

Devi Durga- a travel through time

From time immemorial, the socio-cultural milieu of Bengal has been synonymous with Durga Puja, the annual autumnal homecoming of the Great Goddess. The longing and the subsequent revelry over the arrival of the Goddess has remained unchanged over the past one millennium at least. While in Bengal, the Great Goddess is celebrated and venerated as Uma, the daughter of the household, the tradition of worshipping the Divine Feminine is perhaps as old as the story of human civilization.

In the Indian subcontinent, we have evidence



(from left) Devi-Mahatmya, Mother Goddess of Indus Civilization & Devi Suktam

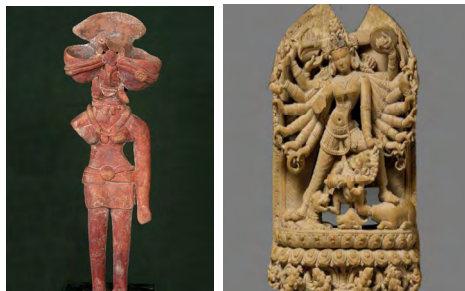
from archaeological finds that attest to this fact as early as the Sindhu-Sarasvati (Indus Valley) civilization. The presence of terracotta figurines of the Mother Goddess in the Mathura region dating back to the third century BCE further testifies the fact that the worship of the Mother Goddess has been a defining feature of Indian civilization since long antiquity.

In early times, deities of the Mother Goddess were fashioned out of stone, and then later cast in metal. In the northern and eastern parts of the Indian subcontinent, the form of Mother Goddess that came to be widely worshipped was the multi-armed buffalo slaying avatar of the divine Goddess, popularly known as 'Mahisamardini' or 'Mahisasuramardini'. By the first millennium CE in the greater Bengal region, she evolved as 'Mahisamardini Durga' or simply as 'Durga', the ten-armed Goddess slaying the buffalo demon Mahisasura.

The word 'Durga' is derived from the Sanskrit root 'dur' (difficult) and 'gam' (pass, go through), and etymologically refers to one who is invincible, unassailable and beyond defeat. She is the slayer of the demon 'Durg', and finds mention in Vedic and Puranic sources. As a matter of fact, references to Durga are to be found in the Rig-Veda (hymns 4.28, 5.34, 8.27, 8.47, 8.93 and 10.127), the Atharva-Veda (sections 10.1 and 12.4) and Taittiriya-Aranyaka (section 10.1.7).

However, while the Vedic corpus make mention of the word 'Durga', the description therein lacks the legendary details about Her that is found in later Puranic literature. The Rig-Vedic Devi-sukta further indicates that the Great Goddess Herself tied the bow-string in Rudra's bow (traditionally

known as 'Pinaka'). According to Jogeshchandra Ray, the Vedic Rudra Yajna of yore evolved and transformed itself into autumnal Durga Puja later. The word 'Durga' is also found in classical Sanskrit literature such as the Ramayana (section 4.27.16) and the Mahabharata (section 2.451). These usages are cited in different contexts. For example, Durg is the name of an Asura who had become invincible even to the gods, and Durga is the goddess who intervenes and slays him. Arjuna invokes Her on the eve Tentative of the Great



Bharata War. Durga and its derivatives are found in sections 4.1.99 and 6.3.63 of the Ashtadhyayi by Pānini, the ancient Sanskrit grammarian, and in the commentary of Nirukta by Yaskā. Durga as a demon-slaying goddess was likely well established by the time the classic Hindu text called Devi Mahatmya (part of Markandeya Purana, chapters 81 to 93) was composed, which scholars variously estimate to belong to between 400 and 600 CE. The Devi Mahatmya and other Puranic texts like Devi-Bhagavata, Devi Purana, Kalika Purana, Bhavisya Purana etc. describe the nature of the demonic forces symbolised by Mahishasura as a shape-shifting power capable of altering nature, form and strategy to create difficulties and to achieve evil ends, with Durga embodying a calm understanding capable of countering evil in order to achieve her beneficial goals.

Finally, Durga is not only limited to Shaktism or the Shakta cult alone; the Vaishnavas celebrate Her as 'Mahamaya' or the 'Yoganidra' of Vishnu. Amongst the Saivas, she is the primordial female element of creation. In popular folklore, she is at once the daughter of the king of Himalayas, a war goddess, and a dweller in the Vindhya mountains. She continues and will continue to reign in the Indian consciousness as Adya-Shakti, and the autumnal Navaratri is believed to be the most auspicious time to venerate, worship and to celebrate Her presence in the mortal world. And in turn the power of womanhood in general through the Mother Goddess.

--Dr Probal Roy Chowdhury.

trying to get their hands on best deals and prices. During the lockdown people have got used to online shopping but for those who didn't are happy to get back on to the street, feel the fabric and the cosmetics with their hands and haggle with the hawkers for every penny. interested instead of choosing them online. The essence of street shopping comes



Newtown celebrates its first Barowari Pujo



Techno India Group MD Satyam Roy Chowdhury at the centre during launch of Sarod Pata

A celebratory mood has permeated throughout the city. While the rest of the city was preparing for a grand Durga Puja after two years of epidemic, Newtown was preparing for its first 'Barowari Pujo.' Debashis Sen, Chairman of HIDCO and his wife Urmila Sen initiated the first Barowari of Newtown. Newtown had everything—offices, planned roads, but no Durga Puja of its own. This year, Mr. and Mrs. Sen fulfilled that dream of the inhabitants of Newtown. The inhabitants are thrilled and have come out with open arms to support the power couple. Over 200 volunteers are involved, who will be sponsoring various necessities of the puja from 'Bhog' to 'Maayer Saree'.

