

Lecture 1 & 2

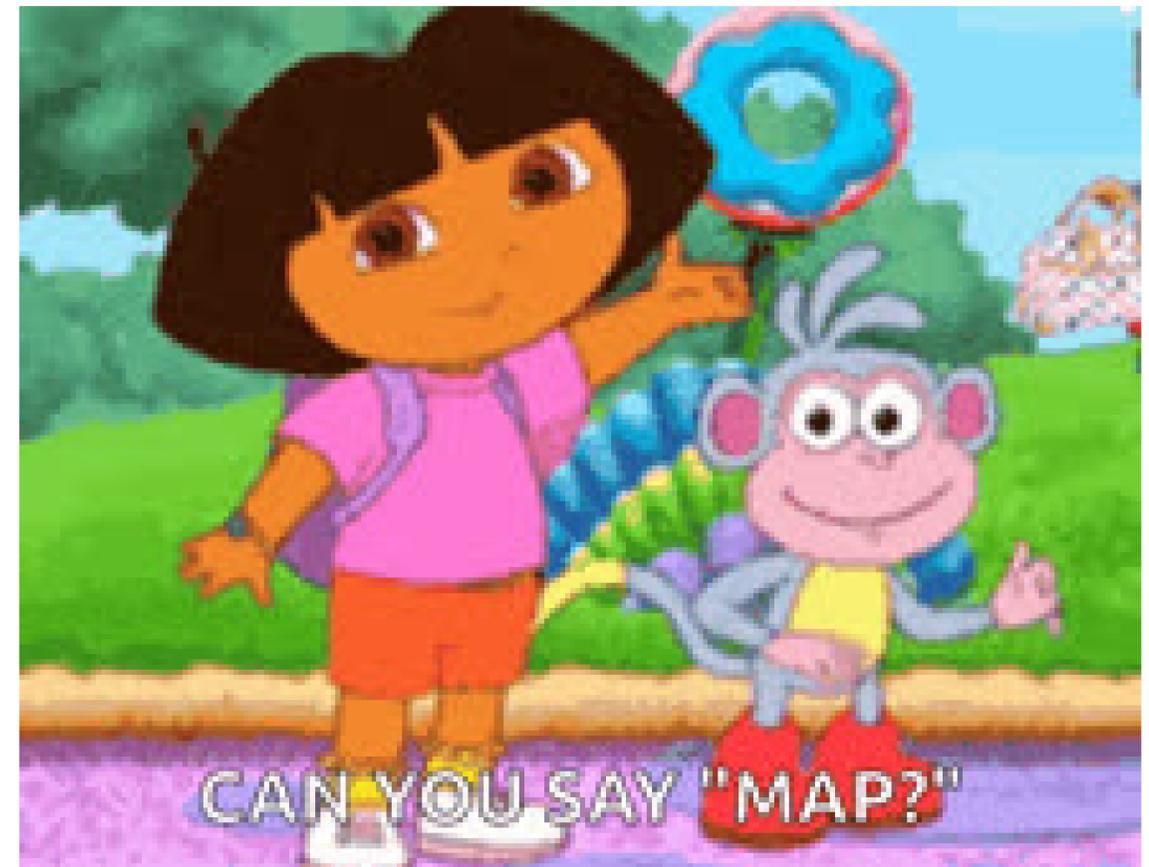
Introduction & Profile of Bangladesh



Course Introduction

Welcome to our first class for Introduction to Bangladesh Studies. In today's session, we'll explore three essential points:

1. What this course is about
2. How we will study it
3. What outcomes you should expect



Course Description

- Foundational understanding of Bangladesh
- Understanding identity— how Bangladesh became what it is today



Course Description

We will move through:

- Geography
- Demography
- Political system
- Ancient & medieval history
- Colonial experiences
- Nationalist movements
- Emergence of Bangladesh

By the end, you should have a **holistic picture of Bangladesh** from past to present.



