84.6 | | Durgapur Express Way PALSIT TOLL TAX POINT (CAR - Rs.35/- one way & Rs.50/- if returned within 24 Hrs.) |
| | 85.4 | | Palsit Crossing. Go straight towards Bardhaman |
| | 110.9 | | Drive straight through NH-2, beautiful park on left. |

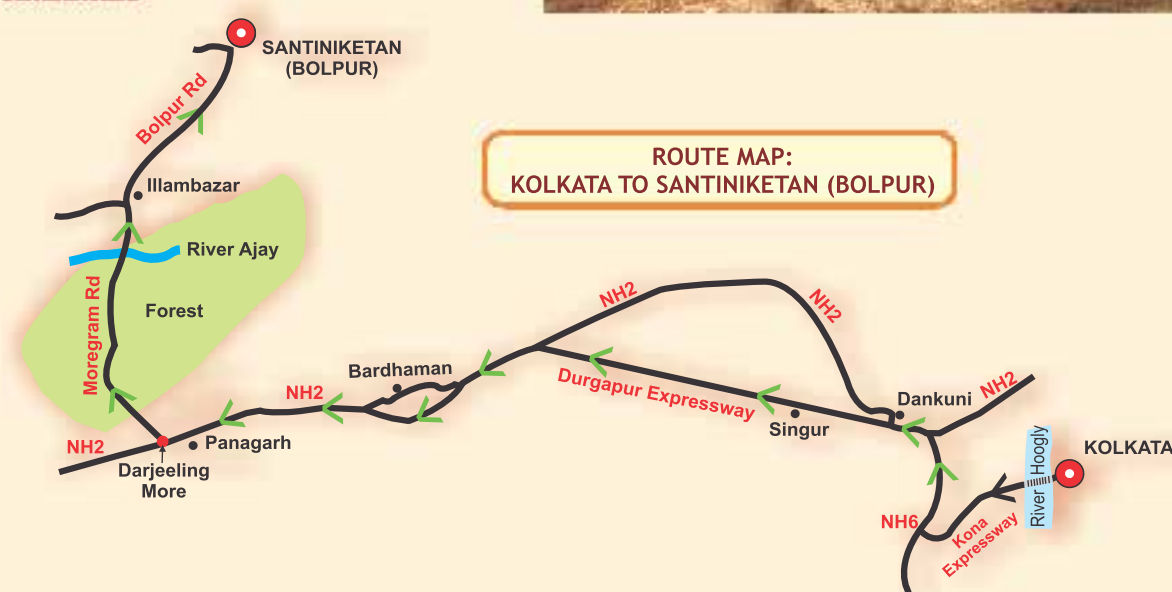
If you have not gone for a drive to Santiniketan, which is just 201 km away from Kolkata, you are really missing the fun of driving. The route through the beautiful Durgapur Expressway and National Highway 2 is a real pleasure for the drive. In fact, Santiniketan should be the first choice for a Kolkatan to go for a long drive. You just won't feel that your car is gliding at 80-100 kmph on the smooth highways until you watch the car's speedometer.

ROUTE DETAILS:
Distance: Kolkata (Vidya Sagar Setu) to Santiniketan: 201 km
Duration of drive: 4 hours approximately.

Route from Kolkata: From the Vidya Sagar Setu proceed towards the Kona Expressway lane. The Kona Expressway, at its fag end, bifurcates into a flyover on the right connecting NH6-NH2 Connector. After a short stretch you will enter the Durgapur Expressway through which proceed straight towards Bardhaman. Just keep on driving through Durgapur Expressway which is one of the finest highways and stretches for 73km in the 201 km route to Santiniketan. Cross Dankuni, Singur, Palsit, Shaktigarh and Mankar on the Durgapur Expressway and NH2, until you finally reach Panagarh, the busiest town enroute. On reaching Panagarh, drive slowly to turn right from the 'Darjeeling More' and enter the Moregram Road through forests going towards Suri. This is where the road condition deteriorates. Thereafter cross the bridge over River Ajay to reach Illam Bazar. On reaching Illam Bazar, enter right from the island-the way towards Bolpur. Take the left lane towards Bolpur with the BITM institute on your left from the road diversion ahead and proceed straight to hit Santiniketan.



The Forest at Khowai



Kalo Bari



The Santiniketan Building

They say that when Rabindranath Thakur visited Santiniketan with his father Debendranath Thakur as a child, he immediately fell in love with the place. For people world over who visit this abode of peace and learning, the emotions are very much the same. Debendranath Thakur's ashram and Rabindranath's open-air school Santiniketan is not just a learning centre any more. It is also one of the most popular driving getaways from Kolkata.

Every year visitors to the place, be it curious travellers or stressed city dwellers looking for a quiet and quick retreat, are visiting Santiniketan to get a feel of the place grown and nurtured by the Noble laureate. The romance of the poet's immortal songs will stir within you as you walk through the paths that the poet must have tread unmindful of the history he was making or the culture he was shaping. And if it happens to rain as you walk amid the lush greenery then you will know what the term soul stirring really means.

