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2022



SAMHITA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA



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# Our Puja, Our Stories

*From The Editor's Pen,*



*The countdown for Durga Puja begins with hopes for a joyous, rich & restriction-free celebration. The joy, that had gone missing with the introduction of natural evil-COVID, seems to have come back!*

*This year, we all at "SAMHITA" gathered again to conceptualize the greatest festivities of Bengali Culture, "Durga Puja", & this time less of masks & sanitizers and more of celebration!*

*This divine festival of 9 days brings an auspicious time for devotees to worship the goddess and celebrate.*

*Members of AZSamhita made the impossible task possible by enfolding the activities of 9 days into 2 days super packed merriment!*

*It was so heartening to see; how each & every member put their best in creating different pieces of the grand celebration, which were put together to ensure the magnificent demonstration of our respectful madness towards Durga Puja!*

*Hats off to all our volunteers who had put their day & night alongside their super busy schedule to make the festivity alive. Special thanks to Collin Ghosh, Binoy Saha & Anirban Bhattacharya for extending all the support, required to make the Magazine live on time.*

**Elo Khushir Sharat Abar, Ektu Himel Hawa  
Dhaker Upar Kathir Awaz  
Mayer Kache Jaoa  
Onek Khushi Onek Alo  
Pujo Ebar Katuk Bhalo..**

**--- Anonymous**

*Devi'r Agomoner Ei Subho Samaye Sabar Jeevan Hoye Uthuk Sundar Aar Sarthak!  
Sabai Ke Durga Puja'r Antorik Shubhechha Janiye Bidai Nichchhi Ebarer Moto.....*

**-Sarmistha Bhattacharya Gupta**

## President's Note



*The meaning of this mantra:*

**Respected Samhita Friends/Devotees,**

*As most of us made home away from home, and spent our time together post-pandemic era, we welcome all to celebrate this year's Durga Puja. Let us start with following slokas:*

***"Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, shanti rupena sangsthita  
Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, shakti rupena sangsthita  
Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, matri rupena sangsthita  
Yaa devi sarva bhuteshu, buddhi rupena sangsthita  
Namastasyai, namastasyai, namastasyai, namo namaha"***

*The goddess who is omnipresent as the personification of the universal mother*

*The goddess who is omnipresent as the embodiment of the power*

*The goddess who is omnipresent as the symbol of peace*

*Oh, Goddess (Devi) who resides everywhere in all living beings as intelligence and beauty,*

*I bow to her, I bow to her, I bow to her again & again.'*

*As we bow for blessings from Maa Durga - one with power, prosperity, and positive energy. It helps to build inner power and allows the us (devotees) to develop healthy, loving relationships.*

*Wishing all for prosperous, healthy & fulfilled Durga Puja-2022. This year is very special since we have passed COVID restrictions to celebrate Durga Puja and planned to celebrate Durga Puja similar to prior-COVID years..*

*Once again, Samhita is celebrating Durga Puja with like minded distinguished stars with lots of events (Puja, Drama,Cultural Programs, Food, External Artists program, magazine, etc).*

*Samhita continued volunteering for charitable contributions and planned donations for causes to eliminate sufferings for the needy people of the world. 2022 is also no exception as we have planned for various donations after Durga Puja events.*

*Samhita being a multicultural organization unites people across boundaries and creates a binding atmosphere among members. Samhita continues embracing new people to the organization with its philosophy "Embrace, Share and Celebrate".*

*Lastly, I would like to THANK each and everyone who is continuously helping (or helped) Samhita to organize, participate and above all "working together" to build a "Togetherness" atmosphere. A big thanks to all (existing and old) members of Samhita for your contributions.*