Course Description

Class/ Week	Topics/Assignments	Course Outcomes (COs)	Reading Reference	Teaching- Learning Strategies	Assessment Strategies
1	Introduction - Course description, learning methods and outcomes, assessment procedure, etc.	CO2	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam
2	Profile of Bangladesh: (Introducing Bangladesh) - Basic information regarding location, territory, area, people, resources, administrative units, structure of government etc.	CO1	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam
3	Introduction to Bangladesh: History of Ancient (Ganga Redai, Gupta, Sal & Sen) and Medieval Bengal (Independent Sultan Rule)	CO1, CO2	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/ History related video	Group Discussion
4-5	Rise of Colonialism- From the Mughal empire to the British empire	CO2	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/ History related video	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam

Course Description

6	Political History of British Colonial Rule in Bengal (1757-1857)	CO1, CO2, CO3	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam
7	British Colonial Bengal: Aspects of Nationalist Politics during the	CO1, CO2	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam
	Colonial Rule (1857-1935) The British impact, colonial conflicts Rise of Bengali nationalism, Bengal partition-1905, formation of Muslim League in Dhaka and annulment of the partition				
8	Two Nations Theory, united Bengal movement, Lahore resolution, 1946 election, riot	CO1, CO2	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam

Course Description

9	Emergence of Pakistan (1935-1947) Partition of India, creation of West and East Pakistan	CO1, CO2, CO3	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam
10-12	Becoming Pakistan: Structure of the state and disparity - The New Polity in Pakistan	CO2, CO3	Lecture Slides and Text/ Ref. Book	Lecture/Group Discussion/ Exercise / Audio-visual	Class Tests/Assignments /Quizzes/Exam

Learning Methods

- Interactive Lectures
- Maps and visual charts
- Short readings
- Class discussions
- Quizzes/assignments
- Historical documentaries (selected weeks)



Profile of Bangladesh

Location and Territory

Bangladesh is a **South Asian** country located in the deltaic region formed by the **Ganges (Padma), Brahmaputra (Jamuna), and Meghna rivers.**