Santiniketan can be visited any time of the year. The natural charm of Santiniketan is a major draw in itself. You can visit and check out the Visva-Bharati campus that has a number of buildings known for their unique architecture. The beautiful gardens around present a pretty picture of the place blessed with natural beauty.

Attracted by this very beauty of the place, Maharshi Debendranath Thakur had established Santiniketan (abode of peace) in 1863. In 1901, Rabindranath Thakur set up a Bramhacharya School here, which later came to be known as the Patha Bhavan. With the financial backing of the Maharajah of Tripura, the Visva-Bharati Society was established in 1921. Rabindranath Thakur envisioned a centre of learning which would have the best of both the east and the west. The open-air school soon graduated into one of the prestigious institutions of learning in the country.

| TURNS NO. | DISTANCE (km) | DIRECTIONS | ROUTE DESCRIPTION |
|-----------|---------------|------------|---|
| | 141.7 | | Follow right diversion on NH-2 |
| | 146.6 | | Go straight via NH-2. Mankar on left |
| | 155.9 | | PANAGARH. Congestion! Drive slowly via NH-2 |
| | 157.5 | | Go below the Sign board on NH-2: (Moregram-150, Suri-70 towards right) |
| 3 | 157.7 | | DARJEELING MORE. Turn right from NH-2 to enter Moregram Highway. |
| | 163.7 | | Go straight towards Illambazar. Moregram Highway Petrol Pump on left. Drive carefully- speed-breakers & potholes. |
| | 179.6 | | Bridge on the River Ajay-go straight via Moregram Highway. |
| | 180.6 | | ILLAM BAZAR Check Post on Moregram Highway. (Toll Tax Rs.4/-) |
| | 181.9 | | From ILLAM BAZAR go towards Bolpur. Turn right from the island and enter Bolpur Road |
| 4 | 190.9 | | Take the left road towards Bolpur from the fork on Bolpur Road. (Bolpur - 9km, Sriniketan - 5km) |
| | 191.5 | | Management Institute on your left (BITM). Follow Bolpur Road |
| 5 | 196.0 | | Go straight via Bolpur Road after Sriniketan Crossing |
| 6 | 198.1 | | Take left diversion & go through the Jambuni Road |
| | 199.5 | | WBTDTC Tourist Lodge on right on Jambuni Road. Proceed straight |
| 7 | 199.6 | | Turn left from the T-junction towards Shantiniketan (Prantik-4km, Shyambati-2km, Santiniketan-1km) |
| | 200.5 | | SHANTINIKETAN. Visva Bharati University on left |
| | 201.0 | | SHANTINIKETAN. Post Office on right |



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 Ph: (033) 25332637, 25336045.
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Shree Ram Motors
 MG Road, Ramchandrapur
 Near Kabardanga,
 Kolkata - 700 140.
 Ph: (033) 24383397.





LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE

An International University, Visva-Bharati was founded by Rabindranath Thakur as a meeting point of the cultures of the east and the west to promote world peace. An interesting feature about Santiniketan is that splendid sculpture, frescoes, murals and paintings of Rabindranath Thakur, Nandalal Bose, Ramkinkar Beji, Bindobehari Mukhopadhyay and others adorn the campus.

The main attractions of Santiniketan include the various buildings of the Visva-Bharati campus. In the year 1922, Rabindranath started a rural reconstruction centre at Sriniketan, 3 km. from Santiniketan. Later some other institutions have come up here like the Siksha Satra, Silpa Sadana, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Santosh Pathshala etc.

The Santiniketan campus of Viswa-Bharati has gone on to become a centre for learning with a bias towards art, music and humanities. In Sriniketan there is an agricultural college (Palli Siksha Sadan) and the Centre for Rural Service and Studies (Palli Samgathan Bibhaga), which are major attractions.

Shopping is a favourite leisure activity you will enjoy here. The leather products are a must buy. You can get these products in variety like leather bags, ladies bags, designer bags, decorative bags, and fancy bags. Batik and weaving items are also famous. Grameen and Sarvodaya of Bolpur, Vishwa Bharti Shilpa Sadan and Santiniketan Co-operative Stores are the main shopping complexes here.