Mrs. Sen said: "It is Durga Puja after all. We are proudly celebrating womanhood" The Puja will emphasize women empowerment and is looking to focus on the theme of 'Bongo Janani' meaning Mother Bengal. The Newtown Sarbojanin is prepared for the festivities with a troupe of female priests, drummers, and performers. Women will be on the forefront of activities throughout the festivities as part of the community's initiative.

The pandal was inaugurated on September 26 by Mayor Firhad Hakim. In keeping with the theme, the committee recognised 10 women from varied backgrounds. The spotlight was won by the Newtown Puja magazine- 'Sarod Pata', which was

ceremonially launched by Satyam Roy Choudhury, Rajarshi Datta, Samar Nag, Tridib Chatterjee, Debashish Sen, Anup Motilal, Prasanta Majhi, Urmila Sen and Subodh Sarkar among others at the Central Park.

Managing Director, Techno India Group Satyam Roy Chowdhury said: "One of the finest pujas I have seen recently. People are going to enjoy sitting outside in such a big space. I also hope to be present for the entire five days of the adda."

"This is the second puja committee in Kolkata who has published a puja magazine, I feel so overwhelmed about this," says Tridib Chatterjee (General Secretary of the Publishers and Bookfair Guild). He is thrilled to see how a puja had emerged in a newly developed township.

This open air pandal will have an adda zone and 'ahare sarbonjonin, the food court for people to come and enjoy during the festival. They will also be serving bhog everyday to the visitors.

Residents of Newtown are excited to celebrate the homecoming of Uma. "We have created groups over WhatsApp and started our planning two months prior", a woman from the all-women committee gushed.

-- Hridita Chatterjee, UG V, Dept of Mass Com and Journalism

Durga Puja of hope for the street hawkers

This Durga puja is being celebrated yet again with old grandeur. With covid gone, shopping on the streets of New Market, Gariahat and Hatibagan wore the old look of hustle bustle, something people had forgotten for the last two years. Every nook and cranny of the city is bursting with people



Sister Nivedita University launched its new Institute Innovation Council with an aim to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation among students.

Vice Chancellor of SNU, Prof (Dr) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay along with Industry veterans and experts were present at the launch. Mr Kaushik Bhattacharyya, start up India- mentor and Nirupam Chaudhuri, regional director- East, NASSCOM graced the occasion and agreed to be part the SNU-IIC'S External Expert members.



with the interaction between the customers and hawkers, the noise in the market, the constant crowd pulling in from all different sides, the busy environment, sounds of vendors calling the customers, the customers bargaining with the hawkers and much more. When asked one of the sellers about what they are seeing different during this year he said that he is very happy to see the customers again and his sales have

increased and he hopes that his sales will continue to increase this Puja. The customers were also happy to shop on the streets. Most of them answered that they don't like the items on online shopping sites and it is better to feel the fabric and see the clothes in person before purchasing them. This year people came back to the streets with shopping on their mind, shopping list in their hand and a sense of excitement in their heart and for the hawkers its reigniting the hopes.

--Muskan Isha, UG III, MCAJ

An orientation with class written all over

An orientation with a touch of class Over 3000 students and dignitaries from various fields gathered at the glitzy settings of Biswa Bangla Convention Centre for Nivodato '22, Sister Nivedita University's orientation programme, to welcome the new batch of students. Chancellor Satyam Roy Chowdhury, the architect of this dream, said, "Every face is an expression of infinite opportunity that can be nurtured to perfection. Dream big, explore and never give up." He spoke in Bengali and to the rousing applause from the students who not only felt inspired but immediately felt at home being welcomed into the clan by the family elder. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay engaged the students with the importance of pedagogy and practical knowledge and said, "We started with 250 students and 20 courses and have since grown to 80 courses and 2500 students. SNU has made tremendous progress in four



years. It is now East India's Best Global University." The interaction with the Registrar of SNU was topped off the orientation stole the show. Prof. Suman Chatterjee, Registrar of SNU, praised the university's spirit. "In SNU, we have fewer holidays and we celebrate a lot," he said, encouraging students to participate more and be a part of SNU's

strength. He referred to the newcomers as SNU's cub tigers tested the josh within the auditorium by urging them to say "We are Tigers" and the students responded with a roar of their own. The event began with the SNU anthem. Sarat Chandra Chakraborty's composition, "Murtam Maneswaram," followed as an ode to Swami Vivekananda. A number of performances kept the morning alive and exciting. Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar, Srimat Swami Kripakaranandaji Maharaj speaking on the occasion began by quoting Vivekananda, "Sradha-Vidya-Upanishad". He emphasized on a system of education where "students grow to be humans, not learned maniacs." He advised the

students to never give up in the face of adversity and keep fighting to grow into flowering trees. Covid's impact on our lives has been enormous, and a wave of change has also hit the education sectors. Secretary General of the Association of India Universities (AIU) Pankaj Mittal spoke about the newly implemented reforms in national education policy that now had a new mantra - 'Kheloge kudoge, banoge lajawab' with AIU providing a dedicated area for sports and extracurricular activities. She added "You will now be studying at SNU, as well as beyond," referring to the dual degree programme. Padmabhushan Prof. Dr. Bikash Sinha, showing his faith in the country's youth, said, "You are the torchbearer of the nation, the hope of the nation." The ceremony delighted the new students: "The hospitality was at its peak, such a positive and energetic start. We are looking forward to a great journey with SNU," says Shelly Ghosh, a PG1 MBA student along with her friends who gave a big three cheers to the orientation programme.

