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Department of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal

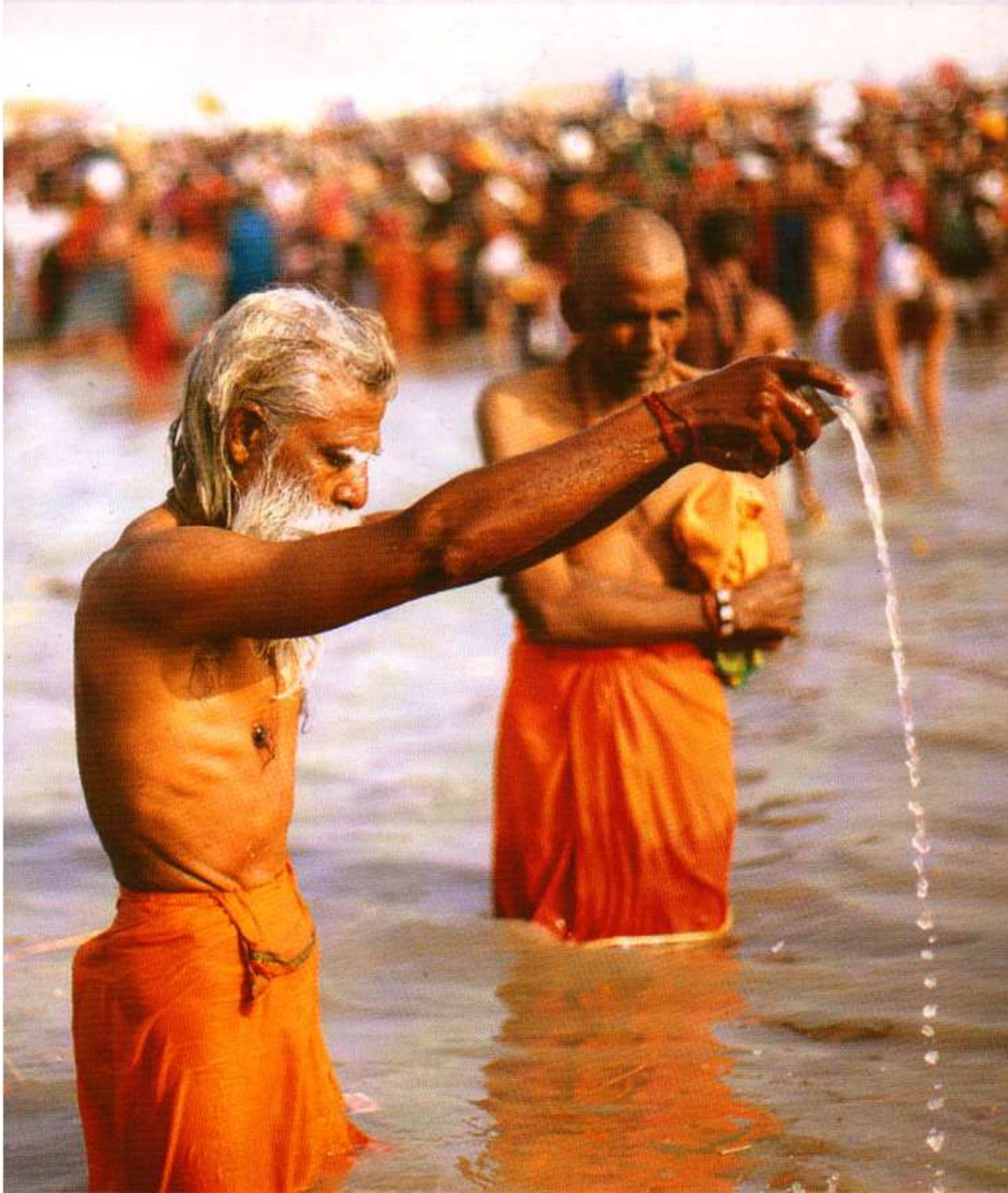


# GANGASAGAR : THE DIVINE CONFLUENCE

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## From the times of the Mahabharata,

Gangasagar has been recognised as an important pilgrimage to take a dip in the holy waters for cleansing and purification of the soul. Over centuries, Gangasagar Yatra is popular all over the world for the holy bath or 'Ganga Snan' at the confluence of the Ganges and Bay of Bengal - the Sagar Sangam, and is deemed as one of the holiest places for Hindus. To quote a popular saying- "*Sab tirath bar bar, Gangasagar ekbar*" (visit other holy places as many times, but a visit to Gangasagar is worth a lifetime).



## GANGASAGAR MELA

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Gangasagar Mela is organized on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti on 14th or 15th January every year in which the devotees take the holy dip at Sagar Island in search of 'mukti' (salvation from the cycle of rebirth). This fair is the largest in West Bengal and also the second biggest congregation of humanity after the famous Kumbha Mela. Following the sacred dip, people offer 'Puja' at the ashram located nearby which, according to mythology, was the abode of 'Kapil Muni' - the celebrated sage of ancient times.



