MOTIJHEEL

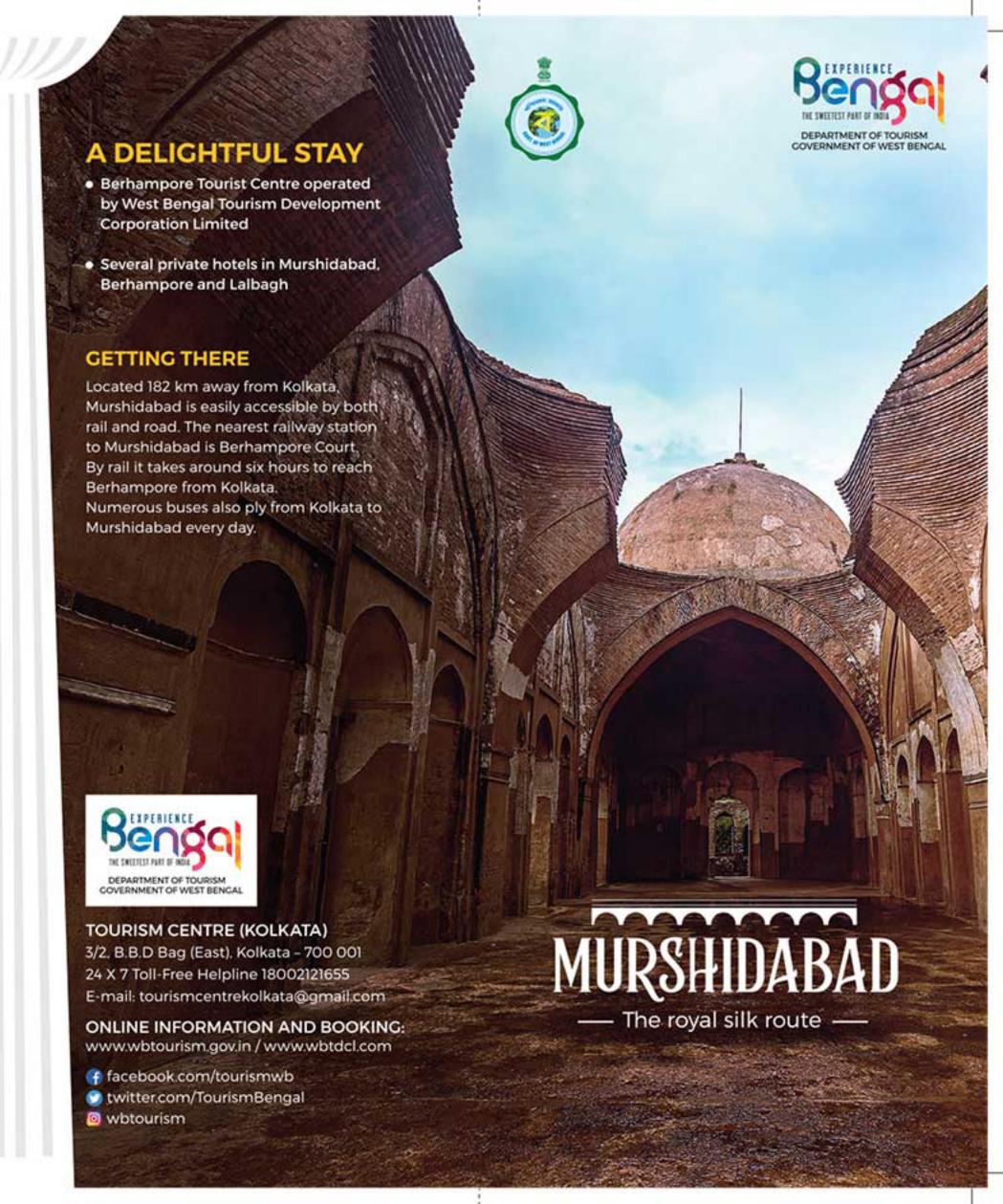
A 350-acre horseshoe-shaped lake, Motijheel derived its name from an extensive pearl cultivation during the Nawabi reign. Within the bend of the lake is the ruins of a stone palace called 'Sang-i-dalan' built by Nawazish Muhammad Khan.