*Hope you and your families stay safe!*

*May Ma Durga bless us all!*

**From**

**Executive committee**

**Samhita Cultural Association of Arizona**

# Patron List 2022

Names	Patrons
Anonymous	Patron
Anonymous	Patron
Cynthia & Vivek Sharma	Patron
Debjani & Abhishek Singh	Patron
Debolina & Anupam Banerjee	Grand Patron
Dilip Chakraborty	Grand Patron
Esha & Anirbaan Bhattacharya	Patron
Indrajit Datta & Kranti Patel	Patron
Kathakoli Sengupta	Patron
Kovilakonda Babu	Patron
Kuntala Susanta Saha	Patron
Mita & Biswajit Saha	Patron
Mrittika & Ranjan Ganguli	Patron
Anonymous	Patron
Rachna & Diganta Nath	Patron
Rasna & Surajit Sarkar	Patron
Rita & Sandeep Chattopadhyay	Grand Patron
Shamla & Chandan das	Grand Patron
Sharmistha & Chayan Bhattacharya	Patron
Sarmistha & Sanjay Gupta	Patron
Anonymous	Patron
Tanushree & Shoumik Maiti	Grand Patron
Tanushree B. & Sashi Kandanur	Patron
Vivek Ghosh	Patron
Sachaiita Maiti & Subhankar Patra	Patron



# Durga Puja in my childhood days

I was born and brought up in South Kolkata but the four days of Durga Puja I used to spend with my family at my maternal grandparents home in Srirampur , Hooghly. This Durga puja was a so-called Baroyary Durga puja organized by a club but our grandma and all the aunts who participated in this puja felt like it was our own family Durga Puja. My sisters and I used to look forward to going to Mamar bari for Puja time. A lot of my friends used to ask why you leave Kolkata at puja time ? How can I explain to them that being with cousins once a year playing, laughing, eating, sleeping and fooling around together were the best part I used to look forward to.



Sitting with all the cousins on the floor and eating lunch on the banana leaves were the best time of the day. The fun thing was there was no daily routine to follow, no study time, non stop adda with cousins and numerous visits to the pandal daily. No routine would mean ample freedom . Astami puspanjali was a must for everyone the entire neighborhood would gather at the pandal for this auspicious time. I had never missed pushpanjali, arati and Sandi puja ( if it wasn't at night ). My mom raised us three sisters with an iron fist but these four days she wouldn't scold us for any wrong doings, she would be in a gala mood all day chatting and cracking jokes with her sisters and sister in laws.

Every evening we would put on new frocks (dress) and walk to the pandle and sit with all the cousins watching people all evening, visiting the pandals giggling at them for no good reason. The entire neighborhood used to be lit up with tuni lights. It felt like festive times looking at them being a kid. It lit up our minds with joy. Pretty soon Dasami will arrive and the elder ladies of the family and the neighborhood would get together for sindur khela and bid goodbye to Ma Durga. All the idols will be taken in a truck and immersed in the Ganga river. All of us would be in a somber mood. the entire neighborhood would look gloomy. Looking at the empty pandal stage where Ma durga was reigning for the last four days would bring everyone in melancholy. After dark we will go to our neighbors house to wish Subha Bijoya and get lots of misti in return My Didima would bring out a big platter containing different varieties of narus and gojas along with other mistis for all her grandchildren. We would have feast on it. Nimkis and ghugni were also served on this day for savory palates. Next day after lunch we would all say goodbye to each other and leave for our respectives homes. Since we used to live furthest we would take the train to get home. I used to sit by the windows of the local train on our way back. The autumn winds on my face and hair would lift up my mood for a little bit. With a heavy heart we would take the taxi from Howrah station and ride home leaving behind our cousins, our fun and our freedom till next year.

