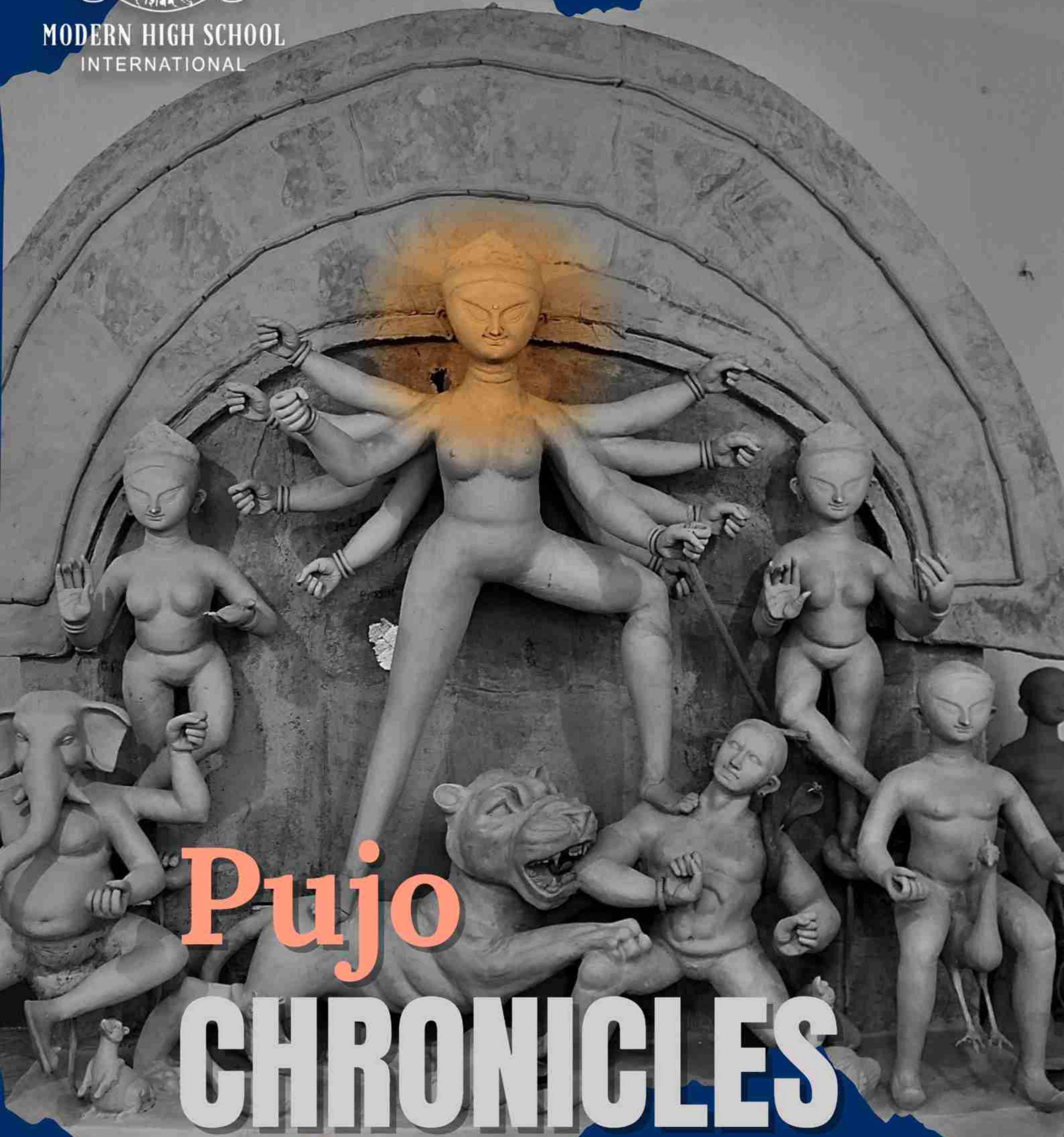


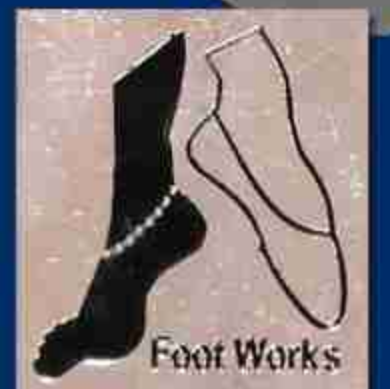


MIRROR OF JOY

MODERN HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL



Pujo CHRONICLES





Durga Pujo, that time of the year, when Kolkata adorns itself in all its artistic splendour and magnificence: unique and indescribable!

For the second consecutive year, we, at Modern High School International, immersed ourselves in an exploration to unearth some of what goes on behind the scenes of this festival.

Students of Artitude (art), Footworks (dance), Literati (literary), Shutterbugs (photography), and Taal (music) societies participated in various curated workshops and events in the past month with that intent in mind.

