

Original Article

Community Information service of community seeking of Ganga Ghat: A study

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Abstract: *The historical significance of Uttarpara Municipality, Konnagar, Hindmotor, UttarparaGhat are discussed earlier which creates elation Community Information Service. The information that has been given to the residences of the locality, falls under socialwelfare according of a librarian. This also has relation with Community Information Service. The topics of drainage system, action plan, inauguration of ghat that has been raised to the residences of the locality is also covered in local news. This also has relation with Community Information Service. So, in this case, the acts which are mentioned above falls under CommunityInformation Service. This work is fully research related work of the people of their community Information services.*

Keywords: *Community information services, Ganga Ghat, Water Project, Local History*

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INTRODUCTION:

With all the scenic beauty, the holy river Ganges (Maa Ganga) quietly flows through the State of West Bengal, ultimately to meet the Bay of Bengal. On the way, she gives her motherly touches to the Western bank of the river, which is said to be equivalent to the piousness of Varanasi. She flows by the Hooghly District (where she is known as Hooghly river) all through and this is where Uttarpara Constituency is situated comprising Uttarpara, Kotrung and Konnagar and they are well known for their rich culture and awesome tradition. Over the years several ghats (Bathing places) were built up in the lap of this segment of the western bank of the river Ganges. Some of these ghats bear an eventful and exciting history. I intend to dwell upon such ghats and like to introduce them to you giving their details hereunder, in regard to their names and related issues embracing them.

Here in this paper the ghats, beside the Ganges, of the three places under the state legislative assembly of Uttarpara- Konnagar, Hindmotor and Uttarpara- have been discussed. Nearly 11 km of area have been covered here. I have selected these above mentioned places because these places bear many historical facts. For example, in Konnagar, many renowned persons came and it is also related to Bengal's culture and spirituality. The famous shoe-company Bata set up their first outlet here in

Konnagar. Some renowned persons like Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Shivchandra Dev and Abanindranath Tagore came here. Shivchandra Dev set up Brahmasamajhere. Konnagar is also famous for the association with the personages like Raja Ramamohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore et. al. Shivchandra Dev is also important because of his association with the spreading of education in Konnagar. He helped in establishing two major educational institutions in Konnagar- Konnagar High School and Konnagar Hindu Girls' High School. He even helped in setting up Konnagar Public Library, Konnagar Post Office and Konnagar Samabaya Bank. All these institutions really helped in developing the place.

Now let us talk about the philosophical and cultural side. Konnagar is full of different variations. Here the then landlord of Sovabazar built temples of Lord Shiva in the shade of the famous Shiva temple of Varansi. Abanindranath Tagore also spent his childhood here in his garden-house. One can also see the house of Arabinda Ghosh here in Konnagar. Konnagar is also famous for an almost 150 years old Kalitemple of Ma Shakuntala. Every year this Puja is being celebrated with great devotion. All these places are now the attractions of Konnagar. Apart from all these things many saints also set their feet on Konnagar.

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Now I am going to talk about Hindmotor and Uttarpara. These two places bear the witness of the families of Banerjees, Mukherjees, Chatterjees and Sabarna Roy Chowdhury. These families are important in the history of these places. In Hindmotor a well-known motor company built their manufacturing unit. For this, many people secured their livelihood. Surrounding this many other things like market, school, hospital etc. were set up which helped the place to prosper economically. In Hindmotor one can notice the importance of the Banerjees. Bipin Bihari Banerjee was a well-known landlord in this area. Even at the present time a road is seen on his name and this road is called B. B. Street.

Uttarpara is also full of many historical events and persons. Many landlords were associated with this place. Many of them are important to the history of the place. For example, Babu Joykrishna Mukherjee's set up a public library in Uttarpara which is Asia's first library of its kind. This library is known as Joykrishna Library. Ram Sita Ghat of Uttarpara is an important ghat beside the Ganges. It is said that an underground passage was there to this ghat from the Watch-house. The women of the Royal family used to go to their baths using this underground passage. Some other important ghats are Katyani Ghat, Mandir Barir ghat of the Chatterjee family. This family also had their own ghat beside Ganges. Katyani ghat was built for the women of the Chatterjee family's bath. There is also 135 years old College here in Uttarpara named Raja Peary Mohan College. It was established by Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, the son of Babu Joykrishna Mukherjee. Peary Mohan was a post graduate at that time and it has been a great pride to the people of Uttarpara. Raja Peary Mohan College is also responsible for providing higher education not only to the people of Uttarpara but also to many others. Uttarpara was also famous with its association with many religious festivals and holy men. It shows that Uttarpara too had deep philosophical traits. I have searched the history of these different ghats beside the Ganges under the Uttarpara legislative assembly because as a librarian I feel that the local people should know their history. It will enrich them with the knowledge of the locality and some other aspects. Not only the locals but also the other people of different places will be able to know the rich history of Uttarpara and its surroundings. I would like to acknowledge that I was inspired by the Namami Gange Project which was approved by the Government of India in June 2014. Its full meaning is 'National Mission for lean Ganga'. For this project of the Government, It was interested in doing this work.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To find the Local History
2. Community Information service for local people
3. To find the "Ganga Ghat" History for seeking information of religion purpose
4. To find the Water plan project in this area
5. To find the application of Ganga Action Plan

Scope: This work covered Uttarpara and Konnagar Municipality in Hooghly district, West Bengal

METHODOLOGY:

This work is Survey type research method
Need of this study: Information need of urban people are different from rural people. The common information needs of rural people require assistance for the following types of information.

