



LIFE ALONG THE RIVER

A NOSTALGIC ODE TO THROUGH TIME ALONG THE
GANGES IN CALCUTTA

S H U B H O D E E P R O Y

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Grateful to the Hamburg Portfolio Review 2024 for selecting my project “Life Along the River” among the talented photographers from around the world. Honored to be one of the youngest participants, chosen from over 1,294 applicants representing more than 100 countries.



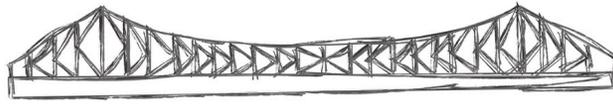
COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

I am beyond thrilled to share a significant milestone in my journey as a storyteller. My work “Misty Mornings: A Kolkata Awakening” — part of my ongoing project “Life Along the River” — has been selected for the 2024 Transformative Urban Coalitions Exhibition and is currently exhibited at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I'm deeply grateful to see "Life Along the River" continue its journey. Thrilled to have it featured as a 10-page special story in the August 2024 issue of Smart Photography Magazine, one of India's leading photography publications.





" E P H E M E R A L "

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CALCUTTA.

Experience the essence of Kolkata's dynamic rhythm in "Ephemeral: A Day in the Life of Calcutta." Shot by **Shubhodeep Roy** and edited by my friend **Satadru Sengupta**, this video captures the city's vibrant spirit against the backdrop of the majestic Ganges. Dive into a fleeting yet profound journey through Kolkata's post-colonial landscape, where every frame reveals the unique blend of history, culture, and modernity. This visual odyssey invites you to witness the daily life and timeless beauty of a city that pulses with energy, creativity, and an indomitable spirit. Let the sights and sounds of Kolkata immerse you in an unforgettable experience, celebrating the enduring legacy and contemporary charm of this extraordinary metropolis.

This visual odyssey is part of the larger "Life Along the River" project



Shot by **Shubhodeep Roy**. Edited by **Satadru Sengupta**.

Dear Readers,

Today, I find myself reflecting on my journey as a photographer and the incredible moments I have experienced along the banks of the Hooghly River in Kolkata. Over the past years, I have dedicated my lens to capturing the essence of the city's Ghats, those enchanting staircases leading down to the water that has stood the test of time.

These Ghats have witnessed the ebb and flow of life for centuries, and it is remarkable how little they have changed. As I perched on the steps, camera in hand, I felt a deep sense of nostalgia sweep over me. These moments felt like whispers from the past, reminding me of the timeless beauty that lies within the heart of Kolkata.

In my photographic exploration, I sought to document the Ghats in their purest form, preserving the authenticity of these cultural treasures. I meticulously composed each frame, capturing the serene beauty of the river and the Ghats' architectural splendor. I wanted to transport viewers to a time when pollution did not mar the surface of the water, and the river flowed with pristine clarity.

One of the most captivating elements I encountered was the presence of the iconic Howrah Bridge, standing tall and proud, connecting the bustling city to its riverside heritage. The bridge has become a symbol of Kolkata's identity, an architectural marvel that has become an integral part of the Ghats' nostalgic allure. I made sure to include the bridge in my compositions, emphasizing its timeless presence and its reflection on the calm waters below.

As I delved deeper into my photographic journey, I couldn't help but be drawn to the old ferries gracefully crossing the Ganges. These vessels, carrying passengers and stories from one bank to the other, seemed to exist in a world of their own. In my images, I aimed to capture the tranquility of these moments, showcasing the unbreakable bond between the river and its inhabitants.

Today's journal entry serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving these cultural treasures and raising awareness about the need to protect our rivers. Each photograph carries the weight of history and nostalgia, urging us to cherish and safeguard the heritage that lies along the banks of the Hooghly River.

Until my next adventure,

Shubhodeep Roy.



**Old ferrymen, weathered hands gripping oars, guiding wooden boats
across the nostalgic Ganges.**



Faces etched with stories, the human tapestry woven along the riverbank, a testament to shared nostalgia



The rhythm of life echoes through the Ghats, where the past meets the present in a seamless dance



In the midst of raging storm's embrace, a solitary soul braves the tempest, anchored by the mighty Howrah Bridge, a symbol of resilience and defiance against nature's wrath.



A glimpse of serenity amidst the bustling city, as the river flows, eternally nostalgic and untouched.



A fusion of history and culture, where nostalgia intertwines with the vibrant spirit of Kolkata's Ghats.



Soulful Reverie: Where Reflections Unravel the Heart's Guide



Evening hues painting the sky, as silhouettes gather on the Ghats, embracing the tranquility of the river



Vibrant flowers adorning the steps, a colorful tribute to the timeless rituals performed by the water's edge.



Glimpses of Peace Amidst Urban Pride



Amidst the laughter of children, the Ganges becomes a playground of joy, where innocence and exuberance paint the waters with playful acrobatics



Embracing the past, capturing the present, and preserving the nostalgic charm of life along the river.



Amidst the morning fog, the Ganges emerges as a mystical entity, shrouded in mystery and allure



In the flow of Ganges, echoes life's profound symphony.



In Kolkata, the Ganges isn't just a river; it's a storyteller, whispering tales of resilience etched in the lives of those who call its shores home.



Colors dance upon the surface of the Ganges, a kaleidoscope of hues reflecting the vibrancy of life



In the heart of Kolkata, the Ganges flows silently, carrying with it the echoes of centuries past, a silent witness to the city's ever-changing landscape



As the sun paints the Ganges with hues of gold, life along its banks awakens to a timeless rhythm—a symphony of daily rituals and timeless flow



In the silence of dawn, the Ganges whispers secrets of Kolkata's storied past, its waters reflecting the quiet beauty of the waking city



Each morning, as the city stirs to life, silent prayers rise with the mist — where ancient rituals meet the first light, and the Ganges becomes both witness and womb.



In the city's fading light, the Ganges holds a quiet prayer — where devotion meets dusk, and stillness speaks louder than the noise around.



In the hush of twilight, the river becomes a mirror of faith — where colors of devotion ripple through the water, and silence carries the sound of countless whispered prayers.



In the enchanting embrace of the twilight's hue,
The Bridge emerges, a silhouette anew,
As the river's whispers serenade the tranquil scene,
Captured in the evening's embrace, a poetic dream.



I am Shubhodeep Roy, a 23-year-old internationally award-winning photographer from Kolkata, India. My passion for photography has been the driving force behind my artistic journey. With a commitment to capturing the essence of human stories, I have had the privilege of exhibiting my work globally and publishing it in renowned publications. Using photography as a medium for social impact and change, I strive to give voice to those whose narratives often go unheard. As I continue to embark on my photographic journey, I am grateful for the opportunities that have come my way and the profound impact photography has had on my life. I strive to use my art as a tool for storytelling, raising awareness, and fostering empathy among viewers.