NAWABI CELEBRATIONS

The most popular festival in Murshidabad is Bera Utsav. Organized in Lalbagh, this festival revolves around fireworks, dancing and music. It aptly portrays Murshidabad's rich history and highlights the residents' pride in their own culture and tradition.





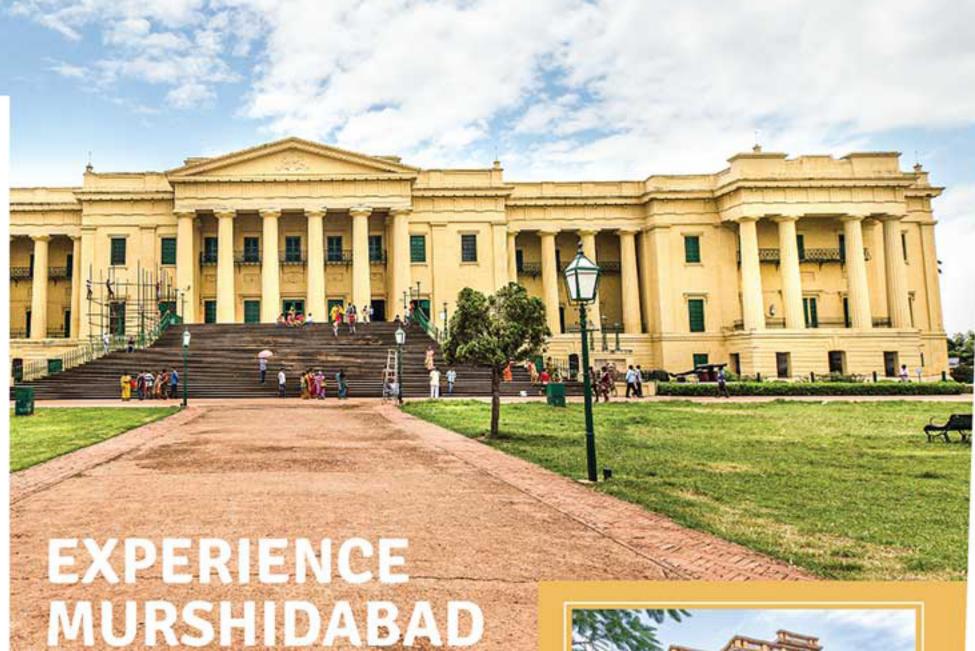
Perched on the verdant shores of the Bhagirathi River, Murshidabad is the seventh largest town of West Bengal. And the only place where one can witness the remarkable coexistence of rural Bengali life and Nawabi nobility.

Named after the Dewan of Bengal.
Murshid Quli Khan, Murshidabad had
replaced Dhaka as the capital of the
vast Mughal province of Bengal in 1704.
And it was during this time that it had
become a primary silk trade centre
in India.

It had remained Bengal's administrative centre during the British reign for some decades after Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah was defeated by Robert Clive in the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

Today, Murshidabad has earned nationwide fame for its handicrafts. The silk industry too is thriving here as sarees and varieties of products made of Murshidabadi silk have been rapidly gaining worldwide popularity.





HAZARDUARI PALACE

The primary attraction of Murshidabad is the three-storied Hazarduari Palace or "the palace with a thousand doors," Built for the Nawabs in 1829-37 by Duncan Macleod, it houses an astonishing collection of Bengali and European antiquities from the 18th and 19th centuries.

NIZAMAT IMAMBARA

After the old Imambara built by Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah was destroyed by the raging fires of 1842 and 1846, the present structure, built in 1847, earned the title of being the largest Imambara in the world.



MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT MUSEUM

Built on a land donated by Late Rai Bahadur Surendra Narayan Singha of Jiaganj, the museum largely showcases his personal collections. The artifacts displayed here include 8th century black stone sculptures, potteries, manuscripts and books.