1. Agriculture and related issues
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Health
5. Self-Employment
6. Animal husbandry
7. Financial assistance
8. Government programmes
9. Legal aids, Social welfare

DATA COLLECTION:

Introduction:

Name of Ghat: BRAHMO SAMAJ GHAT

Location: Proximate to the G. T. Road, Konnagar adjacent to Konnagar High School the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Brahma Samaj Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded on 15.03.1881 by Srimati Ambika Devi Jaya, wife of Mahatma Shiva Chandra Dev, who was a true Derozian, founder of the Konnagar Brahma Samaj and a famous educationist dedicated to spreading education among women.

Drainage System : The system was introduced and developed by Konnagar Municipality after the ghat was taken over by them on 28.02.2022.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is popular for its wonderful ambience and scenic beauty which is enjoyed by about 30 to 40 persons each day. It also offers a place for convenient bathing.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : There is no festive colour in this ghat.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot :

There is a religious organisation housed in the opposite side of the ghat which is almost regularly visited by persons interested in theosophy, religion and the like. There are certain rooms in the building where training is imparted to the female students regarding stitching and tailoring works.

Brief History: Before entering into the Brahma Samaj Ghat, it is imperative that one should have some knowledge about Shib Chandra Deb, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Brahma Samaj. Shib Chandra Deb was one of the leading Derozians, virtually the first generation of English knowing Indians. He had joined Hindu College in 1825 and as a student he occasionally attended the meeting of the Brahma Sabha established by Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Shib Chandra Deb joined the Brahma Samaj in 1843, and established Konnagar Brahma Samaj in 1863. He was one of the strongest proponents of women's education.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the founder of the Brahma Samaj, was a great scholar and an

independent thinker. He was a religious and social reformer and known as the “Father of Modern India” and also “Father of Bengal Renaissance”.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy took many steps for the upliftment of Women in Indian Society. He abolished the practice of ‘Sati’ and child Marriage and also demanded property impenitence rights for women. He ignored the red eyes of some Brahmins who stood against such reforms, but ultimately they could not succeed.

Brahmo Samaj was the first intellectual movement to eradicate the prevailing bad practices of the Society. The chief aim of Brahmo Samaj is the worship of eternal god i.e. believing in Monotheism (only one god).

Name of Ghat : RISHI AUROBINDO GHAT

Location : Adjacent to G. T. Road, Konnagar, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Rishi Aurobindo Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded by Konnagar Municipality in the year 2018.

Drainage System : The system was introduced under supervision of Konnagar Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is exclusively used by the Konnagar Municipality for organizing and performing their own function.

Proposed Action Plan : There is no Action Plan as such in regard to this ghat.

Regular / Famous Festival : It is learnt that a mind-blowing cultural function is being held in a festive mood to celebrate the foundation anniversary day of the ghat. No other festive colour is found in this ghat.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : There is nothing in this ghat to attract visitors.

Brief History : Inaugurated in the year 2018 by the Municipal authority, there has been no such event occurred which enables the ghat to find a place in the history book.

Name of Ghat : BAZARPARA GHAT OR BATA GHAT

Location : Proximate to G. T. Road, Konnagar the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Bazarpara ghat, popularly known as Bata Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat is about 100 years old. The year of foundation and the name of founder in both are unknown.

Drainage System : Existing sanitary system was developed further by Konnagar Municipality after the ghat was taken over by them.

Usage of Ghat : Konnagar passengers daily across the river to reach Sodhpur / Panihati and vice-versa.

Proposed Action Plan : No Action Plan has been contemplated as yet

Regular / Famous Festival : Festival centres around Puja of Samsan Kali Mata on each day of the new moon (amabosya) and Chhot Puja.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : The main attraction for devotees and visitors are the temples of Samsan Kali Mata and Siddheswari Mata.

Brief History : The very name “Bazarpara Ghat” signifies that the ghat belongs to a market complex. In fact, even now peasants bring their produces and goods for sale in this market. The popular name “Bata Ghat” is also meaningful.

Name of Ghat : SINGHEE GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Konnagar and touching Aurobinda Road this ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : The Singhee Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : Exerted by the family members of Binapani Singha, the then zeminder, the Singhee Ghat came into existence about 150 years before.