**- Sharmísta Bhattacharyya**



**"Not all dreamers are winners, but all winners are dreamers. Your dream is the key to your future."**

**-Mark Gorman**



**- Samar Majumdar**

**“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world  
is a garden.”**

**- Frances Hodgson Burnett**



**- Samar Majumdar**

- Hibiscus or Rosemallow is a genus of plants with a flower of bright colors.
- It grows mostly in the tropics, but some species grow in cool climates.
- Hibiscus often become national/state flowers. For example, the Hawaiian hibiscus is the state flower of Hawaii.
- The flower usually has five petals. Hibiscus comes in many colours like white to pink, red, purple and yellow



**"I believe, I believe every day is a good day when you paint."**

**- Bob Ross**



- Oil painting is the process of painting with pigments with a medium of drying oil as the binder.
- It has been the most common technique for artistic painting on wood panel or canvas for several centuries, spreading from Europe to the rest of the world.
- The advantages of oil for painting images include "greater flexibility, richer and denser colour, the use of layers, and a wider range from light to dark



**- Samar Majumdar**



**"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own."**

**Audre Lorde**



**- Sharmistha Bhattacharya**



**“In drawing, nothing is better than the first attempt.”-**  
**Pablo Picasso**



**Name: Aabir Royghatak Age: 7 years** 🙌



🙌 **Name: Rukmini Kar Age: 9 years**



**“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”**

**- Aristotle**



**Name: Swarnendu Mukherjee Age: 7 years** 🙌

- The Destruction of forests across the planet, in order to obtain wood and usable space is the main reason for global warming.
- Every day, millions of trees are cut down and destroyed. Everyone needs several decades to develop, but we destroy it in minutes.



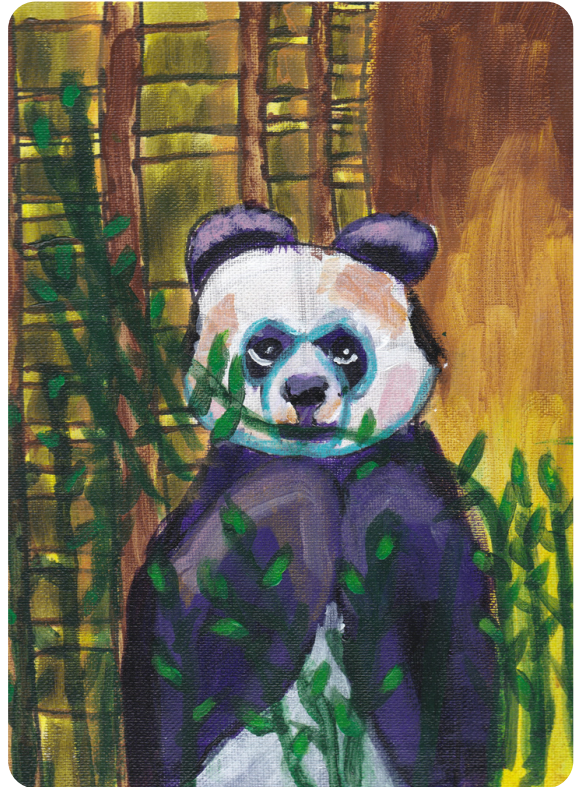
**“Colour is my day-long obsession, joy, and torment.”**  
**-Claude Monet**



**Name: Anaya Bhattacharya Age: 8 years** 🙌



"Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is a painting that speaks."  
-Plutarch



