

# Welcome to Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra



Vill : Joygopalpur, P.O. : J.N. Hat, P.S. : Basanti  
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# JOYGOPALPUR GRAM VIKASH KENDRA

## VISION

Our vision is to secure basic livelihood and to make a society on equal rights. Development should be sustainable with respect to Social, Environmental and Economic context.

## MISSION

Our mission is to improve the quality of life with respect to food and social security through a strengthened civil society in the rural West Bengal.

## JGVK'S CORE VALUES

### Local participation

Sustainable development can only be achieved through an active participation of the beneficiaries. That is why all the activities are beneficiary based. Since its inception in 2001, JGVK has organized women in Self Help Groups (SHGs). Through this process, women are empowered and a wide range of activities has been successfully performed.

### Sustainability

JGVK deals with economical, social and environmental issues in all its projects. The organization is willing to create model for sustainable development for the surrounding network organizations.

### Positive globalization

One of the main JGVK's strength is its collaboration with several international organizations. It allows the projects to be based on reliable expertise and resources. Throughout the year, international experts provide training to the workers in order to improve their technical, managerial and communication skills. JGVK wants to constantly remain a learning organization.

Secretary

**Biswajit Mahakur**

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The main operational area of JGVK with in West Bengal, is in the district of South 24 Parganas. The present district of South 24 Parganas came into existence on 1st of March, 1986. It then comprised of two sub divisions- Alipore and Diamond Harbour and of 30 blocks. Presently there are five sub divisions (Alipore, Baruipur, Canning, Diamond Harbour and Kakdwip), 29 Development blocks and 7 Municipalities. The Sundarbans which is partly located within the district of South 24 Parganas, is on the UNESCO world heritage list, and is the World's largest continuous mangrove area, covering some 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land and water within the Ganges Delta, with some 62 percent located in Bangladesh and the remainder in the Indian state of West Bengal. The Sundarbans are spread over thirteen of the twenty-nine development blocks in the district. Due to its peculiar geographical location and the dictates of geography, the means of transport and communication in this region are not well developed, with all the attendant consequences. Lack of irrigation has meant mono-cropped agriculture. Breaches in clay banks and cyclonic storms mean loss of life and destruction of crops and property on a regular basis. South 24 Parganas comprises an area which was mostly covered by dense forest in not so distant past. For survival, the settlers had to fight with Nature day in and day out. The same goes on in the Sundarbans even at present time. The hardships of daily existence have given rise to fraternal feelings and non-communal traditions.

The organisation took its beginning back in 1998 when a group of young people from Joygopalpur and its surrounding villages, joined together in the effort to do a difference for the poor families in the area. This led to the registration of Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra as an organisation in May 2001. The organisation has now existed more than a decade and grown in size and vision. Now the work of JGVK includes activities to create a difference through income generating and environmental, hygiene and sanitation awareness programs. As well as still focusing on social development and education of the local societies. JGVK is based on a concept of grass root development, which means that all projects build on the active participation of the beneficiaries. This is mainly achieved through the close contact with the local communities through the large number of field works connected to JGVK, and the ongoing establishment and contact with local Women self Help Groups (SHG). This ensures a continuous evaluation on the projects and feedback on problematic areas in the communities.

Through the collaboration with different local and international organisations and experts, JGVK seeks to continually build their capacity to improve the living conditions of the people in the area, educate and create awareness on how to improve their livelihood.

## Facilities

### Charging

When the generator are running it is possible to get 220V charge from the black outlets

(The generator is running when the red light by the outlet turns on)

Otherwise there are located a transformer on the 2nd floor, were it is possible to charge mobile phones and laptops.

- Please restrain from using it for other purposes when this can cause the transformer to stop working.