Drainage System : The system has been developed after the ghat was taken over by Konnagar Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : Primarily used as a bathing place by about 30 to 35 persons daily, the ghat also serves as a serene place for performing Ganga-puja, Chhat-puja etc.

Proposed Action Plan : There is no such plan in respect of this ghat.

Regular / Famous Festival : The ghat houses Madhabananda Ashram where bathing ceremony of Nageswar Mahadev as well as the day of disappearance of Madhabananda Moharaj are celebrated.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : There is nothing in this ghat to attract visitors.

Brief History : Since inception, the ghat remained under the exclusive disposal of the Singhee family and the entry of outsiders in the ghat was used to be regarded as a punishable offence.

Movement of the members of Singhee family was mostly dependant upon waterways and hence the ghat was an integral part of their private lives. They also used to take their regular bath in the ghat itself. Singhee family contributed towards foundation of Konnagar Aurobinda Exercise Club. They named the club as such as a mark of dedication to Rishi Aurobinda. Apart from above, Mdhabananda Ashram was also built up by the courtesy of Singhee family.

Name of Ghat : ABANINDRA NATH THAKUR BARI GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Konnagar this ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Abanindra Nath Thakur Bari Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : Relevant details not known.

Drainage System : The system has been developed by Konnagar Municipality after the ghat was taken over by them.

Usage of Ghat : In the past, the ghat was under private ownership and as such it was not open to all. But, since the ghat is allied to the Bagan bari which has become a place of interest, many visitors happen to come regularly from far and away. In view of this the ghat can not remain a solitary place now.

Proposed Action Plan : There is no such plan formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : Moreover, the birthday celebration of Abanindra Nath Thakur also attracts a huge crowd each year.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : After a long protest, Konnagar Municipality took over the place and thoroughly renovated it. Now the Bagan bari is the most famous tourist spot in Konnagar.

Brief History : The initiative to convert the Bagan bari into a virtual museum, was undertaken by Intach's Hooghly Chapter, the Department of Architecture and University of Liverpool, to generate heritage awareness among people. The virtual museum which has been inaugurated very recently, showcases everything related to the Konnagar Baganbari – the history, culture, architectural spaces, gardens, ghats etc.

Name of Ghat : MAA MATI MANUSH GHAT

Location : Adjacent to G. T. Road, Konnagar the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Maa Mati Manush Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : Foundation of this ghat was made by Konnagar Municipality on 07.07.2018.

Drainage System : The ghat is under the administrative control of Konnagar Municipality. The system has been introduced and developed further by the Municipality on 16.01.2022.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is exclusively used for immersion of idols after Puja and nothing else. The ghat remains closed other than those days denying entry to general public.

Proposed Action Plan : Nothing has been known about Action Plan relating to the ghat.

Regular / Famous Festival : No festival is there in the ghat other than ceremonial immersion of idols of god and goddess.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot : Immersion ceremony alone and that too for two or three days in a year is not enough at all to attract Tourists from far and away.

Brief History : Konnagar experiences about 400 Durga Puja each year entailing a huge arrangement for their systematic immersion too. The relating work used to be shouldered so long by Sadhur ghat alone.

Name of Ghat : PANCHU DUTTA GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Konnagar this ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Panchu Dutta Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Konnagar Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded by the famous Dutta family in the year 1850.

Drainage System : A lot of improvement in the system is noticed after the ghat was taken over by the Konnagar Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is regularly used by about 30 to 40 persons for the purpose of Puja, performance of rituals etc besides bathing.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : Traditionally performed Samshan Kali Mata Puja worths mentioning. This apart, Shiva-Ratri concerning Sarbeswar Shib- ling,

Rathayarta also get festive flavor. The arrival date of Sri Sri Ramakrishna is also celebrated in this ghat.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : Occasions as stated above are not conducive enough to regard the ghat as a tourist spot.

Brief History : The most outstanding feature of the ghat is that it was blessed by the foot-prints of Sri Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa Deb when he came from Dakshineswar on Sunday the 3rd December of 1882. He took this path to reach Mitra Babu's residence

Name of Ghat : BIRESWAR BANERJEE GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Kotrung (bhadrakali) touching Bireswar Banerjee Street, Bhadrakali, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Bireswar Banerjee Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded by Banerjee family about 150 years ago.

Drainage System : The system has not been improved as yet.

Usage of Ghat : Previously, the usage of the ghat was limited to bathing only. With the passage of time, the ghat has been useful for the purpose of Puja, rites, immersion of small idols etc. More or less, 25 persons step down to this ghat daily.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been made as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : Recent few years are witnessing Durga Puja Festival in this ghat.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : There is no such occurrence supporting this ghat to become a Tourist Spot.

Brief History : It is only learnt that the ghat was founded out of philanthropic intention of the Banerjee family.