The Pujo Chronicles is the reflection of all that we learned: be it the creation of shola decorations, the nuances of Pujo in our musical “raaga”s, the painstaking process of creating the idol, or the rhythmic movement of the “dhunuchi naach”.

We hope that in this issue, we have been able to showcase the insights we gathered from this experience.







Taal

Guided by esteemed musicians Ms. Rupa Chaudhuri, Mr. Achintha Kumar Bhattacharya, and Mr. Tirthankar Banerjee, Taal, the Music Society organised a truly enchanting classical music workshop.

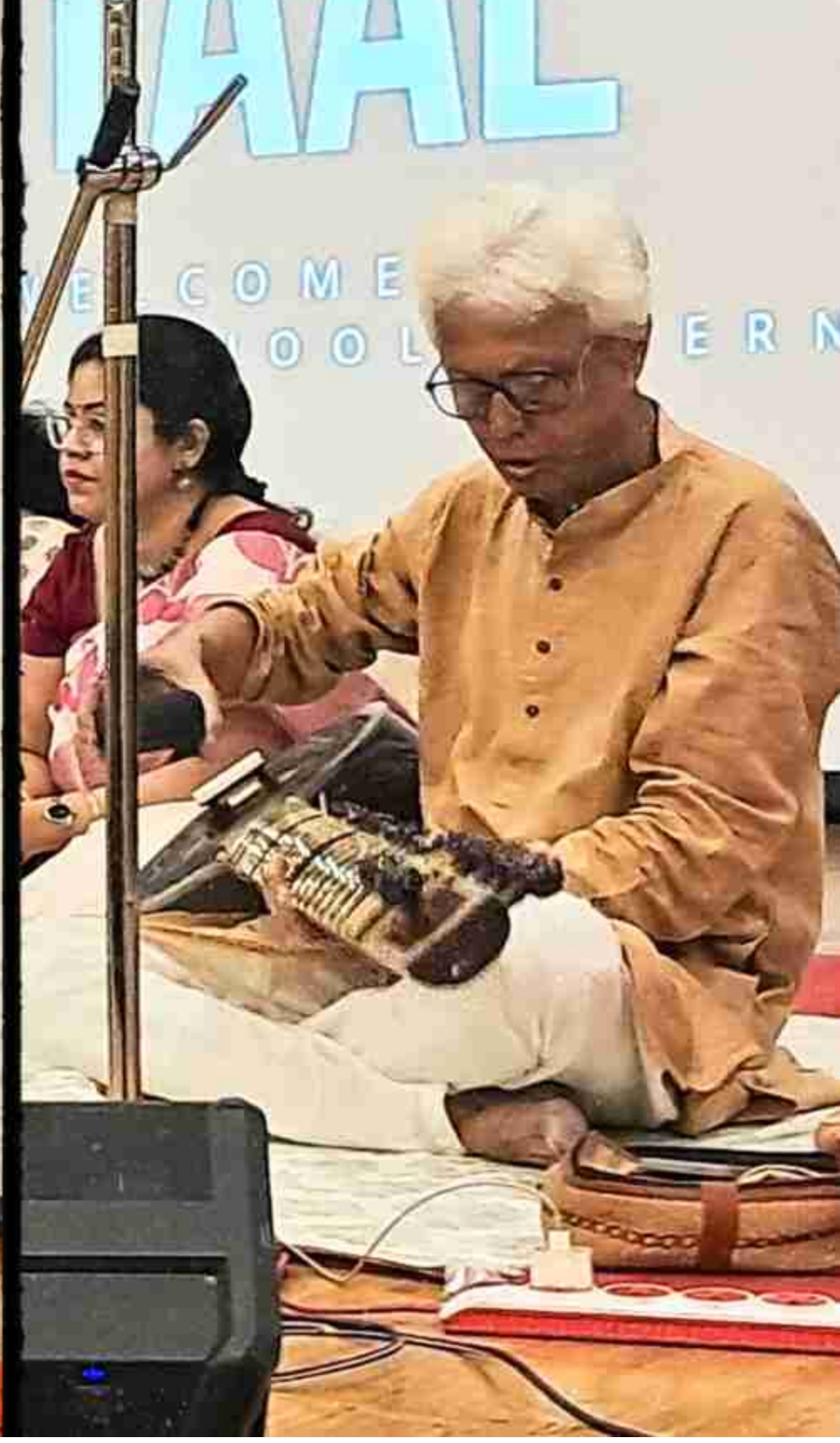
The music deeply resonated with the students as it took them on a profoundly immersive journey into the world of classical music and its rich connections to Durga Puja.

The essence and the spirit of Durga Puja came alive in Ms. Chaudhuri's compelling opening song. Her lyrical voice soulfully linked the festival's significance through Hindustani raagas, enlightening and captivating her young audience.

The performance continued with Mr. Banerjee's exceptional sitar rendition of Raag Durga. He was joined by Mr. Bhattacharya, who showcased his virtuosity on the tabla, bringing an added dimension to the performance.

The workshop was a resounding success, offering not only a deeper understanding of classical music but also a memorable cultural experience.