### Food & Beverage

Meals are included in the stay at JGVK and will be served in the Dinning hall (Se map of ground floor)

Meal	Approximate time
Breakfast	8 AM
Lunch	1 PM
Dinner	8 PM

In addition, it is always possible to request the staff of the kitchen for additional supplies of tea, hot water for coffee, fruit or other specific wants

### Health

There is a smaller dispensary on the ground floor (se map) of the main building of JGVK. There is also a doctor on call in case of any types of illness

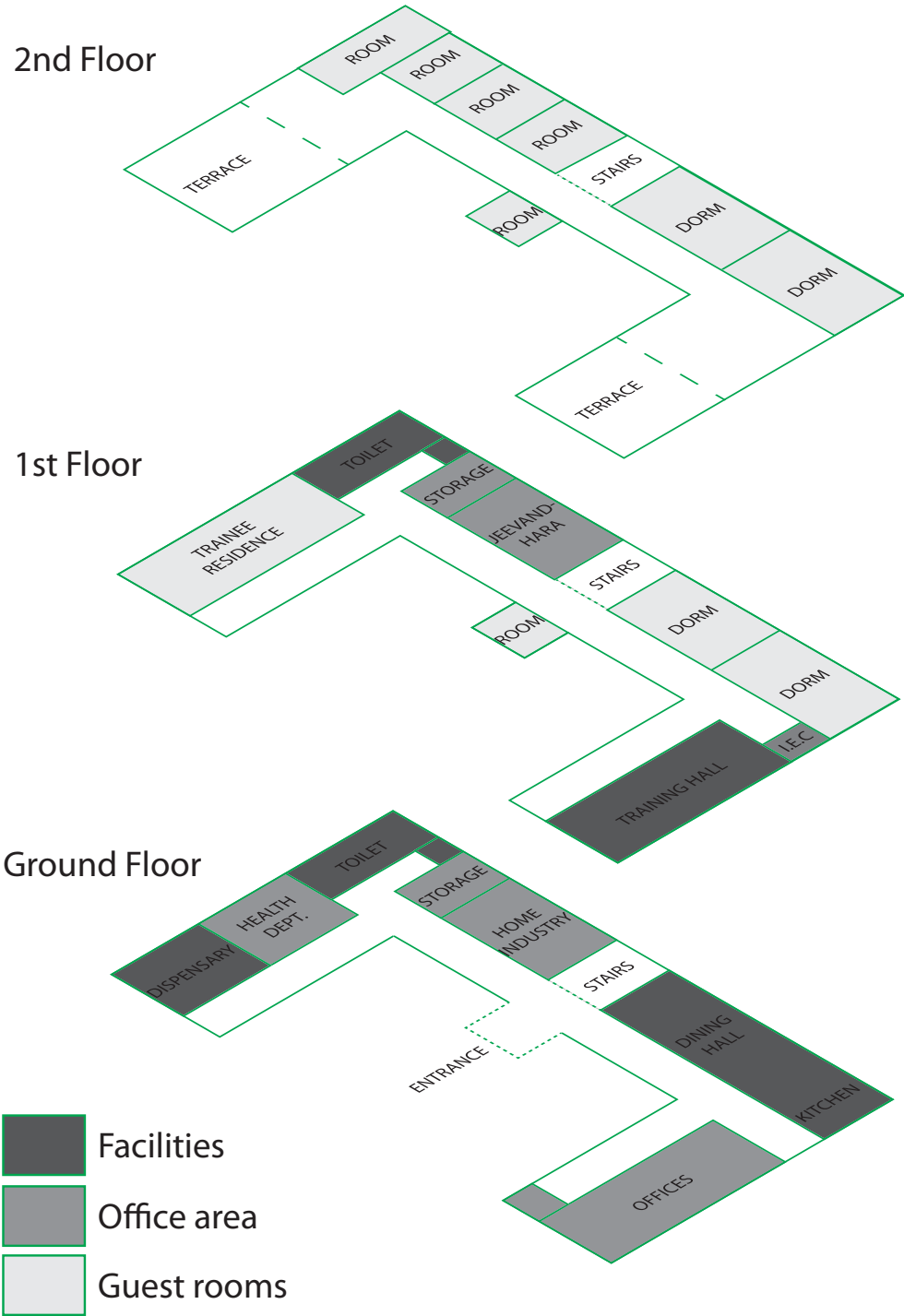
### Internet

JGVK has a limited amount of USB-modems available for guests. If your planning a longer stay, it would be advised to acquire a personal one, which the staff can assist in.

