



**SYAMA PRASAD MOOKHERJEE PORT, KOLKATA  
15 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001**

**Design Competition for Static Illumination  
& Beautification of Howrah Bridge and  
adjoining areas, Kolkata**

**Issued by**

**ESTATE MANAGER (I/C), SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE PORT, KOLKATA**

**Estate Division**

**6 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA - 700001**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, formerly known as the Kolkata Port Trust, stands as a historic riverine port in Kolkata, India, boasting an illustrious legacy of more than 150 years. Positioned approximately 203 kilometers (126 miles) inland from the sea, this port, graced with two distinct dock systems, holds the honor of being India's oldest operational port. As one of the pivotal 13 major ports in India, it serves as the vital gateway to the Eastern region of the country.

Notably, the Kolkata Port also bears the responsibility of stewarding the iconic Howrah Bridge. This bridge, which evolved from a Pontoon Bridge to the New Howrah Bridge commissioned in February 1943, is a testament to engineering prowess. In honor of the renowned Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, the bridge was renamed Rabindra Setu on June 14, 1965. Noteworthy for its architectural marvel, the bridge once stood as the world's third-longest cantilever bridge during its construction and continues to hold the distinction of being the sixth-longest of its kind worldwide.

Brief Structural description of the bridge

- Height of each tower - 85.26m
- Anchor Span length - 99.05m (both sides)
- Cantilever span length - 142.63m (both sides)
- Central suspended span length - 171.89m
- Width of the bridge - 23.16m
- Width of the footpath – approx. 4m upto 4.5m in some section
- Deck length – 480 m

A true testament to collaborative engineering efforts, the construction of the bridge harnessed a staggering 27,500 metric tons of steel. Among this, 22,500 metric tons were generously supplied by Tata Steel, with the remaining 5,000 metric tons sourced from international origins. The bridge's inauguration was marked by a symbolic gesture as a tram car embarked on its maiden journey in the late hours of February 2nd, transitioning into the early hours of February 3rd, 1943.

Reflecting the city's vibrancy, a luminous transformation occurred when the entirety of the bridge was adorned with decorative lighting a few years prior. A splendid upgrade was executed during the 2019-20 period, enhancing the lighting system as a dedication to the spirited inhabitants of the City of Joy.

With an open invitation to visionary architects, esteemed firms, and talented students, the port authority now extends an opportunity for a design competition. This endeavor seeks to propel the bridge's architectural narrative towards new horizons, embracing innovation and celebrating the bridge's unique place in history.

## 2. AREA OF INTEREST

**LOCATION:** The Howrah Bridge, is in Kolkata, West Bengal, India adjacent to Howrah Station in Kolkata. It spans the Hooghly River, connecting the city of Howrah on the western bank with the city of Kolkata (Calcutta) on the eastern bank.

**SITE DETAILS:** The site will include the complete expanse of Howrah Bridge, comprising the footpaths on both sides and the connecting approach road. Furthermore, the scope will encompass a landscaped park space on the Howrah Side of the bridge, situated immediately behind the Traffic Police booth. Moreover, the defined region will include a 1-kilometer stretch along the Hooghly River banks on either side of the bridge.



**Existing Kerb**



**Existing Footpath**



**Existing green patch at Howrah side behind the Traffic Booth**

**APPLICABLE BYELAWS:** Relevant Indian Standards as per the works and upgradation proposed.

### 3. PROJECT BRIEF:

The Kolkata Port is currently seeking to enhance the visual appeal of the bridge through architectural and lighting advancements. These enhancements, primarily focused on ornamental elements, are envisioned to possess both aesthetic charm and utilitarian functionality.

Potential upgrade concepts may encompass the following ideas:

- a) **Lighting Design: Creative static lighting solutions** that enhance the bridge's beauty through static and interactive lighting to engage and create an immersive experience. However, this is just indicative and candidates are free to suggest innovative ideas aesthetically and suitably historical, cultural and aligning with significance of adjoining areas of Howrah Bridge.
- b) **Cleaning, Development and Lighting of Hooghly Riverbank:** The design idea should also include ideas for cleaning of the riverbank and development of the riverfront with lighting on both flanks, spanning from Rabindra setu to Vidyasagar setu. The proposed riverfront development should be restricted to static illumination design only.