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SCAN ME







A Journey Through Lenses: Exploring Seal Bari and the Art of Durga Puja

Among the many heritage homes that embrace the vibrant festival of Durga Puja, Seal Bari, a North Kolkata heritage home, stands out as an iconic location where the rituals and customs of Durga Puja have been observed for over two centuries.

Our field trip to Seal Bari provided us, the members of Shutterbugs Society, an opportunity to not only explore this rich cultural legacy but also hone our photography skills under the expert professional guidance of Mr. Rahul Maheswari.

Our experience was both enriching and enlightening, offering us numerous insights into the art of photography and the cultural significance of Durga Puja.

Throughout the visit, we shared our thoughts and experiences with each another. We learned from each other's perspectives and techniques, which contributed to a richer photographic exploration. The visit to Seal Bari was not just about taking photographs; it was a journey that delved deep into our city's cultural heritage, artistic expression, and local folklore.











The Art of Shola Flowers and Chaand Mala: A Hands-On Workshop

During any religious festival, particularly Durga Puja, 'shola' decorations and the ubiquitous 'chaandmala' is seen in almost each of the pandals. However, the work and effort which occurs behind the scenes is rarely noticed.

The 'shola flower and chaandmala' making workshop which we, the members of Artitude participated in, allowed us to gain the first-hand experience of the skill required to make various decorative ornaments for this festival.

These delicate pieces, typically used during festivals like Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja, are made from shola wood, a soft material sourced from the bark of plants native to Bangladesh, Indonesia, and India.

The workshop was led by Mr. Sukumar Mondal, an artisan with 26 years of experience. He demonstrated how the outer bark is removed to reveal the soft wood inside, which is then carved into beautiful flowers and designs. Emphasizing the eco-friendly nature of the craft, Mr. Mondal highlighted that only recyclable materials are used—no plastic is involved. We found the experience both educational and eye-opening. This hands-on workshop taught us a new skill and its sustainability. We also appreciated the artistry behind this traditional craftsmanship that blends beauty with cultural heritage.