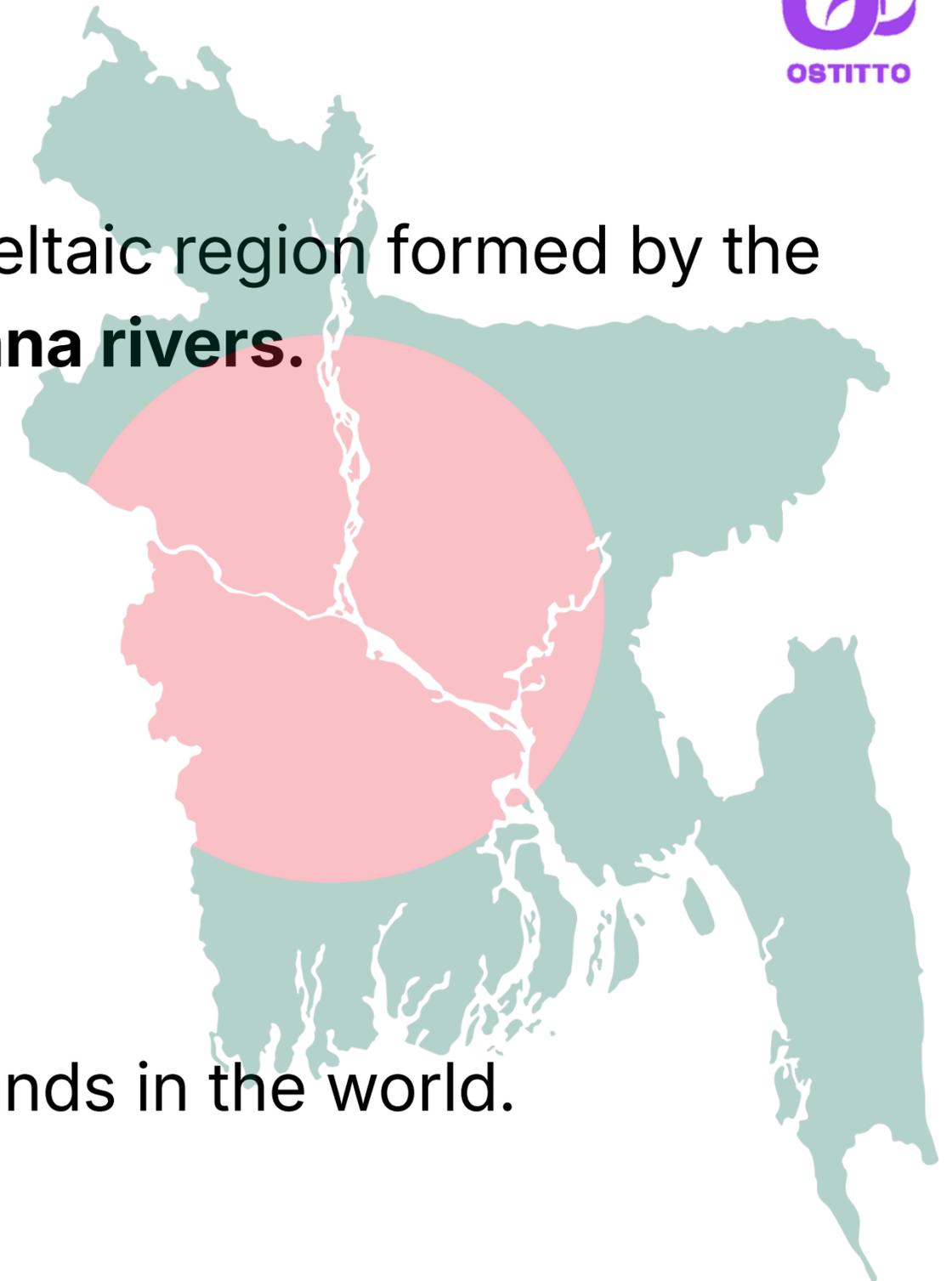
Geographical Coordinates

- Between 20°34' to 26°38' North latitude
- And 88°01' to 92°41' East longitude

Bordering Countries

- **India on the west, north, and east**
- **Myanmar on the southeast**
- **Bay of Bengal on the south**

It is one of the largest delta regions and most fertile lands in the world.



Land Area

Total area: **147,570 sq. km**

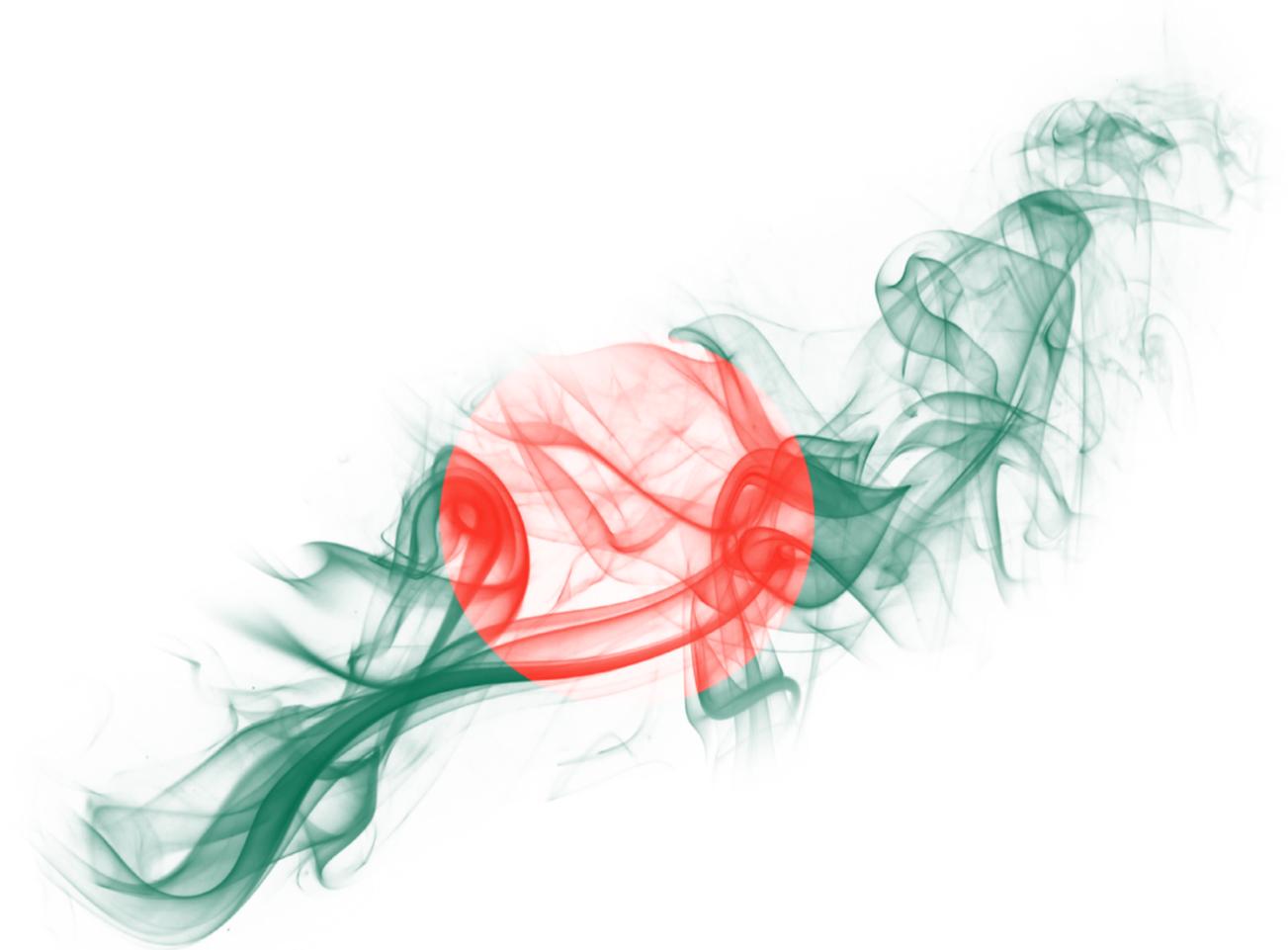
Features include:

- Plains (mostly flat)
- Hills (Chattogram & Sylhet regions)
- Rivers (over 700 major and minor rivers)

Bangladesh experiences:

- Tropical monsoon climate
- Heavy rainfall
- Seasonal flooding
- Alluvial soil deposits

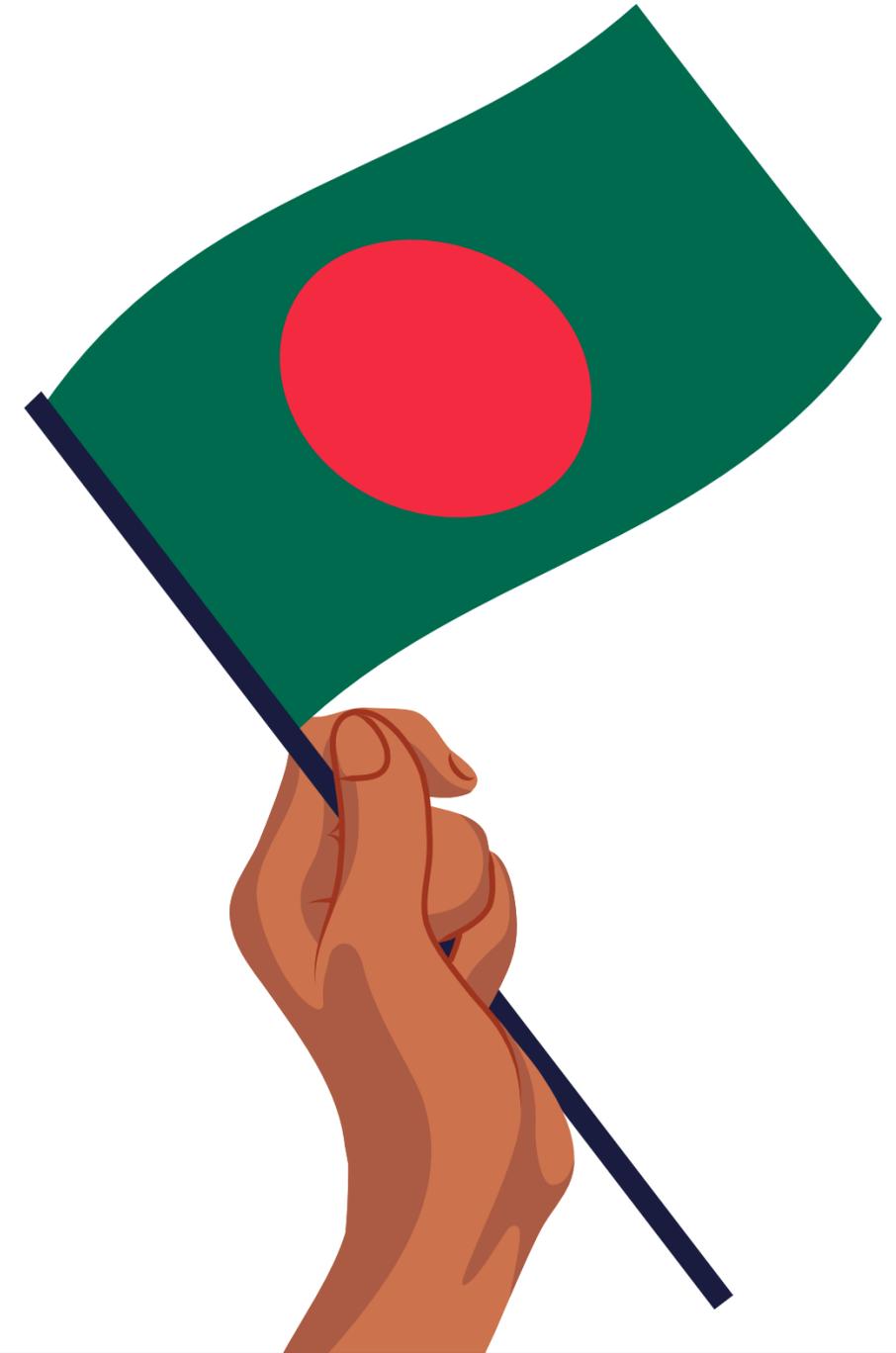
These natural features shaped agriculture, transportation, and lifestyle for centuries.