## KAPIL MUNI TEMPLE



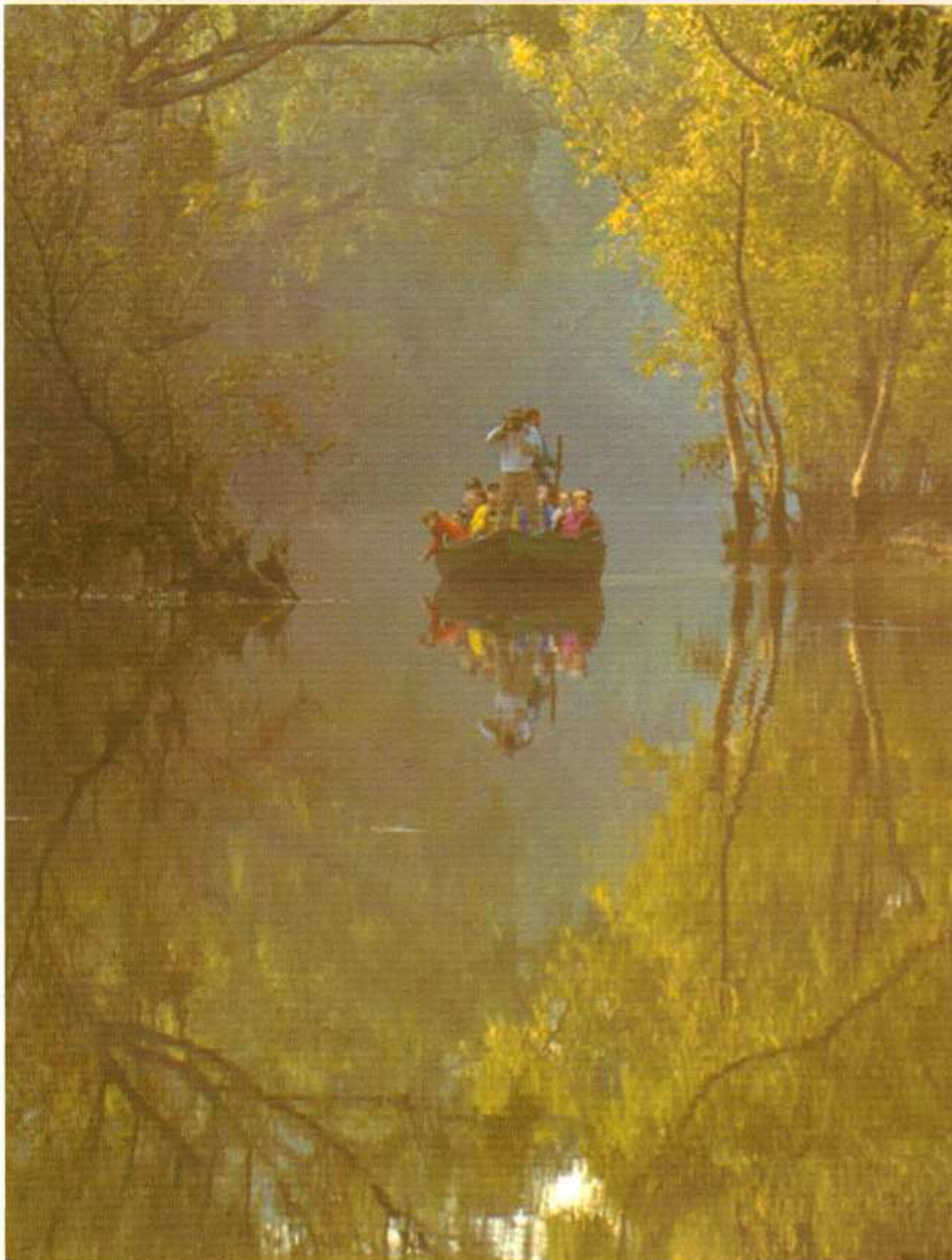
Kapil Muni Temple and Ashram is believed to be the spot where the Ganges washed away the sins of the ancestors of King Bhagirath. It is believed that the deity in the temple was setup in 1437 by Swami Ramanand. The structure is a stone block, considered to be the representation of Sage Kapil. The idol of the saint holds a small pot of water in his left hand and a rosary in the right. The temple has three sindhoor (ochre) colored 'murtis' (idols) which are attached to the wall. The murtis are of Digambara Saints who abstain from wearing any clothes. The original site of the temple was washed away by the sea; but an attractive new temple has replaced the previous temple.



## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Gangasagar is a charming tourist destination attracting both pilgrims and adventure lovers. Located on an island in the Sundarbans, Gangasagar also offers the charms of an un-spoilt beach on the estuary of the river Ganges. One can enjoy acres of silver sand and clear blue sky, offset by the calm sea, and is ideal for travelers who want to spend their weekend in tranquility.

Other attractions of the Sagar Island include the Sagar Marine Park, Sagar Lighthouse and Port at Beguakhali, Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Sushama Devi Chowdhurani Marine Biological Research Institute (SDMBRI) at Bamankhali, Chimaguri and the entry point to the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest.



## HOW TO REACH



### BY AIR:

Nearest airport to Gangasagar is the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport which is situated in Kolkata. It is well linked with several cities



### BY TRAIN:

Trains run on the Sealdah South lines from Kolkata through Kakdwip to Namkhana where at Bakkhali, there is a ferry across the Muriganga distributary (Channel Creek) to Sagar Island



### BY ROAD:

Buses ply from Esplanade (Kolkata) to Harwood Point. After crossing the river Muriganga at Harwood point by boat, one can reach Kachuberia. From Kachuberia, a bus service is there that takes tourists to Gangasagar

## PLACES TO STAY

**Bakkhali Tourist Centre:** National Highway 117, Laxmipur Prabartak, South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743339  
Phone: (03210) 225260, Mobile: 9732510150



### For reservation & more information please contact:

**Tourism Centre** (Kolkata), 3/2 B.B.D. Bag (East), Kolkata - 700001

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