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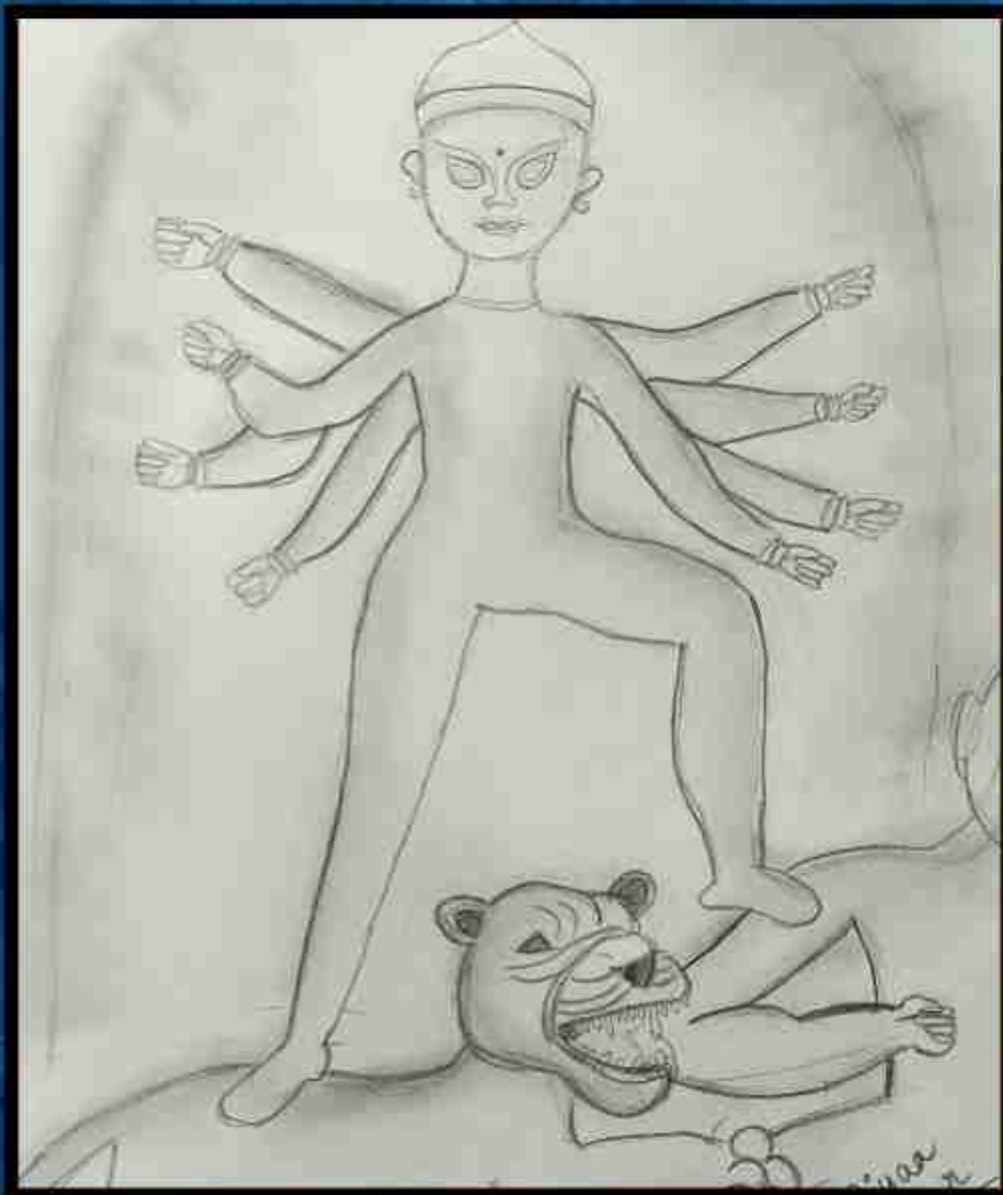
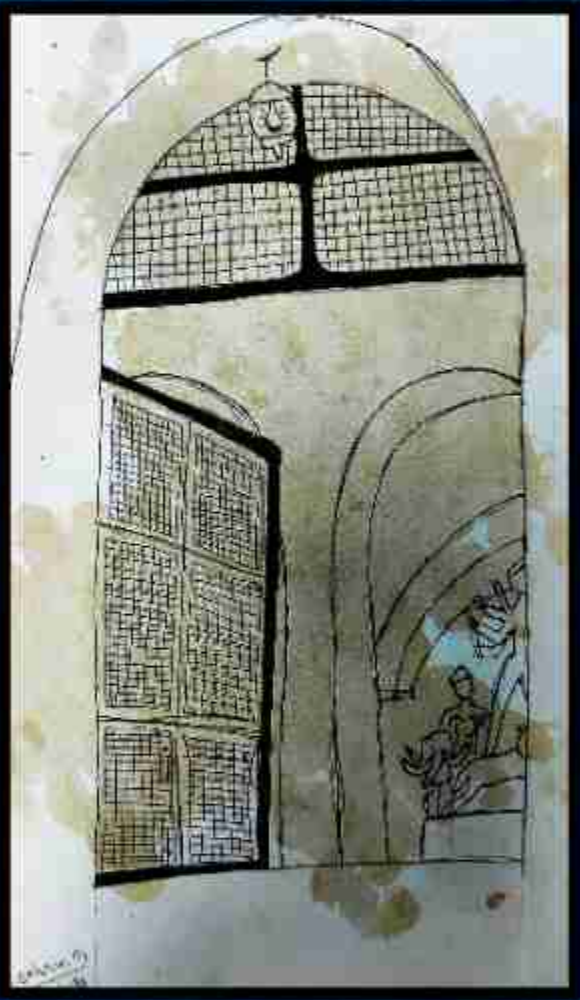
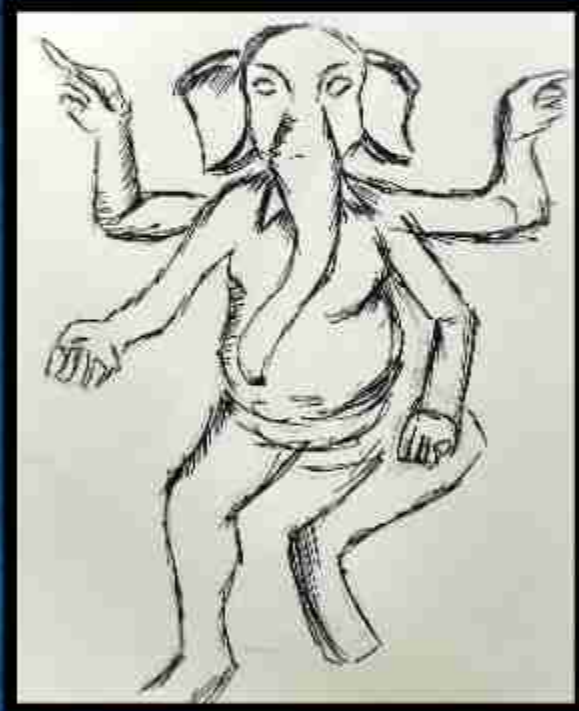
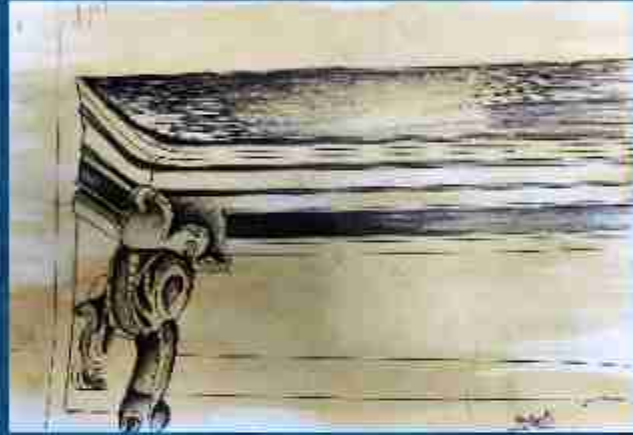
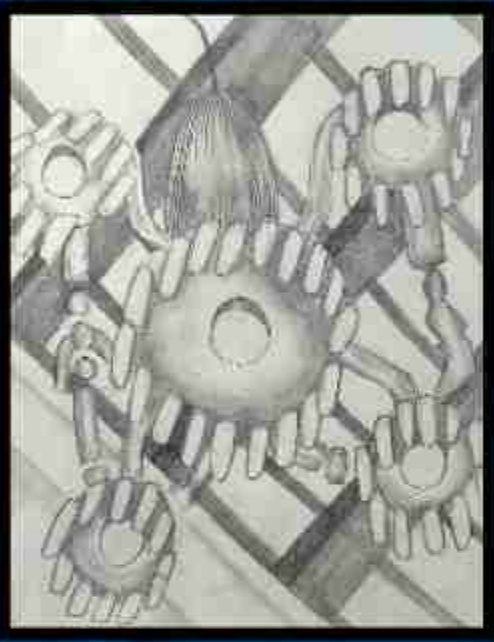
Exploring Through Sketches: Seal Bari Field Trip with Artitude