Places to visit:

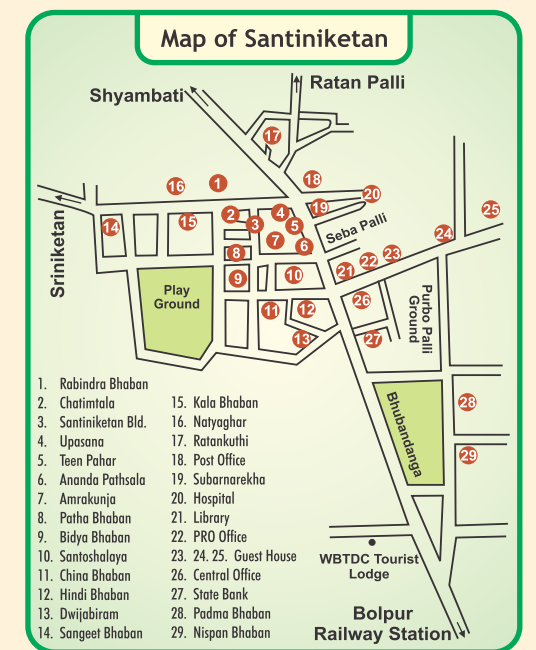
- Chhatimtala: Here Maharshi Devendranath, the father of Rabindranath Thakur, used to meditate.
- Kala Bhavan: The College of Fine Arts & Crafts has an museum exhibiting sculptures, frescoes and murals and a library of art books.
- Patha Bhavan: Now a secondary school, it is of particular interest as an example of the traditional Brahmacharya Ashram.
- Prayer Hall (Upasana): Founded by the poet's father in 1863, the hall is made of glass. Prayers are held on Wednesday.
- Bichitra: Also called Rabindra Bhavan, a Research Centre and Museum where the poet's personal belongings, paintings and various editions of his works are exhibited.
- Sangeet Bhavan: College of Dance and Music. The University is replete with works on Art, Music and the Humanities.
- Uttarayan Complex: The poet lived and worked in the Northern Complex consisting of several buildings like the Udayana, Konarka, Shyamali, Punascha and Udichi.

Note:

- The University remains closed in May-June and for one month during the Puja Holidays i.e. September-October.
- Weekly holidays on Wednesdays and half-holidays on Tuesday.
- Permission is required from the Public Relations Officer, Vishwa Bharati for taking photographs.

Did you know?

Some of the most famous students of Visva-Bharati include India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, world famous film director Satyajit Ray and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen.



A musical performance at the campus



The Deer Park



Bauls singing folk song



The Fair at Khowai



Upasana-the Prayer Hall

On your visit to Santiniketan you must also see the Uttarayan complex where the poet laureate lived. It consists of several buildings such as Udayana, Konark, Shyamali, Punascha and Udichi which reflect the architectural genius of the poet's illustrious son the late Rathindranath Thakur.

In addition to this there are Kala Bhavan (College of Fine Arts and Crafts), Sangit Bhavan (College of Music and Dance), Vidya Bhavan (College of Humanities), Siksha-Bhavan (College of Science) and Vinaya Bhavan (Teacher's Training College), Cheena Bhavan (Chinese faculty) and Hindi Bhavan.

Besides the campus there are a good number of places located around Santiniketan that you must not miss. The Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary (Deer Park) is 3 kms from Santiniketan. It is now a large wooded area with herds of deer and makes a natural bird sanctuary. Black Buck, spotted deer, jackals, foxes and a variety of water birds are found here.

The fast eroding 'Khowai' and the eucalyptus forest, 3km away from Santiniketan is also a major attraction. The local handicraft fair on every Saturday afternoon is a major crowd puller.

Kankalitala, 9 km away on the bank of the Kopai is a sacred Hindu shrine. Fullora, Nalhati, Bakreshwar, Kankalitala, Massanjore, Nanoor, Kendubilwa and Tarapith are main excursion places near Santiniketan.

ACCOMMODATIONS

| Hotel Name | Phone | Delux (Double Bed) | AC (Double Bed) | Non AC (Double Bed) | Car Parking | Driver's Accommodation | Restau-rant | Bar | Generator | Rating |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-----|-----------|--------|
| WBTC | 03463-252699 9732100920 | Rs.1850/- | Rs.1650/- Rs.1400/- | Rs.600/- | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | A |
| MARK MEADOWS | 03463-264871 03463-264872 | Rs.1600/- | Rs.1450/- | — | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | A |
| CAMELLIA | 03463-262043/ 044 / 045 | Rs.4000/- | Rs.1750/- | Rs.1350/- | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | A |
| CHHUTI | 03463-252692 / 255015 | — | Rs.1800/- | Rs.1200/- | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | B+ |
| ROYAL BANGAL | 03463-257148/ 257448 | Rs.1299/- | Rs.999/- | Rs.599/- | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | B |
| RANGAMATI | 03463-252305/ 255607 | Rs.1000/- | Rs.975/- | Rs.850/- | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | B |
| PARK GUEST HOUSE | 03463-262866/ 261599 | Rs.975/- | Rs.750/- | Rs.550/- | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | B |

BY THE WAY

| Fuel Pumps | | | Food Joints |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1.8 km | 5.1 km | 6.8 km | 22.7 km |
| 16 km | 28.2 km | 31.3 km | 63 km |
| 33.2 km | 43.7 km | 50.7 km | 94 km |
| 59.9 km | 60.4 km | 65.2 km | 120.3 km |
| 94.8 km | 116.2 km | 138.6 km | 157.70 km |
| 142 km | 163.7 km | 166.7 km | 167.1 km |
| Service Centres | | | Hospitals |
| 155.6 km | TATA MOTOR | | 134.6 km |
| Police Stations | | | 144.5 km |
| 180.9 km | ILLAM BAZAR P.S. | | |