--Hridita Chatterjee, UG V, Dept of Mass Com and Journalism

Café House—Mamata’s dream made real



Pics - Kishore Dey

When we talk about Darjeeling, Glenary’s and Keventers are the places that have become a part of the Bengali subconscious and a metaphor for everything suave, romantic and leisurely. But after this August, the tourists in general and Bengalis in particular now have a new destination to soak in the beauty of Kanchenjunga along with a piping cup of freshly brewed coffee. Conceived and inspired by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and fleshed out by Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University and Managing Director Techno India Group Satyam Roy Chowdhury—Café House—a sprawling property on the Hermitage Road, near Raj Bhavan, is now carrying the emotions of Kolkata Coffee House style set-up to the hilly terrains of Darjeeling. It has been created as a classy roof top nook on Hotel Retreat one of the autographed destinations on the idyllic

mountain hamlet. “Where ever there is a will there’s a way. I had urged Satyam to come up with a Café House and he has done it. They have proved that such work can be completed even in three months. I am truly impressed. Tourists have to come here. They will get an excellent view of the majestic Kanchenjunga along with the food and beverages,” said Ms Mamata Banerjee at the launch of the restaurant. The Chief Minister also hummed Tagore’s “Alokeri Jharna Dharae Dhuiye Dao” along with actor and singer Saheb Chatterjee, in presence of West Bengal Minister of Power Aroop Biswas and other dignitaries. “I was drinking coffee one day. The Chief Minister came in and told me to create a coffee house and named it the Café House. This Café House is a beautiful outcome of the dream our Chief Minister dreamt,”

stated Mr Roy Chowdhury. He added: “Café House has been built after the famous Coffee House of Kolkata. It will remain open throughout the day and in the evening, there will be musical renditions. Around 100 to 150 people can sit together and enjoy their coffee amid the picturesque surroundings.” While the entire range of Kangchenjunga can be seen



from the roof top restaurant along with the scenic beauty of Lebong tea estate, the tourists could enjoy coffee and tea that are signature creations of Café House. “It is one of the finest spots of Darjeeling. The view from here is panoramic. People visiting the place will become nostalgic for sure. It is a state-of-the-art coffee parlour. A gift for the people for whom Darjeeling is special,” Roy Chowdhury added. So next time you want to have Inverted Cappuccino, Toffee Cappuccino or regular latte or soak your thirst for a good Darjeeling tea, look no further! --Satyajit Samanta

Netaji’s dream of Indian women leading from front

Most of us do not care to know the views of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on women and also are ignorant about the fact that during World War II, he raised the first female infantry fighting unit in military history, the Rani of Jhansi Regiment (RJR). On 3 July 1943, Subhas Chandra Bose stepped off a Japanese military plane in Singapore, pledged to free India from British rule, and created what was the first female infantry fighting unit in World military history. His majority young recruits were from Indian families of the diasporas



Pic - Internet

in Singapore, Malaya and Burma, and consisted entirely of civilian volunteers lacking any prior military training. These women soldiers, deployed to the jungles of Burma during the two last years of World War II, were determined to follow their commander to the liberation of India. The RJR was the first all-female regiment, composed of female Indian combat soldiers and a small number of weapons-trained nurses. These women were called Ranis, which translates as “queens.” Their regiment was part of the Indian National Army (INA), whose founder and commander of the INA. Netaji believed and wanted women to be trained in self-defence. In 1928, when he was appointed General Officer commanding of the Annual Congress session to be held in Calcutta, he organized a corps of uniformed but unarmed guards, the Bengal Volunteers. Netaji’s volunteer force numbered about 2,000 young people, of whom 250 were the kind of committed and determined women who later joined the RJR in INA. They mainly came from local colleges and associations, including several who were part of Bengal’s revolutionary movement. For months, Netaji spent considerable time and efforts supervising the training of these volunteers. In a substantial way, women Bengal volunteers were a fitting precursor of RJR. He wanted the Indian women to ride out in the field, sword in hand as the Rani of Jhansi did. Netaji repeatedly emphasised that fully trained uniformed, armed Ranis would be among the first INA soldiers crossing the border to free their country. In the years following WWII in India, stories abounded of the bravery of thousands of Indian women soldiers who courageously encountered the enemy in combat in the dense and sweltering jungles of Burma. More than nine decades later, their history has been forgotten, and their service and the role played remained unexplored with true rigour. However, it is very much significant to take a trip to the memory lane in this 75th year of India’s independence that among the nationalist leaders, Subhas Chandra Bose had a clear vision regarding women and their status as equal citizen of free India. Unlike Mahatma Gandhi and his band of Congress leaders who saw a role for the women limited to supporting the Independence Movement by remaining within the family circle, Netaji clearly realised if women, who constitute half of society, did not engage, India would never progress, like Vivekananda. In Gandhi’s free India, women would be responsible for raising the children and running the household, while Netaji’s plan for women to shatter the old patriarchal hold, be educated in all subjects as boys/men, be self-supporting and be able to participate in new nation’s every sphere. --Dr. (Prof) Bula Bhadra