On 10th September, 2024 Artitude, our Art Society went for a field trip to Seal Bari in North Kolkata. It was the property of Ms. Anuradha Mullick and her family who have been living there for more than 200 years. Since then, they have crafted and created Durga Ma idols in their home from scratch.

This visit was an incredible opportunity for us; we were busy sketching every detail we could, attempting to capture the beauty of the moment on paper. From the structure of the idol to intricate architecture of the house, we had an incredible time exploring different perspectives of the scene.

Our sketches showcase the unique beauty of the environment. Learning about the entire process of the creation of the idol and seeing it in person was an insightful and enriching experience for all of us.





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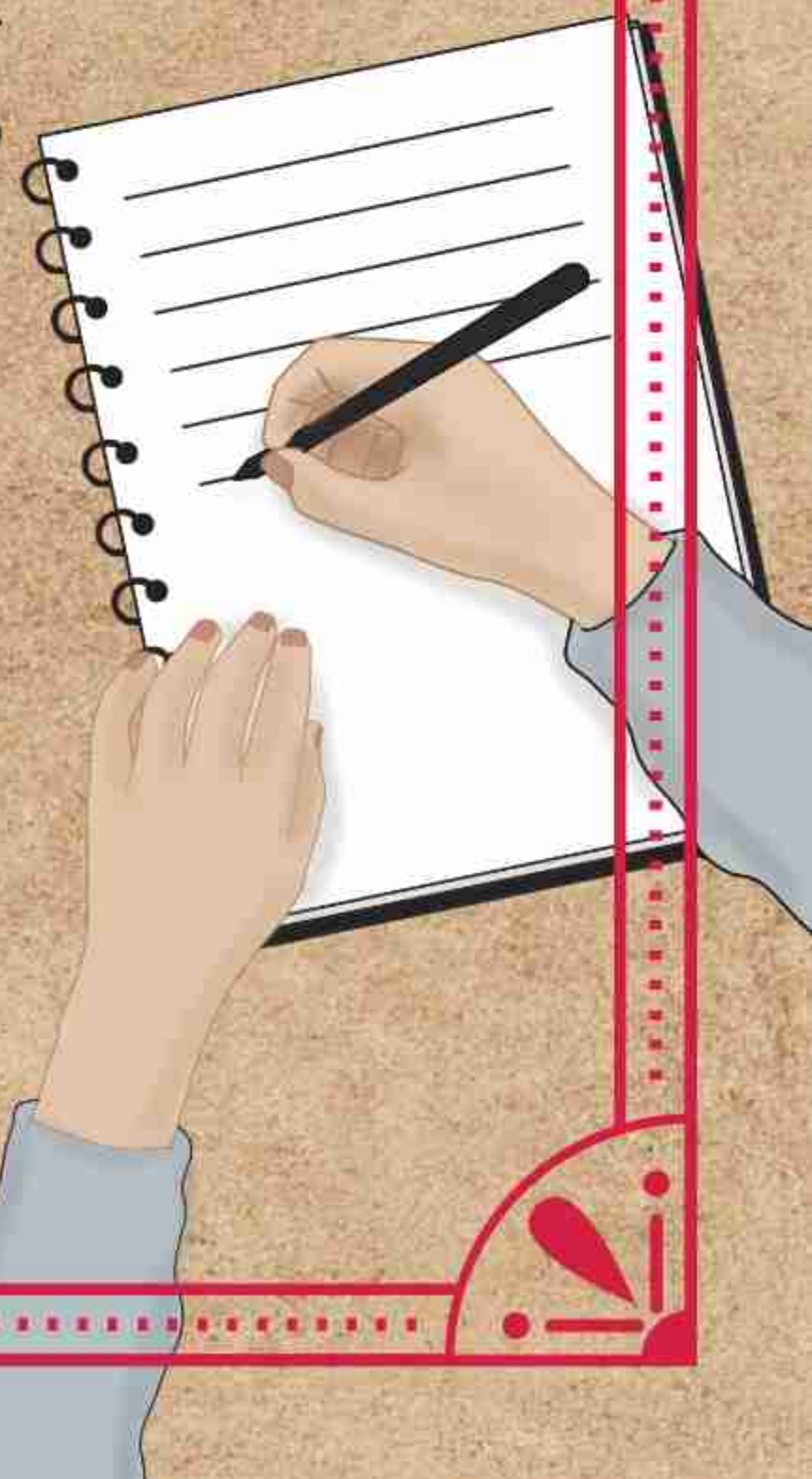
Literati Journalism Workshop