Name of Ghat : SHIBTALA GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Kotrung (bhadrakali) and touching Shibtala Street, Bhadrakali, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Shibtala Ghat, Bhadrakali is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : It is learnt that a close relative of the then Maharaja of Cooch behar, who used to reside in Calcutta was fascinated by the place. He built up the ghat along with a small temple of Kalimata and a workable samshan (a small space for cremation) All these happened about 600 years before.

Drainage System : Improvement in the system is apparent after the ghat was taken over by the Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat at present contains an electric crematorium, a small temple of Samsan Kali Mata and an air conditioned rest room.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : Main attraction is the puja of Samsan Kali Mata whose "Prosad" is distributed to may devotees.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot : The temple of Samsan Kali Mata having a graceful look, has become

a place of interest after the same has been developed and beautified by Uttarpara KJotrung Municipality.

Brief History : Originally, built up by a close relative of the then Moharaja of Cooch behar, the 600 years old Shibtala ghat broke down due to frequent aggression of Ganga overflowing the area.

Name of Ghat : SAKHER BAZAR GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Katrung (Bhadrakali), the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Sakher Bazar Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded by Sri Upendra Nath Ghosh in the year 1988.

Drainage System : The system is yet to be developed.

Usage of Ghat : A Shiva temple stands alone in this ghat which is normally used by 20 to 25 persons a day for the purpose of Puja and bathing.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been heard as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : The ghat wears a festive look on the days of Shiva-Ratri and Nil-Sashthi – both involve prayer of devotees to Lord Shiva, the god of creation, conservation and dissolution.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : The ghat is not that important which can upgrade the place as a Tourist Spot.

Brief History : The ghat finds no such occurrence that to be included in the history book.

Name of Ghat : DOL TALA GHAT

Location : Adjacent to the G. T. Road in the Kotrung area, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Doltala Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : This ghat is more or less 150 years old and it was founded by the then famous family of Sabarna Roy Chowdhury.

Drainage System: The system was developed by Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality..

Usage of Ghat: Ordinarily, the ghat is used for the purpose of Puja, religious rites etc apart from bathing. The ghat counts about 70 persons each day.

Proposed Action Plan: No action plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: The ghat is experienced with a number of festivals which are Ganga Puja, Rathayatra and Holi (Dol).

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot: The ghat covers a wide beautified area having a wonderful ambience which attracts a number of visitors regularly.

Brief History: The Holi-festival is celebrated with much fun-fare as discussed above. There is nothing more worth mentioning here.

Name of Ghat: KOTRUNG-UTTARPARA FERRY GHAT

Location: Adjacent to the G. T. Uttarpara and touching Bijoy Krishna Street, Uttarpara, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Kotrung-Uttarpara Ferry Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: All we know is that the ghat is more or loss 150 years old, the name of founder being unknown.

Drainage System: The system has been developed by the Municipality.

Usage of Ghat: Having the facility of Ferry Service connecting Uttarpara and Ariadaha (Outskirt of Dakshineswar), the ghat has gained much popularity among the local inhabitants. It benefits innumerable passengers each day.

Proposed Action Plan: No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: Entry in the ghat without a valid ticket being restricted, question of celebration of any festival does not arise at all.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot: The ghat remains busy supporting the ferry service which is used by the daily passengers and the tourists alike. Hence it may be said that though the ghat is not a tourist spot as such, it is a means for facilitating tourism.

Brief History : In the initial stage the platform of the jetty consisted of wooden planks placed side by side.

Name of Ghat : RAM SITA GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Uttarpara the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Ram Sita Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : Ram Sita Ghat was founded by the family members of the famous Sabarna Roy Chowdhury.

Drainage System : The system is yet to be improved.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is regularly used by about 35 persons for the purpose of Puja and bathing.

Proposed Action Plan : Nothing of such plan is known as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : Allied to the ghat there are temples of Grahraj (Shani) and Panchanana (Shiva). Puja for them brings in some festive flavor.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : There is nothing in the ghat to upgrade the place as a tourist spot.

Brief History : There is a hear say that this ghat, in good old days, was connected to the place of Raja Jyoti Kumar Mukhopadhyay.

Name of Ghats: BABU JAGMOHAN MUKHOPADHYAY GHAT OR BABU GHAT

Location: Proximate to the G. T. Road, Uttarpara and touching Joy Krishna Street, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Babu Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: The ghat was named by its founder Babu Jagmohan Mukhopadhyay, about 200 years before.

Drainage System: The system was introduced at the time of foundation of the ghat itself.

Usage of Ghat: At the initial stage, the ghat had a place of cremation which used to work out in traditional manner. During eighteen' such practice was stopped altogether. The ghat at present, provides

an excellent place for bathing which is enjoyed by more or less 40 persons a day.

Proposed Action Plan: A water Plan has been initiated by Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Regular / Famous Festival: Allied to this ghat there is a temple of Samsan Kali Mata which brings many devotees each day.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot: The ghat itself has no such charm that can attract Tourists.