* Distance calculated from Vidya Sagar Setu



Shantiniketan Tourist Lodge

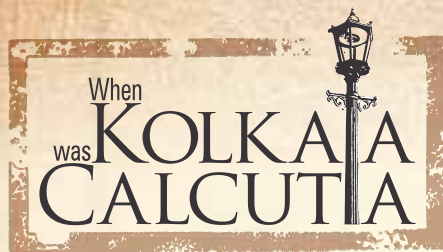
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Shantiniketan is synonymous with peace, tranquility and poise. It's a tradition, a heritage that reflects not only Tagore but a true Bengali spirit. A few days in Shantiniketan will definitely be a treat that you have been looking for. A tourist lodge of West Bengal Tourism will be ideal for you. The land of Boul is waiting for you to be lost in it's earthy spirit.

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Legacy

Does anyone know that Loudon Street was essentially known as 'Loudoun' Street?

It was named after Lady Hastings, wife of the Marquis of Hastings, who by lineage was the Countess of Loudoun.

Gradually the second 'u' in the name simply disappeared.

In 1967 Loudon Street was renamed after Dr. U. N. Brahmachari, the physician who invented the drug Urea Stibamine as an antidote for the then rampant malady Kala Azar.

He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine, and was later awarded the Knighthood in 1934.

So much for history.

Unforgettable

Memories of Loudon Street slip easily into focus.

St. Xavier's had a goalkeeper called Ali with legs like springs.

He identified a Loudon Street garage for his much touted 'Jean junction'.

His jeans did sell fast, but his shop disappeared faster.

Loudon at random

Arjun Mukherjee

Loudon Street had another joint called 'Deli'. The place supplied delectable Frankfurters to me and to the KLM flight from Calcutta.

KLM stopped their flights. My ration of Frankfurters vanished abruptly.

Hotel Rutt Deen on Loudon belonged to the Ruttonjee family, owners of Olympia, Kolkata's iconic watering hole.

Ruttonjee was a nice man with an extra large middle.

He always wore something that resembled a white uniform.

Reason why I once confused him with a waiter of similar width.

Tailpiece

To others Loudon will remain just another street.

To me it's where birds used to come home.

Flowers used to open up.

Where a much advertised 'Nature Park' simply used to be

a pond full of fishes.

Where I just used to be.



ROAD UPDATE

Work-in-progress

Team Wheels in association with Kolkata Police, brings you updates on road blockages, repairs and work-in-progress around the city for the benefit of the city motorists. Every month, keep your eye on this column for your dope on roads. Here are some of the roads of Kolkata where repair and renovation work is currently in progress.

Time period : 15th May to 15th June 2009

NORTH KOLKATA

- ▶ Up-gradation of Brick Sewer along Bagbazar Street between Rabindra Sarani and Bidhan Sarani
- ▶ Along APC Roy Road Pit No. 5-7 (Rajabazar to Sukhia Street)
- ▶ Beadon Street in between Bidhan Sarani and APC Road
- ▶ Up-gradation of man entry of Brick sewer along Nimtala Ghat Street (in between Nimtala Buring Ghat and B K Pal Avenue)
- ▶ APC Roy Road (from Manicktala towards Rajabazar)
- ▶ APC Roy Road (from Ultadanga Road to Aurobinda Sarani)
- ▶ R K Ghosh Road from P C Lahiri to 30A Bus Stand

EAST KOLKATA

- ▶ Rehabilitation of non-man entry along Gorachand Road
- ▶ Up-gradation of sewerage and drainage line from E M Bye Pass to Jn. D C Dey Road

SOUTH KOLKATA

- ▶ S P Mukherjee Rd in between Tollygunge Road and R B Avenue
- ▶ R B Avenue in between Jatin Bagchi Road and Gariahat Road
- ▶ Laying of new sewer along R B Avenue connector from Bijon Setu to Rajdanga

CENTRAL KOLKATA

- ▶ Up-gradation of non-man entry sewer along Lenin Sarani (Esplanad Row East-Access Pit No. 2)
- ▶ Hunger Ford Street
- ▶ Central Canning Street

WEST KOLKATA

- ▶ West Satya Doctor Road
- ▶ West Gopal Doctor Road
- ▶ Up-gradation of non-man entry Brisk sewer along Watgunge

Source : OS, TP, TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, KOLKATA POLICE.



NIGHT OUT

Pleasure venomised!

Nasreen Khan

A little sin is what makes pleasure so special. A little venom is what makes sin so special. As music seduces the hot-bodies and stimulates the soul with exotic drinks, night unfolds in all its velvet beauty. Venom promises an experience that entices one to unwind on the wild side. This nightclub perched atop Fort Knox has become one of the most tantalizing nocturnal haunts in Kolkata.