APAI’s debuts in hybrid avatar



Pics - Kishore Dey

The Association of Professional Academic Institutions (APAI), West Bengal, completed its first-ever hybrid Pre-Counselling for e-Admission in Engineering & Technical Education fair for students from all over India at the Netaji Indoor Stadium on August 17 and 18 with rousing success. The platform also created an eco-cycle for clearing doubts, undoing of false notions and getting clarity on what was the real strength of students as they sat with counsellors from different universities. Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim inaugurated the three-day fair in presence of WB Minister of Agriculture, Sovendeb Chattopdhyay, WB

Minister Industries, Commerce & Enterprises Dr Shashi Panja, Sardar Taranjit Singh, President APAI and MD Techno India and General Secretary Satyam Roy Chowdhury. Talking about the fair, Mr Roy Chowdhury, who is also the Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University, said: “Students can physically visit the fair and directly interact with their choice of college representatives or enjoy interacting with the college representatives on all three days from elsewhere and also book free online counselling with the college of their choice. Ten minutes will be allotted to each student who wants to attend it in virtual mode.” He added that 35 per cent of students studying engineering are coming from outside Bengal, so the online mode of interaction will be of immense benefit for them. There are over 34,000 seats available in the engineering and technical colleges in the state. The counselling in connection with the West Bengal Joint Entrance Examinations will start from the third week of August and continue till September. He said that several job-oriented courses have been launched by different institutions this year like Digital Marketing, Data Science, Blockchain Technology, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Python Programming etc. “APAI is planning to host a similar fair in neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar etc from next year, considering the students’ interest in academic pursuits in Bengal,” Mr Roy Chowdhury signed off. The closing ceremony of APAI was attended by WB Higher Education Minister Bratya Basu. Mr Basu said: “I have been coming to APAI since 2011. I am very happy to see the fair have grown in leaps and bounds. The fact



Pics - Kishore Dey

that West Bengal has 11 private universities shows the state government’s vision and encouragement towards higher education.” He further said: “Civilization progresses through perfect synergy and we as humans have survived because of our power to co-operate. Our government believes in wholesome growth with perfect cooperation.” Mr Satyam Roychowdhury while delivering his address said: “We are very happy to see that thousands of people have visited the fair physically and lakhs have joined us virtually as we have gone digital making APAI globally available at the click of a mouse. I firmly believe that at APAI we are bringing the best educational institutions for higher education together under a roof.” --Arindam Basu

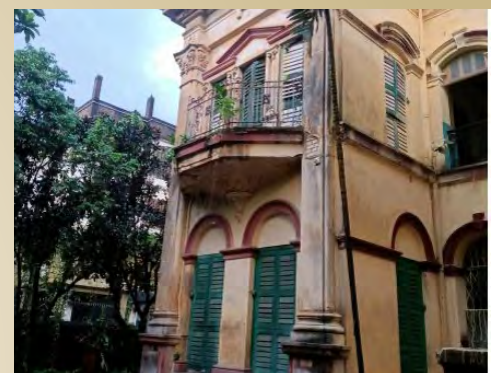
Dhurjati Dham a hidden architectural gem in central Kolkata

The mysteries of my city, the city of joy, never stops entrancing me. One sudden decision to ride a metro from Belgachia metro station gifted me with one such astounding revelation- a hidden gem- I had never been introduced to before the very moment. Tucked behind Belgachia metro station, within the shabby congested area, stands a mighty Victorian mansion, referred to as “Belgachia Rajbari”. In fact, the actual name of the palatial building is “Dhurjati Dham”. Apart from the main building, there is an ordinary and unimpressive Shiva temple in the backyard of the house, which is the seat of Lord Shiva, or Dhurjati, from which the mansion inherits its name. Today, the modern structures of Metro Railway pose as an obstruction to the view of this beautiful building from the road. As one enters the obscured gate behind the auto-stand in front of the metro station on Belgachia road, the mansion tells a tale of its glorious past, that has almost come to the verge of extinction. In the year 1823, Prince Dwarakanath Tagore purchased this property from Lord Auckland. Art enthusiast Dwarakanath decorated the house and the garden in European style, drawing inspiration from the mansion of Duke of Devonshire, Britain

and the gardens of Paris. He added a floor to the mansion and furnished the building with expensive artifacts from all over the world. This house was a place to entertain the British officers and business men, as well as the seat of Bengali theatre. After death of Sri Dwarakanath Tagore, the property was bought over Raja Pratap Chandra Sinha Bahadur of Kandi. Finally, in the advent of 20th Century, the property was bought over by Narayan Kisson Sen, the son of famous Gouri Sen. The mansion is an excellent example of eclecticism where different European architectural styles have seamlessly blended with each other, thereby creating an archetype which echoes its own vocabulary. As we enter the property, the lofty two storied portico - the “gari baranda”, guarded by fluted Corinthian columns and semicircular arches, welcomes us inside the mansion. The mansion is adorned with beautiful columns. These columns were an integral part of the structural system of the mansion, as well as imparted a colonial appearance. The wooden louvered windows, crowned by the semicircular roman arches on brick pilasters reflect neoclassicism to the core. The extended over arching balconies guarded with well designed



cast iron railings reminds one of typical British bungalows. The stucco motifs on the key stones, corbels and brackets are diversely influenced by the Bengal motifs used in the traditional artwork- “alpona”. As one enters the house, a large palatial stairway ornamented with wrought iron banister and stained glass skylight is the most appealing feature. The balcony depicts a typical 19th century mansion with checkered marble flooring. In the centre of the mansion lies the open courtyard, that was an adaption of courtyard houses in Bengal to