Brief History: The most remarkable event is that Raja Jyot Kumar Mukhopadhyay steered the Water Project which still exists. One of the most interesting feature is that a wonderful guest house name "Bhorer Alo" has been constructed in the area by the courtesy of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Name of Ghat : JOYKRISHNA LIBRARY GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Uttarpara the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Joykrishna Library Ghat is under the Jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : In the year 1859, the ghat along with a large Library building having a playground in between, was founded by Babu Joykrishna Mukhopadhyay. This led the ghat to be named as Joykrishna Library Ghat.

Drainage System : The system has been improved and developed by the Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat being treated as a private one is not open to all.

Proposed Action Plan : No such Action Plan is found.

Regular / Famous Festival : The birthday of Babu Joykrishna Mukhopadhyay and the "Library day" are celebrated within the area.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : The Joykrishna Library, famous for the treasure books it possesses draws hundreds of earnest readers and visitors each year. But the ghat is not necessary visited by them and as such it remains a solitary place.

Brief History : The Joykrishna Library, as it is known, is the first one in Asia, which offer free reading facilities to readers and researchers as well. Rishi Aurobinda, Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Sir Willium Wardson Hunter, Mery Carpenter, Keshab Chandra Sen, Swami Vivekananda and many such personalities. The Library also witnessed the last few days spent by Michael Madhusudan Dutta.

Name of Ghat : MANDIR BARI GHAT

Location : Proximate to the G. T. Road, Uttarpara, touching the Banerjee Para Street, the falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Mandir Bari Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : The ghat was founded by the Banerjee family about 600 years before.

Drainage System : Improved system is not found

Usage of Ghat : Apart from Puja purpose, the ghat is extensively used for bathing. It provides youngsters as an excellent place for an evening chat.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan is noticed.

Regular / Famous Festival : There being triple temples of Shiva and a temple of Tara Maa standing in the back ground, the auspicious day of Shiva Ratri and Nil Shasthi are celebrated by many devotees in this area.

Possibility / Potentiality of being a Tourist Spot : The ghat is unable to comply with the criteria of a prospective tourist spot.

Brief History: The history of the ghat is imbibed in its foundation and the festivals it celebrate.

Name of Ghat : KATYAYONI GHAT

Location : Proximate to Mandir bari ghat and G. T. Road, Uttarpara, touching Banerjee Para Street, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : Katyayoni Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : Katyayoni Ghat was founded by the courtesy of Banerjee family. The memento affixed in the ghat shows the names of the members who were Indra Bhusan, Kanailal, Mohanlal and Nandalal Bandyopadhyay.

Drainage System: The system has been improved by Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Usage of Ghat: Primarily, the ghat was constructed with the objective of serving only to the female members of the locality for bathing but now it is widely open to all, the number of user being about 35 at present.

Proposed Action Plan: No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: In the terrace of the ghat, there is a temple named by "Tara-Kshyapa" which contains an idol of Maa Tara. The temple was dedicated to the memory of Lakshman Gopal Saha, son of Ashutosh Saha by Tara-Kshyapa Sangha in the Bengali year 1396 i.e. 32 years before. There are many festive occasions including Kali Puja, which are celebrated here, drawing hundreds of devotees.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot: The ghat itself cannot be regarded as a Tourist Spot.

Brief History: Nothing is remarkable other than foundation and Regular / Famous festivals as discussed above.

Name of Ghat: CHATTERJEE GHAT

Location: Proximate to Amarendra Sarani (Old G. T. Road), Uttarpara, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Chatterjee Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: The ghat was founded by the then Chatterjee family of Uttarpara. The year of foundation is not known.

Drainage System: No improvement in system is seen.

Usage of Ghat: Being a private ghat, its usage was limited to the family members at the initial stage. It is of course, now open to local residents (counting about 20 persons) also for bathing purpose.

Proposed Action Plan: No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: The ghat is not found in a festive mood.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot: There is nothing in this ghat that can attract Tourists.

Brief History: There is no event that occurred in the ghat, to be narrated as its history.

Name of Ghats: PATNI GHAT

Location: Adjacent to Amarendra Sarani (old G. T. Road), touching Shibtala Street, Uttarpara, the ghat falls within Uttarpara constituency.

Municipality : Patni Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: The ghat was founded by the Banerjee family about 250 years before. A Samshan (place of cremation) was also established here during foundation.

Drainage System: The system has not been introduced in this ghat.

Usage of Ghats: The ghat contained an ancient Samshan which has since been closed. However, it is used for performing various religious rites besides bathing. Average foot fall counts 50 per day.

Proposed Action Plan: No such plan has been heard of as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: Temples of both Lord Shiva and Samshan Kali Mata have been established in this ghat. Hence, it draws numerous devotees on the specific days of Shiva-Ratri, Nil-Sashthi etc for celebration adding a festive flavor to the ghat.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot: There is nothing in the ghat which can facilitate Tourism.