The journalism workshop, held as a part of our attempt to create Pujo Chronicles 2024, proved to be an engaging experience for us, the members of the Literati society.

We were excited and enthused to take up the role of budding reporters. The session was conducted by Mr. Jaideep Ghosh, an accomplished sports journalist with over three decades of experience. Reporters have a great responsibility to society as they have the power to control the truth.

This ideology is reflected in our school's theme of the year, "Seek the Truth, Speak the Truth" and it establishes the need for journalism infused with the compelling power of truth; a necessity in a society filled with diversion and misinformation.

Mr. Ghosh's compelling words deeply resonated with us. Through practical activities and anecdotes, he demonstrated how planning and coordination was paramount for achieving success in journalism. We used our experience at this workshop to report and write about the events and edit the articles, that are a part of the Pujo Chronicles. Igniting a passion for reporting in even those who were previously uninterested, the Literati Workshop for the Pujo Chronicles was certainly one to remember.



GERMAN

Es ist Zeit zu beten,
 Es ist Zeit zu feiern,
 Es ist Zeit zu teilen,
 Es ist Zeit,
 die Arbeit zu verlassen,
 Zünde die Kerzen
 Dekoriere das Haus,
 Es ist eine besondere Zeit -
 Maa Durga ist hier!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

It is time to pray,
 It is time to celebrate,
 It is time to stop working,
 Light the candles,
 Decorate your houses,
 It's that time of the year -
 Maa Durga is here!

Radhika Tibrewal of Grade 11

SPANISH

Llega diosa Durga
 se viste ropa divina y roja.
 ella trae amor y energía,
 entra en el corazón de todos con alegría.
 ella llena la ciudad de felicidad,
 hace brillar la naturaleza.
 ¡visítanos diosa Durga!
 adoramos y rezamos todos los días

Arrival of Goddess Durga

Goddess Durga arrives,
 she wears divine and red clothes.
 She brings love and energy,
 She enters into everyone's heart with joy.
 She fills the city with happiness,
 makes the nature shine.
 Visit us goddess Durga!
 We worship and pray her every day.

Nirgun Bhotika, Grade 8A

BENGALI

পুজো আসছে- মনে আনে ছন্দ
 শিউলি ফুলের গন্ধ,
 মনে বাজে ছন্দ ।
 পড়বে পুজোর ছুটি,
 মজা নেবো লুটি ।

Jasmine's sweet scent brings delight,
 Transporting us to a festive night.
 Carefree moments, love and light,
 Puja's magic, pure and bright

Sanghavi Datta Grade 7

SPANISH

Durga puja en las calles de la ciudad de la alegría
 es la época del año
 templos, ídolos construidos todos para dios
 Locales, extranjeros y familias felices.
 Recorre las calles de Calcuta con espíritu alegres.
 un tiempo de adoración
 un tiempo de celebración
 Cómo somos bendecidos con este hermoso
 festival.
 Que las calles de Kolkata estén llenas de felicidad.

Durga puja on the streets of the City of Joy

It's the time of year
 temples, idols all built for God
 Locals, foreigners and happy families.
 Walk the streets of Kolkata in a joyful spirit.
 A time of worship,
 a time of celebration
 How we are blessed with this beautiful festival.
 May the streets of Kolkata remain in happiness

Viraj Lakhotia, Grade-8B



हिंदी कविता
दुर्गा पूजा

आ गया समय दुर्गा माता के आगमन का,
छा गया हर तरफ खुशियों का उजाला ।
कई खूबसूरत पंडाल बन गए हैं,
लाल, सफेद, व पीले रंग से कई प्रतिमाएँ सज गई हैं ।

कुल्हारटोली के मूरत से दिखेगी माता की झलक,
जोर-शोर से बजेंगे हर कोने में ढोलक ।
पंडाल देखने चली मेरी टोली,
एक-एक पंडाल ने नई कहानियाँ खोली ।
देखा तो जाना कि...

नवरात्रि इन नौ रातों का नाम है,
गरबा की प्रथा इसकी शान है !
हर रात की चाँदनी में डाँडिया खेलते हैं,
व माता की कीर्तन - आरती करते है ।

यह पर्व है भक्ति का,
यह त्योहार है शक्ति का,
आखिर मेरी अम्बे माता का उत्सव है!
- दीया दुगड़, कक्षा 9

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

O, time of arrival, of the blessings of Mother,
Everywhere is lit with the glow of happiness.
Many beautiful pavilions have been made,
Adorned with statues in red, white, and yellow
colors.