Pics - Poulami Banerjee

marry the hot and humid climate of the region. Despite the test of time that the mansion has withstood in obscurity, it remains a true gem in the very heart of the city. The mansion has lot more tales waiting to be told. Other than the people from film industry and theatre background, this magnificent villa has escaped the attention of historians and conservationists. Its time to pay attention now to save such a treasure of historical and architectural gravity. Or the line “Laage Taka Debe Gouri Sen” will be lost in time’s wormhole. --Poulami Banerjee

Editorial

Navratri festivity

Navratri celebrates the end of Mahishashur and the victory of good over evil. The story begins with Lord Brahma blessing Mahishasur with the gift of immortality because of his immense dedication to him. However, the boon came with one condition - the only person who would be able to defeat him would be a woman. The demon didn't believe any woman would be powerful enough to defeat him and started terrorising people on Earth. Gods weren't able to stop him. Therefore, Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva combined their energies to create the goddess Durga, who would destroy Mahishasur. They equipped her with several weapons. The battle between Maa Durga and Mahishasur lasted ten days. However, when he finally turned into a buffalo, Maa Durga was able to defeat him. The nine days of Navratri are classified according to these basic qualities. The first three days are dedicated to Durga, the next three to Lakshmi, and the last three to Saraswati. The tenth day, Vijayadashami, signifies the triumph over all these three aspects of life. Navratri means 'nine nights.' 'Nava' means 'nine,' and 'Ratri' means 'night.' Night provides rest and rejuvenation. During the night, you turn inwards through sleep, and you wake up feeling refreshed and rested in the morning. In the same way, Navratri or the 'nine nights' is that time of the year when you get the chance to experience deep rest. This deep rest brings freedom from all kinds of stress, deep relaxation, and creativity. Fasting, meditation, prayers, and other spiritual practices performed during this period help bring about this deep rest. Even refraining from over-indulging in sense objects during this time aid the process of attaining deep rest --Dr. Minal Pareek

Contributors: Students and Teachers of Sister Nivedita University
Curated by: Arindam Basu
Design Mentored by: Suman Chakraborty

Chic tadka to your Puja outfit

No occasion is complete without fashion. Durga Puja being the major festival of West Bengal, it's an experience in itself. And this festive public ought to be in its best attire as this will be the first grand festive season after the pandemic. Let's switch to modern and quirky draping styles to keep up with fashion trends this Durga puja. While maintaining tradition, play around with your appearance. Dress in current trends this year. Consider lehenga drapes, lehenga knot drapes, lehenga neck wrap drapes, wavy saree drapes, and dhoti style saree drapes when styling your traditional clothing. For a fashionable Durga Puja outfit, omit the blouse and pair your saree with a crop top or shirt. This Durga puja, change your draping to something more contemporary and unique to be in fashion. When choosing accessories for Durga Puja, keep in mind the most recent trends to make your outfit more appealing. Opt with cuff bracelets and stacked necklaces. Choose from danglers, shoulder dusters, cuff earrings, or earrings with tassels. An elegant haircut would go well with your contemporary Puja outfit. If you have planned pandal hopping all day, a canvas handbag is a must. It is strong as well as stylish. Pack your canvas handbag with the essentials that you will need all day. You can also opt for Durga Puja themed tote bags. If you are headed for a special occasion on Durga Puja, then choose colourful bling sling bags or clutches. Your preferred footwear should be wedges and platform heels. If you intend to spend the day visiting pandals, wear comfortable shoes that you can walk around in the day. Choose Kolhapuri chappals if you believe your footwear should match the traditional saree you have chosen. --Anchita Sarkar, UG III, MCAJ



Pic - Internet

BUILDING

1947
18th July
The Indian Independence Act was passed on 18th July 1947 by the British Parliament. The act created two new independent dominions; India and Pakistan.

India began its journey as an independent nation from 15th August 1947. Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of India and Vallabhbhai Patel became as the first Deputy Prime Minister.

1947
26th October
Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947, in the midst of a tribal invasion supported by Pakistan, making Kashmir a part of India.

On 3rd August 1948, the Atomic Energy Commission of India was established in Mumbai with Homi J. Bhabha as secretary. India competed as an independent nation in the summer Olympics of 1948 held in London and won gold in field hockey.

1950
26th January
The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 January 1950. The 299 member Constituent Assembly drafted the Constitution of India over three years.

The first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was formally inaugurated on August 18, 1951 by Abul Kalam Azad, India's first minister of education.

1951-53
October to August
First democratic elections were held between 25th October 1951 and 21st February 1952. In August 1953, Air India was nationalized.

The State Bank of India is created in 1955, replacing the Imperial Bank of India, British India's central bank.

TIFRAC (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Automatic Calculator) was the first computer developed in India, at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai in 1955.