Brief History: As a measure of pollution control, the cremation work in this ghat was made defunct, leaving a small memento of the past, in the same place of the ghat. However, in the year 1965, inspired by the "Tarapith Sangha", a group of local people established in the ghat, a temple of Samshan Kali Mata. The anniversary day of establishment of this temple is celebrated with grandeur.

Name of Ghat: MUKTOKESHI GHAT

Location: Proximate to Amarendra Sarani (Old G. T. Road), Uttarpara the ghat falls in Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Muktokeshi Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: This ghat about 200 years old was founded by the well-known personality, Saborna Roy Chowdhury, who also established in the Western side of the ghat, a temple for Maa Muktokeshi and a covered terrace facing the deity.

Drainage System: The system got a lot of improvement after the ghat was taken over by the Municipality.

Usage of Ghat: About 50 persons a day take their regular bath in the ghat.

Proposed Action Plan: No such action plan has been heard for implementation.

Regular / Famous Festival: The most famous festival is held on the day of "Kali Puja" as it is popularly called. Each year Maa Mukto keshi draws hundreds of her devotees who offer their oblation and get prasada (food having the grace of good). Lord Jagannatha has also a place in this temple and he is worshipped as Narayana. Hence Ratha Yatra as well

as Dol (holi) festival are also celebrated in this area. Moreover, daily puja of Maa is followed by distribution of prasada among many a devotee.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot: The temple along with the ghat is visited by devotees and the tourists alike

Brief History: The most interesting and noteworthy event is that the religious minded Saborna Roy Chowdhury, the founder of the temple along with the ghat had a devine order which imposed that the priest of the temple should be of the same lineage/caste.

Name of Ghat : COLLEGE GHAT

Location: Proximate to Amarendra Sarani (Old G. T. Road) and touching Acharya Dhruva Pal Lane, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality : College Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation : About 200 years old, College Ghat was founded by the Mukherjee family, the then zeminder, who also established Uttarpara Govt. School and Raja Peary Mohan College which are located in the adjacent area.

Drainage System : The system has been improved after the ghat has been taken over by Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is regularly used by about 60 persons a day for religious and bathing purpose. Besides, students of school and college stated above happen to come to this ghat for enjoying the ambience of the place.

Proposed Action Plan : No such plan has been formulated as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival : In the passage of the ghat there is a small Shiva temple where Shiva-Ratri, Nil-Sashthi etc.

Possibility of being a Tourist Spot : The magnificent Dakshineswar temple of Maa Bhatarini, standing just on the other side of the river and the sprawling Vivekananda Bridge are spectacular enough to attract the Mobile phone camera holders appearing in the ghat right from sunrise till late evening.

Brief History: The building standing near the ghat having the proximity to College, was actually a Guest House of the zeminder Mukhopadhyay family.

Name of Ghat : DAMKAL GHAT OR SADHUR GHAT

Location: Proximate to Amarendra Sarani (old G. T. Road) and Uttarpara Govt. School, Uttarpara, the ghat falls within Uttarpara Constituency.

Municipality: Damkal ghat / Sadhur Ghat is under the jurisdiction of Uttarpara Kotrung Municipality.

Foundation: It is learnt that the ghat was founded by the Mukherjee family, the then Zeminder about 100 years before.

Drainage System: The system is yet to be developed.

Usage of Ghat : The ghat is now mainly used by the local residents including the inhabitants of Bolio bagan allied to this ghat. About 50 persons a day use this ghat for bathing and religious purpose.

Proposed Action Plan: There is no such plan formulated for the ghat as yet.

Regular / Famous Festival: The distinctive feature of the ghat is that “Bajrangbali” and “Ram-navami” festivals are celebrated in this ghat. Such festivals are organized by the local inhabitants under the banner “Bolio bagan Sporting Club”.

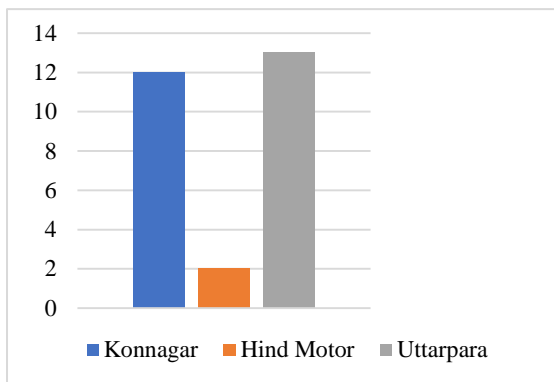
Possibility of being a Tourist Spot: There is no such feature which can upgrade the ghat to be regarded as a tourist spot.

