

## **Doi Ghat Redevelopment Along Hooghly River**

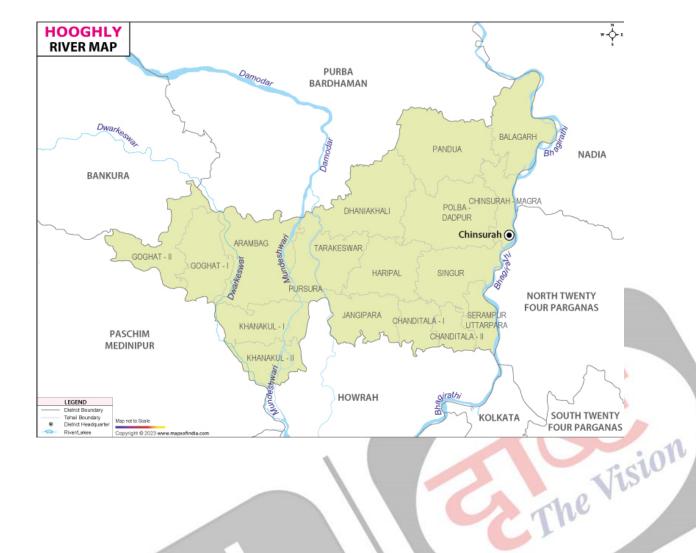
## Why in News?

<u>Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP)</u>, Kolkata, and TNS Logi-Park Pvt. Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to redevelop the historic Doi (Dahi) Ghat under a <u>Corporate Social</u>
<u>Responsibility (CSR) initiative</u>, aiming to restore its cultural and economic legacy.

The Doi Ghat project aligns with SMP's broader initiative to develop and beautify the <u>Hooghly</u> riverfront for cultural revival and tourism.

## **Key Points**

- Historical and Cultural Significance of Doi Ghat:
  - Located at the confluence of <u>Adi Ganga</u> and the Hooghly River, opposite Howrah.
  - The name "Doi Ghat" is derived from the Bengali word doi the dairy trade from Howrah.
  - It was a vital riverine trade and cultural exchange point between rural Bengal and colonial Calcutta.
- Significance of the MoU:
  - Urban Heritage Conservation: Revives a forgotten socio-cultural landmark.
  - **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**: Demonstrates successful collaboration for social development.
  - **Tourism and Community Engagement**: Adds to riverfront aesthetics and fosters cultural pride.
  - Sustainable Development: Integrates heritage, environment, and infrastructure goals.
  - Alignment with Clean Ganga Mission: Supports the broader national objective of <u>restoring sacred rivers.</u>
- About Adi Ganga:
  - Known historically as Gobindapur Creek, Surman's Canal, and Tolly's Canal.
  - Served as the main course of the Hooghly River between the 15th and 17th centuries before silting and diversion.
  - Currently a polluted urban water body; efforts are underway for its revival and rejuvenation, including:
    - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has sanctioned ₹650 crore.
    - Adi Ganga included in a multi-country South Asian river pollution combat project.
- Hooghly River:
  - A 260 km distributary of the Ganga originating from Murshidabad.
  - Formed when the Ganga splits into Padma (towards Bangladesh) and Hooghly (towards West Bengal).
  - Known also as **Bhagirathi-Hooghly or Kati-Ganga**.
  - Crucial for **port trade, transport, cultural life**, and religious activities in Bengal.



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