Designed to subtly reflect the fluidity of light with striking green and silver, Venom's cutting-edge décor has a surreptitious feel that grows on you with every sip you take. As the night gets wilder, Venom's interiors and customised furniture reveal its darker, more slithery side and sets a scene of serious flirtatiousness. The lasers, all 18 of them, are an experience one would like to come back to, for more of it every time.

Venom has a well-stocked bar with spirits from across the globe. As the night picks up pace, move to the dance floor and let go of your inhibitions as the DJs spin their unique blend of sassy tunes. For an exotic evening let your wild side take over as you use the pole as the perfect prop for a seductive pole dance. As your body unleashes its wanton self on the floor, you'll find Venom taking control of you and bringing out your innermost desires. Let your ears see and eyes listen to the melange of the music, while the dance and the sinful night mystifies your senses. This is one place even those who don't like to dance will love to come. The view from the top is simply irresistible. You get to see Kolkata in all its glittering beauty at this time of the night.

Come shake a leg!!

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name | : Venom |
| Address | : Fort Knox, 6 Camac Street, 8th floor, Kolkata 17 |
| Phone | : 32522900 |
| Timings | : 6 pm till late night |
| Number of covers | : 600 |
| Membership | : By invitation |
| Cover charges | : Rs 500 couple/single (Rs. 1000 on Saturdays) |
| Entry for special events | : Rs 1000 |
| Car parking facility | : Valet parking for around 100 cars |



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TOGETHER WE DRIVE

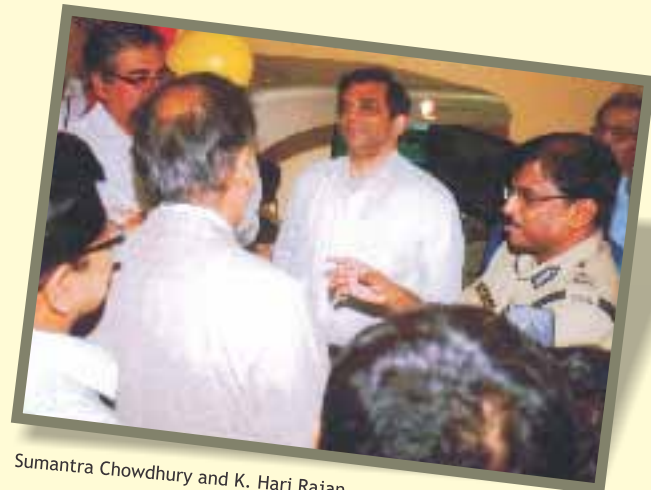


Automobile Association of Eastern India (AAEI)

13, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata 700019
Phone: 2486 5131/2/3 Telefax: 2486 6012 E-mail: kolkataaaei@yahoo.co.in Website: www.uraaei.org



Dignitaries on the dias



Sumantra Chowdhury and K. Hari Rajan



Sumantra Chowdhury at the inauguration ceremony



Suman Chattopadhyay at the press conference

Taking driving techniques to newer heights

Inept drivers giving out a surfeit of information on safe driving doesn't seem to be the most viable option, especially when you have enrolled yourself in a driving training institute with the hope that soon you would become the "King of the Road" steering through the traffic maze. The Automobile Association of Eastern India (AAEI) upgraded its driving training curriculum by including the Driving Training Simulators for the first time in West Bengal.

This will place AAEI at par with international standards of imparting driving knowledge to novice drivers. Mr. Sumantra Chowdhury, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal graced the event as Chief Guest and inaugurated the Simulator Training Centre in the presence of Mr. K. Hari Rajan, Additional Commissioner of Police, Kolkata Police, who was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Nitin Dossa, Vice-President, FIAA and Vice-President, Alliance International De Tourisme and Mr. S.N. Pal, Director, Public Vehicles Department, Government of West Bengal were also present at the inauguration ceremony.

After its tested efficiency in cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad, Kolkata has become the focal point for its expansion in West Bengal. The simulator supplied by Technotrove Systems headquartered in Mumbai is designed to look like a prototype of a car with all the necessary attachments like brake, accelerator, steering, clutch and gear.

The driver would be subjected to real-life experiences as well the most adverse of conditions that he might confront while driving on road. It gives an experience of driving in variety of terrains and difficult climatic conditions like foggy, snowy and cloudy weather. The stereophonic representation of the surrounding traffic noises, engine and voice messages provide a high degree of realism, which can aid drivers to attune themselves to the real life conditions.

Configured with an instruction station for continuous monitoring of the trainee, it is followed with a detailed performance evaluation report at the end of each session. Amidst the ever-increasing density of road traffic, development of cognitive skills for hazard recognition becomes essential. It is an ideal vehicle to train learners and conduct periodic tests for efficiency checks and provide advance training in various degrees of difficulties. The system continuously records the faults committed by trainees. The instructor can inject adverse situations and obstacles during the exercise to judge the reactions of the trainee.