Brief History: Previously, the ghat was meant for pious saints (Sadhu), hence it was recognized as Sadhur Ghat. Many a saints used to come and stay here for their meditation and such other spiritual works.

ANALYSIS

1. Areas wise analysis:

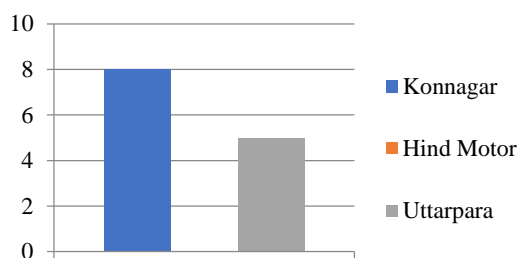
Municipality	Area Cover	No of Ghat
Konnogar	Konnogar	12
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	2
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	13



areas viz. Konnagar, Hind Motor and Uttarpara falling under the Constituency of Uttarpara. Altogether 27 ghats have been taken into account; share of Konnagar being 12, Hind Motor 2 and Uttarpara having 13 ghats.

2. Year of foundation / Establishment:-

Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	12
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	2
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	13

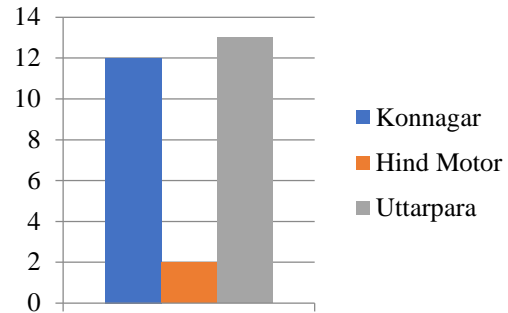


Out of 12 ghats in Konnagar it is found that the year of foundation is available for 8 ghats only. In respect of 2 ghats of Hind Motor, year of establishment is unknown. As regards Uttarpara, year

of establishment is known for 5 ghats only, out of 13 ghats.

3. Municipal Jurisdiction: -

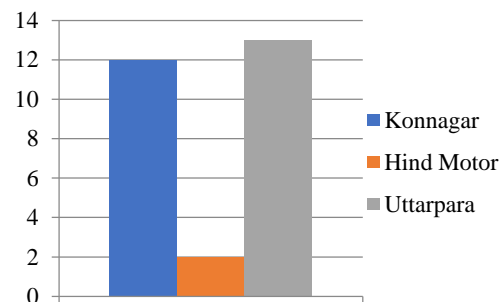
Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	12
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	2
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	13



All the ghat under Uttarpara Constituency fall under the jurisdiction of Respective municipalities

4. Short History:-

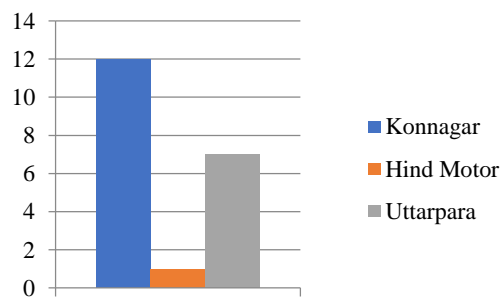
Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	5
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	6
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	8



All most all the ghats under Uttarpara constituency are enriched by historical events.

5. Drainage System: -

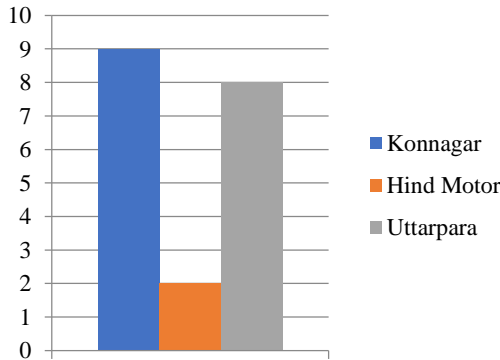
Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	12
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	1
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	7



All the 12 Ghats in the Konnagar area are equipped with Drainage System. Out of two Hind Motor ghats only one ghat bears Drainage System, while Uttarpara area finds Drainage System in 7 ghats only out of 13 ghats.

6. Festival and famous festival:-

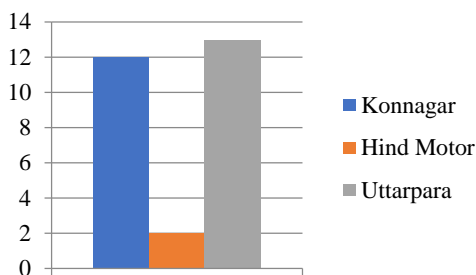
Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	9
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	2
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	8



In Konnagar area, festive days are celebrated in 9 ghats out of 12 ones. Festivity prevails in both the ghats of Hind Motor, while festive flavor is perceived in 8 ghats out of 13 ones in respect of Uttarpara area.