- c) **Art Installations:** Adding sculptures, murals, or art installations along the Howrah Bridge's approach to add visual interest and cultural significance of Kolkata and West Bengal. Local art and culture should be preferred.
- d) **Architectural Features:** Adding decorative items on arches, railings such as Kinetic sculptures powered by wind that pay homage to the history and culture. These can further serve as landmarks and add cultural significance.
- e) **Public Art Spaces:** Designing a dedicated area on the bridge for rotating public art exhibitions. This will not only provide a platform for artists but also keep the visual experience fresh for regular visitors. This may also showcase the history and significance of the Howrah Bridge.
- f) **Photography Points:** Designing spots for photography and incorporating elements like designated photo corners, frames, decks or viewpoints that can help people capture stunning images of the bridge.
- g) **Incorporate Technology:** Fusing architectural design with technology can enhance the aesthetic allure of the bridge significantly. Some ideas which can be implemented are digital murals/ 3D Billboards/screens/projections in the approach road from Kolkata side.
- h) **Historical Plaques:** Designing addition of Plaques in the prime spots of bridge. Plaques can provide historical information about the bridge's construction, significance, and evolution over time. This can add educational value while enhancing the aesthetic appeal. Materials maybe utilized that interact with light and polished stainless steel.
- i) **Footpath walkway Improvement:** Footpath walkways with artistic pavement designs and touches of greenery can be designed which enhances functionality and aesthetics. The pedestrian pathways maybe illuminated keeping in mind safety and aesthetics.
- j) **Painting of railings:** Railing can be painted with a harmonious color palette that complement the surroundings or artistic designs can also be considered for paintings on railings.
- k) **Adjoining Ghat Development:** Create an iconic ghat between adjoining areas of Howrah Bridge harmonizing heritage, state of art technology and modernity. Smart lighting, solar

panels, and historical kiosks will enrich the experience. A selection of sustainable eateries will celebrate local cuisine, ensuring an unforgettable visit for all.

- l) **Temporary Structure for Food Kiosk/Stall:** The temporary structure designs on riverfronts from the stretch of Rbindrasetu to Vidyasagar setu embodying Bengal's traditional architecture mixed with modernity should reflect the rich culture and heritage of Bengal.
- m) **Environmental sensitivity:** The design idea should also ensure that the lighting is eco-friendly and minimizes light pollution. Energy efficient LED bulbs and shielded fixtures to direct light maybe placed, as required. Arrangements for public events such as light festivals or cultural performances, on and around the bridge to celebrate its beauty maybe made.
- n) **Safety Measures:** The design idea should ensure installation of proper signage, railings and emergency lighting for safety. It should further balance aesthetics with safety for a pleasant experience for all.
- o) Any other idea to improve the historic and iconic significance of the Howrah Bridge.

#### 4. DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Design Competition for Static Illumination & Beautification of Howrah Bridge beckons visionaries to reimagine an iconic symbol of Kolkata's heritage and modernity. These guiding principles steer the bridge's evolution into an aesthetic, functional, and sustainable marvel. We seek designs that respect its history, enhance its appeal, and seamlessly integrate utilitarian elements, culminating in a bridge that embodies innovation, inclusivity, and Kolkata's vibrant spirit.

The iconic structure should have the following salient features:

- a) **Iconic Identity and City Landmark:** The design should enhance the Iconic Bridge in a way that cements the bridge's status as an iconic landmark, captivating both residents and visitors alike with its newfound allure.
- b) **Contextual Integration and Symbolic Expression:** The proposed upgrades should harmoniously blend with the existing urban landscape, showcasing the essence of Howrah and Kolkata while infusing the bridge with renewed symbolism.

- c) **Enhanced Lighting Aesthetics:** The proposed design should explore innovative static lighting concepts that cast the bridge in a new light, creating a mesmerizing nocturnal ambience that adds to its allure and transforms the cityscape.
- d) **Indigenous:** The proposed design should consider construction with indigenous materials and architectural styles.
- e) **Heritage Conservation and Contemporary Elegance:** The proposed design should uphold the bridge's historical significance while infusing it with contemporary elegance, encapsulating the bridge's journey through time and its enduring relevance.
- f) **Minimal Civil Works:** The proposed design should have minimal civil and structural works and should include mainly ornamental fittings.
- g) **Implementable:** The design should be implementable within a span of 3-6 months.
- h) **Innovative Approach:** Explore alternative imaginative concepts that can elevate the aesthetic appeal of bridges.

## 5. DESIGN COMPETITION

A time bound competition is being organized to crowd-source implementable ideas for the conceptual design of the iconic structure, in accordance with the aforesaid guiding principles and constraints.

### Participants

The competition is open to Indian citizens /organizations and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) only. It will include architects, architectural firms, design companies, registered companies, students, student groups, architectural or planning schools / colleges and other institutions across India, or any combination of the above.

### Organizer

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Ministry of Port, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India.

### Prizes

First prize: ₹ 3,00,000.

Two commendation prizes: ₹ 1,00,000 each.

If design elements from various entries are selected, the prize money shall be equitably distributed to all the concerned participants.

All the selected entries will be duly recognized.

## 6. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The design submissions are to be submitted as hard/physical copies to the Authority as well as to be sent via email and the submission must include,(but are not limited to) the following required drawings:

- Form 1: Application Letter
- Form 2: Undertaking
- Form 3 / 4: Declaration
- Three dimensional representations explaining the design, perspectives and montages which display the character of the project.
- Elevations demonstrating qualities such as material, texture, and color.
- Sections which illustrate key aspects and major spatial or programmatic elements.
- Drawings that illustrate innovative details or integrated aspects of design.
- All layouts, elevations & sections with detailed area statement (Scale 1:500)
- Block estimate
- Design concept explaining the proposal should be given in maximum 200 words (Concept on the design, material decisions etc.)
- Soft copy of 3D design, control drawing, and renders (all the soft submissions must be high resolution and shall include only .pptx, .xlsx, .docx, .pdf, .dwg any other format will not be accepted by the Committee)
- Physical model (suitable scale) (not compulsory)

## **7. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The applicants must comply with the following minimum eligibility qualification criteria:

### **❖ FOR ARCHITECT/ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS-**

- a) Architects i.e. registered with the Council of Architecture under the Architects Act, 1972. Registration certificate to be enclosed with Application Letter.
- b) Firms in which at least one partner or director is registered with the Council of Architecture under the Architects Act,1972.Registration certificate to be enclosed with Application Letter.

### ❖ FOR COMPANIES

- a) Legal entities duly registered under the Companies Act 1956/2013 or public/ semi-public entities which are financially autonomous. Registration certificate should be provided along with the Application Letter.

### ❖ FOR STUDENT/STUDENT GROUPS-

- a) Declaration from the institute/college as mentioned in Form 4 to be submitted.

### ❖ FOR DEPARTMENTS OF COLLEGE-

- a) College must be affiliated to recognized University. Declaration from the institute/college as mentioned in Form 4 to be submitted.

## 8. GENERAL CONDITIONS

All the proposals shall become the property of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata Government of India after submission.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata has the right to use these concept designs for works related to beautification of Howrah Bridge in part or full without assigning any explanation to the participants.

## 9. TIMELINE

Event	Dates
Document download Start date	25.09.2023, 11:00 AM IST
Last date of submitting queries	9.10.2023, 03:00 PM IST
Webinar explaining the Salient features at SMPK Office	10.10.2023, 11:00 AM IST
Last date of submitting Application	24.11.2023, 03:00 PM IST
Presentations before the jury	To be declared
Winners announcement	To be declared



## 10. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE AUTHORITY

Name : Moumita Guha Thaurta, Urban Planner  
Address for Submission : 6, Strand road, Fairlie warehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kolkata-700001  
Phone Numbers : 9830936339  
E-Mail : [architecturalcompetition2023@gmail.com](mailto:architecturalcompetition2023@gmail.com)  
Website : <https://smpportkolkata.shipping.gov.in/>

## 11. APPENDICES



## FORM 1: APPLICATION LETTER

To  
The Estate Manager (I/C)  
SMPK,  
6, Strand Road,  
Kolkata-700001

**Subject: Application for Design Competition for Static Illumination & Beautification of Howrah Bridge, Kolkata**

Dear Sir,

I/We <name of the applicant or associates> hereby submit our application for participation in Design Competition of Architectural Upgrade of Howrah Bridge.

I/ We declare that

- i. All the information and documents submitted are true and correct and are copies of their respective originals.
- ii. I/We acknowledge the right of the Authority to reject our application without assigning any reason or otherwise and hereby waive our right to challenge the same on any account whatsoever.

Kindly consider the application for participation in the competition.

Thanking You

Yours Faithfully

*<Signature along with seal/stamp of the applicant if applicable>*

Name of the applicant/associates:

Date:

Place:



## FORM 2: UNDERTAKING

I/We affirm that the design concept for the Static Illumination & Beautification of Howrah Bridge presented herein is a product of my/our original and creative endeavor. By submitting this entry, I/we hereby acknowledge and consent to the stipulated terms and conditions of the design competition, understanding that the presented design may be utilized, partially or entirely, by SMPK. I/we undertake to refrain from asserting any claims in relation to this matter.

Name of the applicant/associates:

Date:

Place:



### **FORM 3: DECLARATION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECT/DESIGNER**

*This declaration is required from the individual Architect/Designer who wish to participate in the competition; shall furnish the details of empanelment of his/ her candidature of recognized institute/ university.*

The declaration must certify the applicant in his/ her own letter head with seal and stamp of the Architect. The declaration must be supported with all requisite testimonials & credentials.

**FORM 4: DECLARATION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT/STUDENT GROUP/COLLEGE**

*This declaration is required from the individual Student or Group of Students from any Architectural College/University or Any Department of College who wish to participate in the competition; shall furnish the details of his/ her Architectural candidature of recognized institute/ university.*

The declaration must certify the applicant in the College/University letter head with seal and stamp of the Dean of Studies. The declaration must be supported with all requisite testimonials & credentials.

**Contestant Registration Form**

1. Name of the Applicants/Participant/Team:

I. ....

II. ....

III. ....

2. Contact Number:

3. E-Mail ID:

4. DOB:

5. Aadhar Card Number (Team Leader):

6. Professional/Student:

7. Institute/ Organization Name:

8. Address:

9. How did you get to know about the competition?

a. Online

b. SMPK Website

c. Friend

d. College

e. Others

10. Any Query/Suggestion?

a. \_\_\_\_\_100 Words\_\_\_\_\_