### Laundry

Bedsheet, pillowcase and towel is available at JGVK and will be washed on request. All other types of laundry is done manually

# PLAN OF THE MAIN BUILDING





## Facilities

### Sports

There are outdoor table tennis, badminton and volley ball facilities available, just ask the staff for equipment.

Most evenings around 5 PM there are arrange volley ball matches for the staff and guest at JGVK.

### Trash

There are placed dustbins on the area of JGVK. Which all visitors are asked to use.

### Water

Don't drink the local water, only take bottled water that is sealed  
Bottled water are available on request from the kitchen at all times.

*Its important to be aware of the intake of water due to the high temperatures in the area*

## General info

### Public transportation

#### **Train**

The nearest train station is located in Canning, about an hours drive from JGVK. From here its possible to reach Kolkata in about 1 hour. Ticket price is 9 Rs.

#### **Local transport**

From the main road, approximately 15 min walk from JGVK, it is possible to take an auto rickshaw to New market (*on the left hand side*) for 5 Rs. and to Basanti (*on the right hand side*) for 10 Rs. The local bus goes in both directions and cost 6 Rs.

### Shopping

The two nearest towns is New market and Basanti, being the largest. For a wider variety of items Canning is the best bet.

### Money

Bring cash, as it is very difficult to withdraw money in the area



# MAP OF THE AREA



## General info

### Price list

Please refer to the document:

*“Students and guests going to Sunderbans/Kolkata”*

Found on [www.igfdanmark.dk](http://www.igfdanmark.dk)

## Short description of some projects at JGVK

### Animal husbandry

The Income generation activities through animal husbandry are one of the first initiatives JGVK started in 2003 and completed in 2010. The program ended with covering over 4000 beneficiary families from 24 different villages. The project increased the income of the families and reduced the mortality rate of household animals with 80 %.

### Fishery project

The goal of the project is to raise the household income through the development of a sustainable fishery, production system and providing nutritional support to the rural people. This has lead to an increase of 2-3 times the intake of daily fish-protein for the poor, compared to 3 years ago.

### Home industry

The goal of this project is to increase the income of rural women living below poverty level through home based industrial activities. The different activities of the project includes:  
Muri (puffed rice) \* Knitting \* Tailoring \* Incense sticks \*  
Embroidery \* Carpentry

### Health

The outset for the project is to improve the health level and the locals awareness of their rights to medical support. This include nutritional guidance, birth delivery service and the work with local advocacy towards influencing the government authorities.

# CURRENT PROJECTS AT JGVK



*Making incense sticks*



*Carpentry*



*Cotton industry*



*Sanitation project*



*Educational program*



*Fishery project*

## The local context

### Clothes

It is important to bring some loosely fitting cloth, because of the generally high temperatures. Buying cloth is also quite cheap and the local tailor can make a set of trousers and shirt for around 500 Rs. Even though the local people are more or less used to seeing visitors, there are still some general things to take into consideration before dressing:

- Women are normally more formally dressed, and should wear shorts beneath the knees and cover their shoulders.
- Men are more free in their way of dressing, but should still keep their shirt on, outside of JGVK.

### Greetings

The polite way of greeting is by folding your hands in front of the chest, bowing the head and saying “*namaskar*”. Otherwise a smile and a sideways nod with the head, goes a long way. Just be aware of the fact that the left hand is normally used for toilet visits, and are seen as dirty. So it is quite unpolite to use the left hand for greetings or giving and receiving things.

### Alcohol

Is not something that are normally consumed in the area, and should be kept within the limits of JGVK and consumed discreetly and in a controlled environment.

### Food

The food are based on local ingredients, and will normally consist of Chapatti/Roti (type of bread), potatoes, rice, fish, chicken and vegetables. It is always possible to come with suggestions and to introduce new dishes to the menu.