"The Simulator will help the drivers to adopt technically correct and safe driving practices. In the long run it would reduce the chances of accidents," said Mr. Chowdhury. He was all praise for the Simulator. "I feel that this method should take precedence over any other method of learning to drive. People who acquire license hardly have proper knowledge about safe driving leading to increased occurrences of accidents", he concluded.

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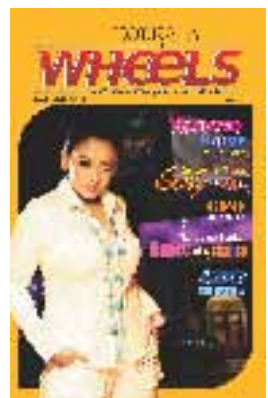


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List of car prices in Kolkata and specifications

| Company Name | Car Name / Model | Kolkata Price in Lakh (Rs) | Engine (CC) | Power (bhp) | Torque (Kg/m) | Performance (0-100 km) | | Fuel Efficiency (Per Litre) | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | | | | | City | Highway | City | Highway |

HATCHBACK

| Company Name | Car Name / Model | Kolkata Price in Lakh (Rs) | Engine (CC) | Power (bhp) | Torque (Kg/m) | Performance (0-100 km) | City | Highway |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| Chevrolet | Spark - 1.0 | 3.11 | 995/4 | 63 | 9.2 | 15.93 | 12.3 | 16.9 |
| Chevrolet | U-VA 1.2 Base | 4.38 | 1150/4 | 76 | 11.2 | 16.49 | 10.6 | 15 |
| Fiat | Palio Stile - 1.1 SL | 3.43 | 1108/4 | 57 | 9.38 | 20.45 | 10.2 | 15.1 |
| Fiat | 500 Lounge | NA | 1242 | 75 | 14.8 | 15.2 | 15.1 | 20.2 |
| Hyundai | Santro Xing - GL(S) | 3.34 | 1086/4 | 63 | 9.8 | 14.66 | 12.1 | 16.2 |
| Hyundai | i10 Magna(S) | 3.88 | 1086/4 | 66 | 10.1 | 15.55 | 12 | 16.3 |
| Hyundai | Getz Prime GLE1.1 | 3.80 | 1086/4 | 66 | 10.4 | 17.7 | 9.3 | 14.6 |
| Hyundai | i20 Magna | 4.79 | 1197 | 80 | 11.4 | | | |
| Maini | Reva Standard | 3.56 | DC Elec. | 17.8 | 6.98 | | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | 800 Standard | 1.92 | 796/3 | 37 | 6.01 | 26.95 | 12.2 | 17.5 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Alto - Std. | 2.26 | 796/3 | 47 | 6.3 | 20.38 | 13.5 | 18.8 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Zen Estilo LX | 3.04 | 1061/4 | 64 | 8.56 | 14.75 | 11.7 | 16.9 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Swift LX i | 4.07 | 1298/4 | 87 | 11.5 | 12.29 | 11.5 | 16.2 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Wagon R - LX | 3.13 | 1061/4 | 64 | 8.5 | 15.32 | 11.7 | 16.2 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Versa DX | 4.45 | 1298/4 | 82 | 10.04 | 13.46 | 10.1 | 13.6 |
| Maruti Suzuki | A-Star Lxi | 3.46 | 998 | 67 | 90 | | | |
| Skoda | Fabia Active 1.2 | 4.98 | 1422/3 | 68 | 15.8 | 14.95 | 14.1 | 18.5 |
| Tata Motors | Indica - Vista Diesel | 4.75 | 1193/4 | 70 | 12.64 | 16.17 | 10.9 | 15.9 |