From the floral garlands, glimpses of the radiant
Mother,

And drums echo loudly in every corner.

My group went to view the pavilions,
Each one unfolded new stories.

Upon seeing, I realized...

These nine nights are called Navratri,
The ritual of the Goddess is its essence!
Under the moonlit night, people play Dandiya,
And sing hymns, perform the aarti of the
Mother.

This is the season of devotion,
This festival celebrates faith,
For it is the grand celebration of my Ambe
Mata!

Diyaa Dugar, Grade 9

HUES

Light paves the way on streets,
Our Aurora Borealis in the dark.
Fairy lights scattered around the idol,
Shadows falling on her face, and the satin it's
wrapped around.

Hands clasped in prayer,
Wishing for happiness,
For love,
For life.

Things that seemed impossible all year round
Suddenly, mystically, take place now.

The soft light from a diya fills my room,
And as I start making butterflies with my hands,
I smile at the thought of it.

There's something nostalgic about Durga Puja,
Friends dancing away to raucous music in the street,
Little children screaming on fair rides,
Lovers arguing over who can eat the most puchkas.

I changed my hands to a deer,
And I smiled at the light,
Thankful that I get to witness this happiness.

Nibedita Ghosal Grade 11

RELIGION

There's something so calming about religion,
About the hymns that reverberate throughout
your body,

The temple bell ringing, and the echoes
underneath your feet.

There's something so vibrant about religion,
About the red, yellow and orange flowers that sit
at the feet of every God,

The blue of the river flowing just below.
There's something so delicious about religion,
About the salty-sugary-sweet snacks reaching
your lips,

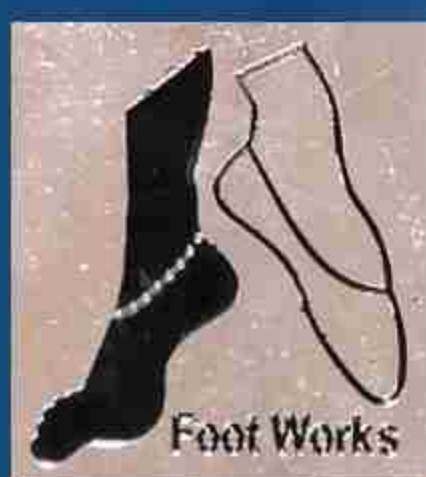
The nectar pouring down your throat.
There's something so life changing about
religion,

The way everyone loves each other in the
temple,
Conditionally,

The way one bad word cuts deeper than a knife.
There's something so scary about being religious,
Where the negative values can change your life.

Nibedita Ghosal Grade 11





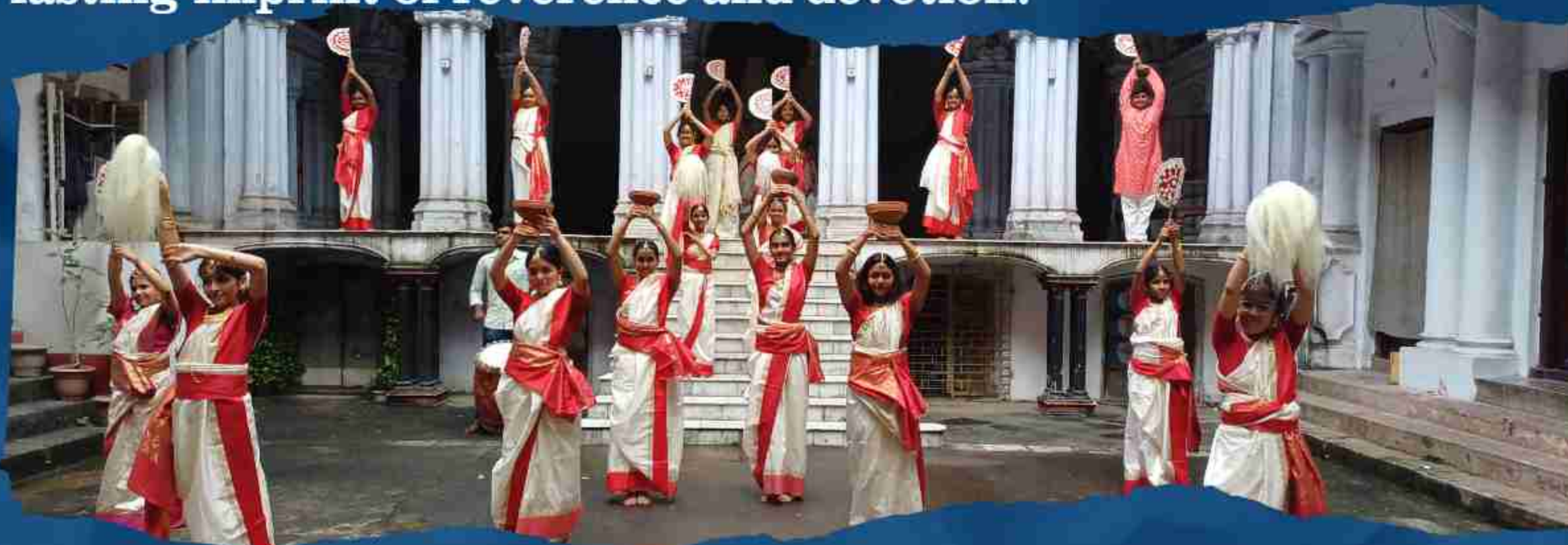
Dancing for Durga Maa: A Spiritual Journey