People and Demography

Key demographic characteristics:

- Population: approx. **170+ million**
- Majority group: **Bengali (~98%)**
- Indigenous communities: **Chakma, Marma, Garo, Santal, Tripura, etc.**
- Official language: Bangla
- Literacy rate: Increasing steadily
- Youth population: Over 30%



Natural Resources

Bangladesh is rich in:

- Natural gas
- Fertile agricultural land
- Water resources
- Fisheries
- Forests in Sundarbans and Chattogram

Major agricultural products:

Rice, jute, tea, sugarcane, vegetables, and fish.



Administrative Units

Divisions – 8

Districts – 64

Upazilas – 495+

Union Parishads – 4500+

Cities managed by City Corporations

Municipalities (Pourashavas) in urban areas



Structure of Government

Bangladesh is a **parliamentary democracy**.

Main components:

1. Executive Branch

- Headed by the Prime Minister
- President is ceremonial head of state
- Cabinet runs administrative ministries

2. Legislative Branch

- Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament)
- One-house (unicameral)
- Members are directly elected



Structure of Government

3. Judicial Branch

- Supreme Court: High Court
Division & Appellate Division
- Independent judiciary ensures
rule of law



Summary

In these two classes, we learned:

- What **this course will cover** and **how it works**
- **Basic facts** about Bangladesh: its geography, people, resources, and administration

These form the foundation for our next classes, where we will begin studying the **Ancient and Medieval history of Bengal**.



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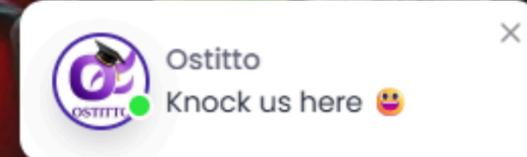
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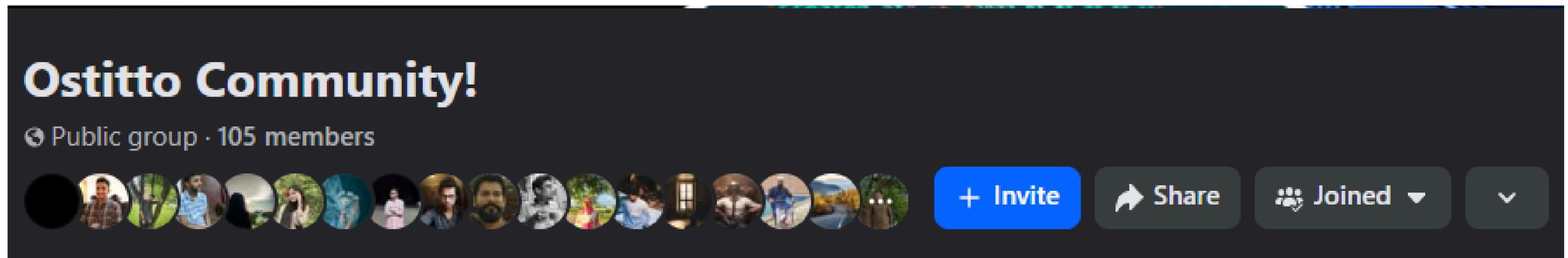
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