SEDAN

| Company Name | Car Name / Model | Kolkata Price in Lakh (Rs) | Engine (CC) | Power (bhp) | Torque (Kg/m) | Performance (0-100 km) | City | Highway |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| Bentley Motors | Arnage - RL | NA | 6752/V8 T | 400 | 85.10 | | | |
| Bentley Motors | Azure | NA | | 400 | 85.10 | | | |
| Bentley Motors | Continental - Flying Spur | NA | 5998/W12T | 553 | 66.20 | | | |
| Bentley Motors | Continental - GT | NA | 5998/W12T | 553 | 66.20 | | | |
| Bentley Motors | Continental - GTC | NA | | 553 | 66.20 | | | |
| BMW | Series 5 - 525i | 40.50 | 2497/6 | 211 | 25.00 | | | |
| BMW | Series 7 - 750Li | 93.30 | 4000/V8 | 306 | 39.76 | | | |
| BMW | Series 3 - 320i | 26.90 | 1995/4 | 136 | 19.37 | 11.57 | 7.2 | 10.9 |
| Chevrolet | Aveo 1.4 Base | 6.59 | 1399/4 | 94 | 12.95 | 13.42 | 10 | 14.9 |
| Chevrolet | Optra Magnum 1.6 | 8.86 | 1598/4 | 104 | 15.09 | 12.49 | 9.5 | 14.4 |
| Chevrolet | SRV - 1.6 Base | 7.88 | 1598/4 | 101 | 14.27 | 13.14 | 9.7 | 12.8 |
| Fiat | Linea 1.3 Multijet | 6.95 | 1248 | 89 | 20.4 | 13.8 | | |
| Ford | Ikon - 1.3 FLAIR | 4.65 | 1297/4 | 69 | 10.07 | 14.54 | 8.9 | 14.4 |
| Ford | Fusion Petrol | 5.94 | 1596/4 | 99.6 | 14.9 | 11.75 | 9.4 | 14.8 |
| Ford | Fiesta - 1.4 TDCI EXI | 6.93 | 1399 | 67 | 16.3 | NA | 16.2 | 21.3 |
| Hindustan Motors | Amb. Grand Diesel 1500 | 3.61 | 1817/4 | 82 | 14 | 17.15 | 8.7 | 12 |
| Honda | City i-VTEC 1.5 E MT | 7.97 | 1497/4 | 77 | 12.8 | 13.11 | 10.9 | 16.6 |
| Honda | Civic - 1.8S - MT | 11.83 | 1799/4 | 130 | 17.5 | 9.59 | 9 | 14 |
| Honda | Accord 2.4 M/T | 17.95 | 2354 | 177 | 22.2 | 9.19 | 7.8 | 11.1 |
| Hyundai | Accent - GLE | 4.99 | 1495/4 | 94 | 12.5 | 13.12 | 8.1 | 13.8 |
| Hyundai | Sonata Embera - 2.4 | 13.90 | 2359/4 | 160 | 22.9 | 9.64 | | |
| Hyundai | Verna (I) | 6.49 | 1599/4 | 103 | 14.9 | 12.33 | 9.2 | 13.8 |
| Mahindra Renault | Logan 1.4 GL | 4.80 | 1390/4 | 75 | 11.2 | | | |
| Mercedes Benz | Class C - C200K | 28.4 | 1796/4S | 158 | 22.5 | 10.97 | 6.9 | 10.8 |
| Mercedes Benz | Class E - E230 Elegance | 47.85 | 1796/4S | 184 | 25.49 | | | |
| Mercedes Benz | Class CLS - CLS350 | 67 | 3498/V6 | 272 | 35.7 | | | |
| Mercedes Benz | Class SL - SL500 | 91.08 | 4966/V8 | 306 | 46.9 | 7.54 | 4.8 | 7.3 |
| Mercedes Benz | Class M ML350 | 54.0 | 3498/V6 | 268 | 35.66 | | | |
| Mercedes Benz | Class S S350L | 83.17 | 3498/V7 | 272 | 35.69 | 8.81 | 6.1 | 9.1 |
| Mitsubishi | Cedia Spirit | 9.80 | 1999/4 | 115 | 17.8 | 10.23 | 10.2 | 14.2 |
| Mitsubishi | Lancer - Lxd | 8.11 | 1468/4 | 85 | 13.46 | 12.95 | 9.6 | 14.9 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Dzire Lxi | 4.55 | 1298/4 | 87 | 11.5 | | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | SX4 Vxi | 6.57 | 1586/4 | 102 | 14.78 | 12.1 | 9.3 | 14.5 |
| Nissan | Teana | NA | 2349/V6 | 173 | 22.9 | 11.01 | 6.6 | 9.2 |
| Rolls Royce | Phantom | NA | 6749/V12 | 453 | 73.4 | | | |
| Skoda | Octavia - 1.8 Tpi | 10.28 | 1896/4T | 90 | 21.41 | 13.49 | 12.7 | 18.9 |
| Skoda | Laura - 1.9 PD | 13.29 | 1896/4T | 105 | 25.49 | 11.54 | 12.9 | 18.6 |
| Skoda | Superb - B6 1.8 TSI | 19.05 | 2771/V6 | 191 | 26.5 | 11.42 | 6.1 | 7 |
| Tata Motors | Indigo - GLE | 3.66 | 1405/4 | 85 | 11.2 | 14.01 | 8.3 | 13.7 |
| Tata Motors | Indigo XL Classic (Petrol) | 5.41 | 1396/4 | 101 | 12.60 | 13.14 | | |
| Toyota | Corolla - 1.8G | 11.11 | 1794/4 | 132 | 17.3 | 10.42 | 10.5 | 15.00 |
| Toyota | Camry - W1 | 21.26 | 2362/4 | 167 | 22.8 | | | |
| Volkswagen | Passat 2.0 PD DSG | NA | 1968/4 T | 140 | 32.6 | | | |
| Volvo | S80 3.2 | NA | 3192/6 | 238 | 32.6 | 9.35 | 5.24 | 8.51 |