7. Use of ghats:-

Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	12
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	2
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	8

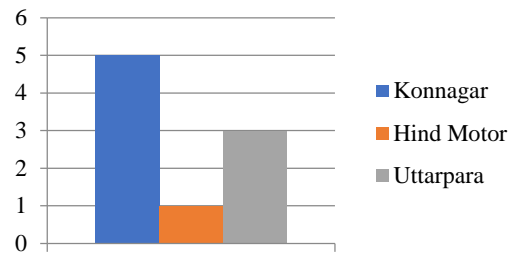


More or less all the ghats find foot falls in Uttarpara Constituency covering Konnagar, Hind Motor and Uttarpara areas.

8. Tourist Spot:

Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	5
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	1
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	3

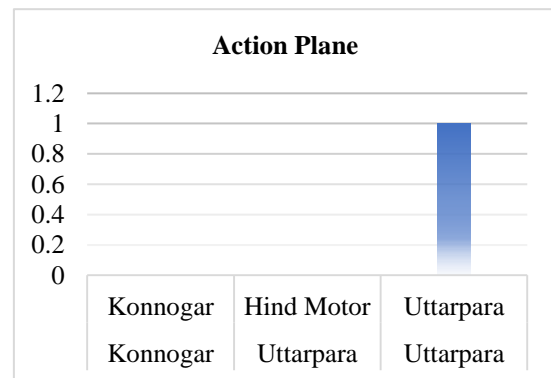
In Konnagar area 3 ghats viz. Lokenath Ghat, Baro Mandir Ghat and Abanindra Nath Bagan Bari Ghat deserve appreciation in the cleanliness issue



Out of 12 ghats in Konnagar area only 5 ghats could be focused as tourist spot. One out of 2 ghats in Hind Motor area can be regarded as tourist spot while 3 out of 13 ghats in Uttarpara area welcome tourists.

9. Action Plan:

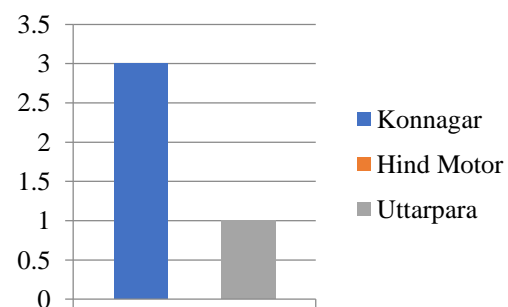
Municipality	Area Cover	Number
Konnogar	Konnogar	0
Uttarpara	Hindmotor	0
Uttarpara	Uttrpara	1



A solitary water project is located in one of the ghats of Uttarpara area under Uttarpara Constituency.

10. Cleanliness:-

Municipality	Area Cover	No
Konnogar	Konnogar	3
Uttarpara	Hind Motor	0
Uttarpara	Uttarpara	1



abrest with beautification. Doltala Ghat in Uttarpara area also can claim similar applause.

FINDING

I have carried on a research work in regard to the ghats touching the ganges located in Konnagar, Hind Motor and Uttarpara areas under Uttarpara Constituency. During the process of my work, I have collected certain valuable information which are briefly discussed hereunder: -

1. Certain areas really have historical importance worth mentioning.
2. Certain areas are blessed by the auspicious footprints of great personalities of Bengal like Raja Rammohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda and his mentor Sree Sree Ramakrishna Paramhansa Dev, Rabindra Nath Tagore and such other great persons.
3. We have come to know about Moharshi Shib Chandra Deb and his contribution towards building up Brahmo Samaj to spread education among women to make them self radiant.
4. The boyhood days of Abanindra Nath Thakur has been flashed back while discussing Abanindra Nath Thakur Bari Ghat.
5. Historical essence is perceived from Bara Mandir Ghat (at Konnagar) which equals Baranasi being located in the western bank of Ganga.
6. One of the areas is fortunate to see the famous industrialist Thomas Bata and his shoe-making factory the product of which has got international recognition.
7. This area has presented the pioneer Library in Asia. It is none other than Joy Krishna Library which found the light of the by the courtesy of Zaminder Babu Joy Krishna Mukherjee.
8. There lived a number of aristocrate and well known families in this area. Due to their humanitarian outlook and generous contribution many schools, colleges, Hospitals, Markets and temples were built up which glossifies the area for years to

come. Some of their creations have even crossed more than a century.

9. Modern and improved Drainage System has been introduced in certain areas.
10. The remarkable water-work project has been built up in one of the areas.

CONCLUSION

My research work concentrates on three areas viz. Konnagar, Hind Motor and Uttarpara under Uttarpara Constituency covering a stretch of eleven kilometers only. There are other allied areas on the bank of Gangalike Sreerampore, Chandan Nagar etc. which have historical backdrops. But, in view of time constraint and other limitations it has not been possible for me to cover such places too. But, I do believe that the work I have accomplished so far, would act as a search light for the future research-scholars interested in and dedicated to this subject.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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