1958
In 1958 Hindustan Motors introduces the first Ambassador. Milkha Singh won India's first gold medal in a track and field event at the Asian Games on 28th May 1958.

On 15th September 1959, Doordarshan was launched by the government of India as India's public service broadcaster, in Delhi. IIM Calcutta is established in collaboration with the MIT Sloan School of Management, the government of West Bengal, the Ford Foundation, and the Indian industry.

The Green Revolution in India started in the late 1960s in Punjab. During this period, India saw a shift in its agricultural practices. The nation moved toward a more industrial system and adopted technologies like high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds, mechanized farm tools, irrigation systems, pesticides, and fertilizers.

It was the year 1970, when the White Revolution was started with the motive of making India the highest milk producing country in the world.

BLOCKS OF

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 27 March 1971 expressed full support of her government for the independence struggle of the people of East Pakistan. The Bangladesh Liberation War, also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence came to an end on December 16-17, 1971 when West Pakistani soldiers surrendered to India in East Pakistan after 13 days of the war.

1974
May
In May 1974 India conducted an underground nuclear explosion, which was essentially the country's first attempt at testing nuclear weapon with a code-named Smiling Buddha.

Named after the noted Indian astronomer, Aryabhata was India's first satellite which was launched on April 19th, 1975 from Kapustin Yar, a Soviet rocket launch and development site in Astrakhan Oblast using a Kosmos-3M launch vehicle.

Tracing back to 23rd March 1980 Prakash Padukone won the All India Badminton Championship in England in Badminton in Men's Singles for the first time. On the other hand, in the year 1982 everything on the television was telecasted in coloured form for the first time.

In 1983 the Indian cricket team led-by Kapil Dev defeated the West Indies to lift its first World Cup at the Lords balcony. Indian costume designer's work in the movie Gandhi Bhanu Athaiya was awarded Best Costume Design and became the first ever Indian person to win an Oscar in 1983. In 1983, Dakshin Gangotri, India's first scientific base station in Antarctica was established, about 2,500 kilometers from the South Pole. Named after the Gangotri glacier, it was constructed during India's third expedition to the ice-covered, southernmost continent.

1984
On October 24, 1984 India's first metro rail begins its operation on a 3.4 kilometre stretch in Kolkata.

In 1987 financial inclusion takes a leap as HSBC introduces the country's first automated teller machine in Bombay.

1989
Year 1989 was very important because it was the year when India for the first time tested its swadeshi missile Agni whose range was 700-900 kms in Chandipur.

24th July 1991 India announced its New Economic Policy which is also known as LPG, Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization, in that time the then finance minister Dr. Manmohan Singh under this plan was abolishing industrial licensing, reducing import tariffs, increase privatization of the companies and many more.

The Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) was launched for the first time in 1993 by Chief Election Commissioner T. N. Seshan. In 1993 famous Bollywood singer Kumar Sanu made his way to the Guinness Book of World Records for singing 28 days songs in a day.

On July 31 1995 Jyoti Basu the then chief minister of West Bengal makes India's first phone call to Sukh Ram the communication minister.

A NATION

1997
India was declared TB free nation in 1997.

In 11 and 13th May 1998 tested its nuclear atomic bombs in Pokhran district of Rajasthan. None of countries could figure out that India was about to take step like this.

In 2001 PUCL 'Peoples Union for Civil Liberties' proposed for a provision under which Food Corporation of India, Central Government and state governments formed a party. Under Article 21 every citizen has Right to Food but central and state governments were defying it. Therefore, Supreme Court ruled and finally in 2013 National Food Security Act was passed which guaranteed quantitative food for all.

In 2002, Right to education under article 21-A became a fundamental right. In 2004, Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won silver in shooting for the first time in Indian history in Athens Olympics. In 2006 UPA government launches Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme-India's largest ever rural employment scheme to boost up rural economy. In 2007 two software engineers realizing the power of e-commerce and launched Flipkart. In 2008 Indian Premier League was established, in which both Indian and international player take part, and is now the world's richest cricket tournament. Right to Information act was passed in 2008 and it was made a right for all citizens of the country. Chandrayaan-1 was India's first moon mission. It was the first unmanned lunar probe under the Chandrayaan programme and was launched in October 2008 by ISRO. In 2010 Aadhar card scheme was launched. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was India's first interplanetary mission. India became the fourth space agency in the world to reach Mars orbit, after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It also made India the first nation in the world to reach the Martian orbit in its maiden attempt. The spacecraft, Mangalyaan, was launched on Nov 5, 2013 and reached Mars' orbit on September 24, 2014. 2nd October 1994, India started its battle against Polio which was finally won in 2014. UPI Unified Payments Interface was launched on 11th April 2016.

GST Goods and Service Tax came into effect when this act was passed in Parliament in 29th March 2017 and came into being from 1st July 2017. In 2018 Supreme Court rules that a colonial-era law criminalizing homosexual sex is unconstitutional. In 2021 Neeraj Chopra wins second Olympic gold medal for India at an individual level and first Olympic medal in track and field. In 2022 Indian Badminton team wins Thomas Cup for the first time.

--Sanchari Chakraborty and students of Political Science Department

আজকাল
শ্রীদেবী
সন্মান ২০২২

টপ
টেন

সেরা পুজো
নিউটাউন সর্বজনীন
শ্রীভূমি
সেরা আলোকসজ্জা
কলেজ স্কোয়ার
দমদম পার্ক ভারত চক্র

সেরা মন্তপ
সুরুচি সংঘ
কুমোরটুলি পার্ক সর্বজনীন
সেরা প্রতিমা
৯৫ পল্লী
কাসী বোস লেন
সেরা পরিবেশ
হাতিবাগান সর্বজনীন
মুদিয়ালী

Patua Para eternally

Durga Puja is not only a festival but it is an emotion of people's. The festival does not differentiate in any caste or religion but on the contrary, this brings people together. Idol making is one of the most old and important culture of West Bengal and making the idol of goddess Durga is big creativity of Kolkata. The lives of those, who make the 'protimas' or clay idols are dictated 24/7 by their work-in-progress.

There are many famous places in Kolkata where idol making is the main occupation and Patua Para in Kalighat is one of them. Kalighat Patuapara is a traditionally 'potters' quarter in southern Kolkata. Most workshops in the area are small so the idol makers push their items out in the open. After the two years of pandemic, the condition of the market has improved. As compared to the last two



Pic - Shreya

years the profit of the idol makers has increased this year. The people doing Durga Puja in their houses could come and check their pratima's making whenever they want rather sitting at home and wondering. Small or big business everyone is enjoying the taste of profit by getting more orders this year.

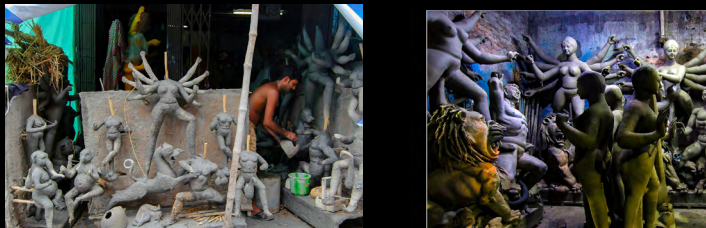
Lad few months, patuapara in Kalighat was buzzing with activity. Artisans were fighting the odds to meet the deadlines. This brings a new and confidence to the people and the idol makers to give their best in creating the pratima's, they were not only doing it for their livelihood, but there was a hidden motive under their actions and that is they want to recreate the same joy and happiness which was there two years before the pandemic and they also want to show that whatever the situation comes the tradition of celebrating Durga puja will always remain the same.

--Priyanka Yadav, PG III, MCAJ



তুস্মা তুস্মা

Dr Saikat Maity



Pic - Internet

Swiss great bids adieu to tennis, Nadal in tears: A rivalry that defined an era

Rarely have sports farewell been perfect for any athletes, especially for perfectionists, rather be it, Zinedine Zidane or Roger Federer. The result of Federer's last competitive appearance on the tennis court was no different - a 6-4, 6-7, 9-11 defeat in the doubles at the 2022 Laver Cup. But just one look at the man who shared the same side of the court with him would change his mind. Pairing Federer with Rafael Nadal for his farewell match was more than the crowd could have asked for. More than the duo could have asked for.

Two prodigies of the game with a total of 42 Grand Slams, sharing the court for the last time on the ATP tour, an exciting prospect indeed It all started in Miami in 2004. Nadal, then yet to win his first Grand Slam, defeated the defending Wimbledon and Australian Open champion comfortably 6-3, 6-3. A meeting that resulted in nine Grand Slam finals, a rivalry spanning two decades. The two were ideal to each other on their way to 20 Grand Slams. They were pushing each other the extra mile to become a better version of themselves, as two great rivals would. Experts of the game have never forgo from putting on the table how different these two players are. Some said Nadal is faster, but Federer is a perfectionist. Their styles couldn't be more diverse than left and right, literally and metaphorically. But as the years went by, the similarities were more noticeable than the differences between the duo. If Federer cried hard, Nadal cried harder and

you know you have achieved everything in your life if your dearest friend & greatest rival cries at such a moment of your life. That's the greatness of sport - it brings together even the biggest rivals. They may fight each other on the court, but off the court, they have nothing but love, admiration, and respect for each other. This is what the competition should look like. Make each other better. Respect each other's craft. Learn from each other. And treat yourself with the dignity you deserve. That's where greatness lies. The best way to define the rivalry is by quoting one



Pic - Internet

of Nadal's speeches from Federer's farewell match, he said, "When Roger leaves the tour, yeah, an important part of my life is leaving too because all the moments he has been next or in front me in important moments of my life. So it has been emotional to see the family, see all the people. Yeah, difficult to describe. But, yeah, an amazing moment." In his farewell speech, Federer also thanked his wife and again proved that behind every man's success there's a woman. Federer said, "She could have stopped me a long, long time ago, but she didn't. She kept me going and allowed me to continue to play, so that's amazing. Thank you." Although the outcome of the match was not what Federer would have liked, nonetheless the night was a magical celebration of his career. Players from Team Europe and World Team lifted Federer up in celebration after his farewell speech ended.

--Aniket Dutta, PG III, MCAJ

Glory at Commonwealth Games in UK

Every four years, athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations participate in the Commonwealth Games. This important sporting event is watched by many people around the world. Some even place bets on the success of countries and athletes.

The last Commonwealth Games were held in Birmingham from 28 July to 8 August. It was the largest to date, with a total of 72 countries participating. For the first time in history, there were more events for women than for men. Another first was the fact that a para-competition of disabled athletes was taking place at the same time.

The main sports represented included badminton, squash, wrestling, cycling, netball, gymnastics and beach volleyball. Australia was the most prosperous country in terms of medal position and the total number of medals won. The country secured a total of 67 gold and 178 medals. India did well in the last Commonwealth Games and finished fourth overall in the total medal tally. After the Commonwealth Games, India ranked highest in four sports: badminton, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. India has been very successful in the past so expectations were high leading to predictions of a top-five finish. Cricket and hockey are some of India's biggest sports, so it was likely that the country would excel in these

two sports, if not more. Even though they didn't come out on top in any of them, they still did well. For hockey, men won silver and women bronze; for women's cricket, they won silver.



Pic - Internet

Indian athletes combined to win 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze, giving the country a total of 61 medals. It was the sixteenth time the country had competed in the Commonwealth Games. India sent 106 male athletes and 104 female athletes to compete in sixteen different sports.

Among the sixteen Indian entries, this latest was the fifth most successful in terms of medals. The country's most successful year was 2010 when the games were coincidentally held in New Delhi. That year, the country won an impressive 101 medals and finished second overall.

India's performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games has been impressive. Placing first in four sports is certainly a commendable feat. The country may not have had its best performance in history, but it still managed to win plenty of medals. Here's hoping Indian sports can build on its recent successes in future iterations of the Commonwealth Games.

AIFF's relief after getting its own Kalyan

The whole Indian Football fraternity was jolted after the sudden ban of AIFF by FIFA on 16th August 2022. All the upcoming football events of the country fell in the darkness of uncertainty. It impacted on India's image as a growing football power. FIFA cited the 'third party' intervention in AIFF affairs and suspended AIFF. As published in the official FIFA website on 16th August 2022, "The Bureau of the IFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes. The suspension will be lifted once an order to setup a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affair."

On 18th May, Supreme Court discharged Mr. Praful Patel, AIFF president and the executive committee from their responsibilities and appointed a Committee of Administrator to oversee the functioning of AIFF. FIFA directed AIFF to have 25% of eminent players in the Executive committee instead of 50%. Supreme Court directed AIFF to hold elections with 36 representatives from state football associations and 36 eminent ex-football players. On 15th August 2022 FIFA opposed the inclusion of individual members in the Electoral College and on 16th August FIFA banned AIFF. The Central Government intervened and to revoke the ban put an application to SC to eliminate the mandate of CoA as directed by FIFA. The Supreme Court dissolved the CoA and the acting Secretary



Pic - Internet

General Sunando Dhar lead the administration of AIFF. The government proposed the formation of Executive Committee with 23 members, out of which 17 were to be elected from electoral college with 6 eminent players (4 male and 2 female). The election was scheduled on 28th August 2022. Following this, Mr. Dhar wrote a letter to Fatma Samoura, FIFA Secretary General to reconsider the decision taken hoping the uplift of the ban. As per the schedule of election the nominations for the posts of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Members of the AIFF Executive Committee were filed between 25th-27th August. Bhaichung Bhutia and Kalyan Chaubey fought for the President's post.

On receiving the confirmation that the AIFF Executive Committee had been dissolved and election was scheduled as per FIFA mandate, the ban was uplifted the ban on 26th August.

On 2nd September, Kalyan Chaubey was elected as the new President of AIFF.

--Shankha Subhra Dey

What led to India's fall in Asia Cup!

The hopes to have an India - Pakistan final went down the drain as 'Men in Blue' failed to hold on to their nerves in the final minutes of two successive matches. But what went wrong for the defending champions?



Pic - Internet

The opening dilemma

Experts blamed the squad missed the likes of Bumrah, and mid-tournament injury added to the wound, but a board that boasts to play 3 different squads at a time can not use it as an excuse to defend its fall. The opening pair of India came under constant pressure as the duo failed to anchor the ship, exposing the middle order at a crucial stage.

The middle order blunder

The management's experiment with the playing eleven unsettled the middle order. Dropping

the experienced 'finisher' Kartik for Pant to accommodate a left-hand alternative did not click either. Hardik and SKY too failed to power in the Super 4.

Bowling gamble

India went with one pacer short, and the injury of Avesh Khan left the team with hardly any options. Bhuvni leaked too many in the 19th on all occasions, an over that is meant to be the deciding factor. Spinners too failed to provide the spark. The cheeky fielding in the match against Pakistan exposed the lack of hunger for these IPL biggies.

The 'Dhoni' Factor

The biggest miss in this big tournament months ahead of the T20WC is - M.S. Dhoni. India, otherwise known for pulling off close matches for 15 years straight, fell victim to its strength. The 2007 final over gamble or the last ball run-out against Bangladesh in the T20WC proved what Dhoni offered even in his final days, and there's none in line to fill up the big shoe.

Asia Cup is now a thing of the past. It is now time for the think tank to dig what went wrong and fix the root, but the return of Kohli back in runs is a much-needed breather for the selectors before the team heads to South Africa, Australia, and T20 World Cup.

But the organizers' hope to use the Ind-Pak rivalry in the final to cash money was respected by the Lankans - the young team gave it all out to win against Pakistan to lift the Asia Cup, bringing much-needed relief to the crisis hit Island.

--Saba Ahmed, PG III, MCAJ