SUV, STATION WAGON & VAN

| Company Name | Car Name / Model | Kolkata Price in Lakh (Rs) | Engine (CC) | Power (bhp) | Torque (Kg/m) | Performance (0-100 km) | City | Highway |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| BMW | X5 4.8 i | 76.90 | 4799/V8 | 350 | 48.4 | | | |
| BMW | X3 2.5 i | 40.80 | 2497/6 | 218 | 25.43 | | | |
| Chevrolet | Tavera LS - B1 | 7 | 2499/4T | 80 | 19 | 24 | 10.6 | 13.7 |
| Chevrolet | Captiva LT | 19.18 | 2499/4T | 148 | 32.60 | 11.72 | 9.50 | 11.50 |
| Ford | Endeavour 4x2 TDCI | 15.07 | 2499/4 | 116 | 28.5 | 18.93 | 7.3 | 10.7 |
| Hyundai | Tucson | 16.25 | 1991/4T | 112 | 25 | 14.14 | 8.4 | 11.5 |
| Honda | CR V 2.0 MT | 21.79 | 1997/4 | 143 | 19.3 | 11.01 | 8.6 | 11.9 |
| Land Rover | Range Rover 4.2 V8 | NA | 4198/V8S | 395 | 56 | | | |
| Land Rover | Range Rover Sport 4.2 V8 | NA | 4198/V8S | 385 | 56.1 | | | |
| Land Rover | Discovery 2.7 TDV8 | NA | 2720/v6T | 193 | 45.3 | | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | Grand Vitara MT | 14.93 | 1995/4 | 120 | 17.3 | 14.07 | 6.7 | 9.5 |
| Maruti Suzuki | Gypsy - King ST | 5.62 | 1298/4 | 81 | 10.6 | 16.39 | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | Omni - 8 Seater | 2.23 | 796/3 | 35 | 6.1 | | | |
| Mahindra | Bolero SLX 2WD | 6.18 | 2523/4 | 63 | 18.35 | | 9.4 | |
| Mahindra | Scorpio - Getaway(2WD) | 7.80 | 2609/4T | 115 | 28.3 | 16.53 | 9.7 | 13.4 |
| Mahindra | Xylo E2 (8 seater) | 6.57 | 2498 | 112 | 24 | | | |
| Mitsubishi | Outlander AT | 20.35 | | 220 | | | | |
| Mitsubishi | Montero AT | 41.94 | 3198/T | 165 | 39.1 | 15.27 | 7.3 | 10 |
| Mitsubishi | Pajero SFX | 20.25 | 2835/4T | 117 | 29.8 | 18.80 | 7.7 | 10.5 |
| Nissan | X Trail - Comfort | 23.08 | 2184/4 | 136 | 32.01 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 15.1 |
| Porsche | Cayenne (4x4) | NA | 3598/V6 | 290 | 39 | | | |
| Toyota | Innova - EV - MS | 7.74 | 1998/4 | 136 | 18.6 | 12.63 | 7.7 | 11.3 |
| Toyota | Land Cruiser Prado - VX | 40.52 | 3956/V6 | 235 | 36.9 | 9.45 | 5 | 6.9 |
| Tata Motors | Sumo Grande LX | 6.71 | 2179/4T | 118 | 25.4 | 17.72 | 9.6 | 13.2 |
| Tata Motors | Sumo Victa - LX | 5.67 | 1948/4 | 68 | 12 | | | |
| Tata Motors | Safari Dicor LX | 7.71 | 2179/4 T | 140 | 32.6 | | 8.9 | |
| Tata Motors | Marina - GLS | 4.72 | 1405/4 | 85 | 11 | 13.34 | 8.8 | 13.7 |
| Volkswagen | Touareg 3.0 V6 Tdi | NA | 2967/V6 T | 225 | 51 | | | |
| Volvo | XC90 3.2 | | 3192/6 | 238 | 32.6 | | | |

COUPE & CONVERTIBLE

| Company Name | Car Name / Model | Kolkata Price in Lakh (Rs) | Engine (CC) | Power (bhp) | Torque (Kg/m) | Performance (0-100 km) | City | Highway |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| Lamborghini | Gallardo | NA | 4961/V10 | 512 | 52 | | | |
| Lamborghini | Murcielago | NA | 6496/V12 | 631 | 67.3 | | | |
| Mercedes Benz | Class SLK 350 | 66 | 3498/V6 | 272 | 35.7 | 6.8 | 5.7 | 8.3 |
| Porsche | Carrera | NA | 3596/6 | 345 | 39 | | | |
| Porsche | Cayman S | NA | 3386/6 | 295 | 34 | | | |
| Porsche | Boxter S | NA | 3179/6 | 295 | 34 | 7.31 | 4.76 | 7.25 |
| San Engineering | Storm | 5.75 | 1149/4 | 56.3 | 8.7 | 15.91 | 11.9 | 16 |



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