## What to see

### Organic farming

Just to the west of the JGVK. school (se map) is located a pilot demonstration farming area, where it is possible to see the results of shifting from chemical fertilize and use of pesticides, to organic fertilizer and manual maintenance. Also visit the larger farming area behind the main building, were the cultivation of manor is done for the organic fertilizer, and poultry farming as well.

### Public school

Take a left on the road from JGVK. and keep to the left following the road and you will reach the local public school. The school has from 5th to 12th class and around 1500 students in total. The school opens from around 11 AM and is worth a visit to see the educational conditions of the area. But be conscious about the fact that your presence might cause a lack in the students focus.

### The village

Taking a stroll in the neighbourhood is always a god way to spend some time in the morning or evening hours, since it will normally be to hot during the midday. If your lucky you might come to play with some of the children or get invited in for a cup of tea.

### Terrace

The terrace is always a good place to relax with a book and work on your tan. Just remember sunscreen, water and a curtain respect for the high UV index. There are a small library over in the original JGVK building (se map) were there is a collection of books from different visitors, if you need something to read.



## Staying in Kolkata

### Vaccination

This is general advice that is valid for all of India, but especially relevant when staying in Kolkata.

Due to the fact that there can occur a wider range of different bacteria in the Indian food, it can be a good idea to become properly protected. Beside diphtheria, tetanus and hepatitis A and B vaccinations, there are drinkable vaccines such as “Dukoral”. These provide a good protection against e.g.. Cholera bacteria which can cause diarrhea.

Always consult own doctor, an preferably least one month before planned departure, to insure the body can establish a proper resistance.

### Arrival

Before going to Kolkata, take contact to the project manager and make sure the project team knows when you arrive. Also send a picture of you as this can ease the pick-up at the airport for the employee at the project office.

To come to the office you must take a taxi. There are a Taxi service booth in the arrival area, were it's possible to prepay the Taxi-fare. This gives you a ticket which you can hand in at the Taxi stand outside the arrival hall. The legit Taxi's are yellow and easily recognizable.

When you arrive at the office make sure to register yourself at the guest book. This is for your own sake if you should come in contact with the authorities (police), it is necessary to be registered somewhere in India. Register with all the information they ask for in the book (also pass number), the project team will keep it safe.

### Departure

When there are a couple of days left of our stay, talk to the employees to arrange a prepaid taxi or private car to take you to the airport. It is a good idea to remind the employees about the departure a couple of times to be sure of the agreement.

# Staying in Kolkata

## Food and beverage

When eating in the city there are some main guidelines to keep in mind.

- The busier the better - meaning regular renewal of commodities
- Look for signs indicating that the cooking oil is replaced regularly
- Try to only go for freshly cooked dishes
- Preferably consume the food right away, and avoid storage.

There are several places in walking distance from the Kolkata office, where you can get “roles” from 15-35 rupees and “Cosy Nook” where you can get rice dishes, chapatti etc. for about 60 rupees.

You can always ask the office staff for guidance on places to eat.

Along the road you can also find a little Western supermarket with shampoo etc., small kiosks where you can buy eggs, bread, soda and water. When buying water from smaller vendors, remember to check the bottle is probably sealed, to insure it's clean drinking water.

## Transportation

Public transportation can be a bit difficult to figure out, since all information are written in Bengali or Hindi. But the local people and the ticket inspector on the bus lines will normally be helpful in reaching the correct destination.

Like the busses, oda (pronounced “otto “ and is what you might know of as a tuc tuc) are driving in short specific routes in Kolkata, so you need to know their set destination and normally flag them down on the road. A good idea is to have the project office address written down and show the drivers, they can often point you to the right oda. The price is approx. 5 rupees.

The taxi is the easiest way to get around, but also the most expensive. Remember to ask the driver to use the taximeter. At night time it can be difficult to find a taxi driver who is willing to drive with the taximeter, so you must negotiate a price. From the central city to the office the prices is approx. 150- 250 rupees.

No public transport accept credit/ debit card.



# Hope to see you at Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra