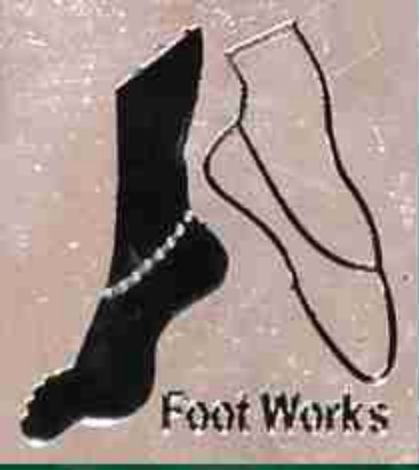
Durga Puja celebrations began a little early at Footworks, the Dance Society of MHSI. We started training under the guidance of our facilitator, Ms. Jhinook Mukherjee Sinha, and learnt the basics of “dhunuchi naach”, an integral part of Durga Puja celebrations.

On 24th September, we had the honor of performing this dance at “Mitra Bari”, one of oldest pujas in the Dorjipara area of North Kolkata. It was a unique and unforgettable experience for all of us.

Adorned in traditional red and white sarees with golden jewellery, we were excited but nervous about our performance. The journey to the ancestral Rajbari was slightly challenging, especially in the heat, but we sang and laughed together all along the way, keeping our spirits high.

Upon reaching the Rajbari, our teacher showed us our positions. In spite of the rain-soaked courtyard, we danced with all our heart, feeling the presence of Durga Ma in every movement. The rhythmic beats of the “Dhaak” echoed our devotion, and our performance was graceful and powerful, just like Ma Durga. Returning home at 6 PM, we were tired yet content, knowing we had given our all to the performance and felt the energy of the goddess in our hearts. The experience bonded us and left in us a lasting imprint of reverence and devotion.

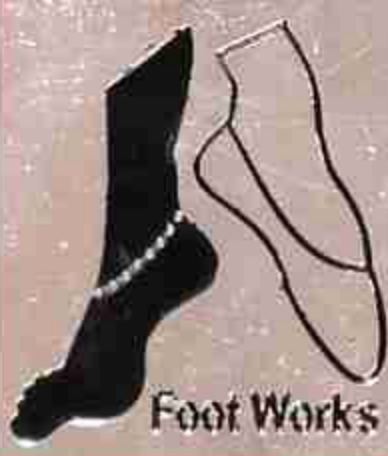






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Participating Students

ARTITUDE

Aadya Khandelwal
Aisha Agarwal
Aisha Bhagat
Ananya Mookherjee
Anushka Dua
Arshi Agarwal
Avishi Gupta
Darsh Ladha
Dhruv Agarwal
Diyaa Dugar
Jasvi Khater

Nandini Sinha
Priyansh Patwari
Saisha Goenka
Sanghavi Dutta
Shanaya Himatsingka
Urv Jain
Vanya Kedia
Yathavan Modi
Zarah Bakshi
Abhiri Banerjee
Akiraa Mehra

FOOTWORKS

Aaradhya Gupta
Anaaya Bothra
Anaisha Bhalla
Khwaish Binani
Kresha Choudhary
Nishka Bhalotia
Saisha Jindal
Shaanvi Poddar
Vaanyaa Agarwal
Anika Shah

Harshikaa A Khanna
Manya Goenka
Manvika Venkatesh
Vannsh Nemani
Aarna Jaiswal
Aisha Maloo
Divyansha Jhunjunwala
Yashika Mundhra
Aarshia Agarwal
Uditi Neotia

Participating Students

TAAL

Ayanna Roy Chowdhury
Advika Choraria
Sharanya Mall
Avika Jain
Aarshiya Agarwal
Vivaan kumar Ghosal
Varish Ganeriwala

Tejas sengupta
Veer Shah
Mehher Battacharijee
Shivansh Arya
Radhika Tibrewall
Mayank Jain

SHUTTERBUGS

Agastha Mehta
Mahek Toshniwal
Krisshang Nemani
Nirgun Bhotika
Revant R Sanghvi
Varang Agarwal
Aanya Shah
Atharv Patwari

Harshita Toshniwal
Mahi.Lakhotia
Samaira Chitlangia
Vanya Gupta
Kasshvi Doshi
Rashika Saraf
Sanaaya Sureka

LITERATI

Aarav Kapoor
Deandrea Mukherjee
Samara Kothari
Mihira Burman
Nibedita Ghosal
Saachi Goenka
Ved Kapoor