Name: Srinika Age: 8 years 🙌



**"I sometimes think there is nothing so delightful as drawing."**

**-Vincent van Gogh**



**Name:** Anouska Banerjee **Age:** 8 years 🙌



**There is no must in art because art is free.**

**-Wassily Kandinsky**

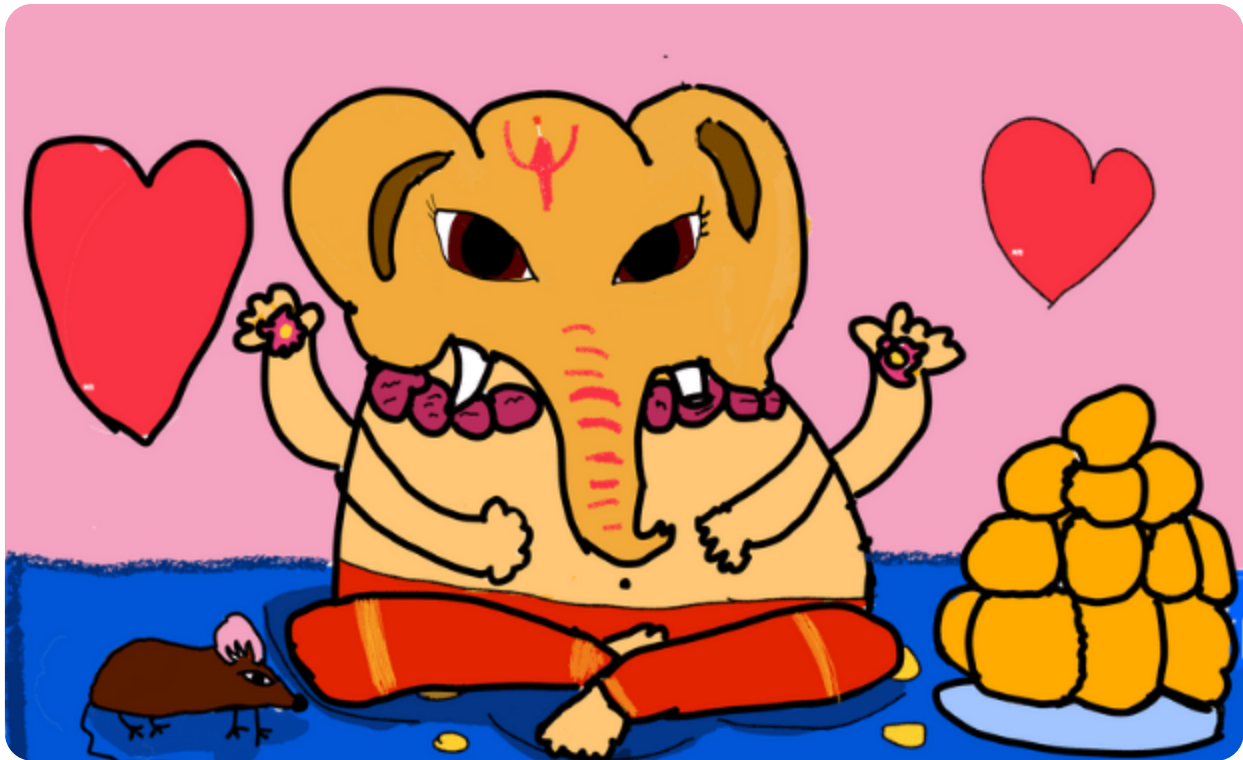


**Name: Adwik Datta Age: 7 years** 🙌

- Goddess Durga Story: Another name for Durga is Durgatinashini which means 'the one who eliminates sufferings.
- Her name thus indicates her role as the one who protects her devotees and removes evil from the world.
- Goddess Durga was formed to fight Mahishasura, an evil demon. Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva combined their powers to construct a formidable female form with ten arms.
- All the gods combined gave Durga a bodily form when she arose as a spirit from the sacred Ganga's waters.

**"Painting is the grandchild of nature. It is related to God."**

**-Rembrandt van Rijn**



- It's said that Lord Ganesha's mother, Goddess Parvati, carved an idol of a boy out of turmeric powder and breathed life into it, unbeknownst to her husband, Lord Shiva.
- So, when Ganesha denied Lord Shiva entry into his abode because Goddess Parvati was bathing inside Shiva decapitated Ganesha's head in anger.
- According to legend, an elephant was the first animal that Lord Brahma later found when he went out to look for one (to replace Ganesha's head).
- Ganesha with his parents, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, and brother Lord Kartik. Picture courtesy: Pinterest/Dolls of India Art Store

**- Swastu Sarkar**



**"Life is like a rainbow. You need both rain and sun to make its colors appear"**

**-Mark Gorman**



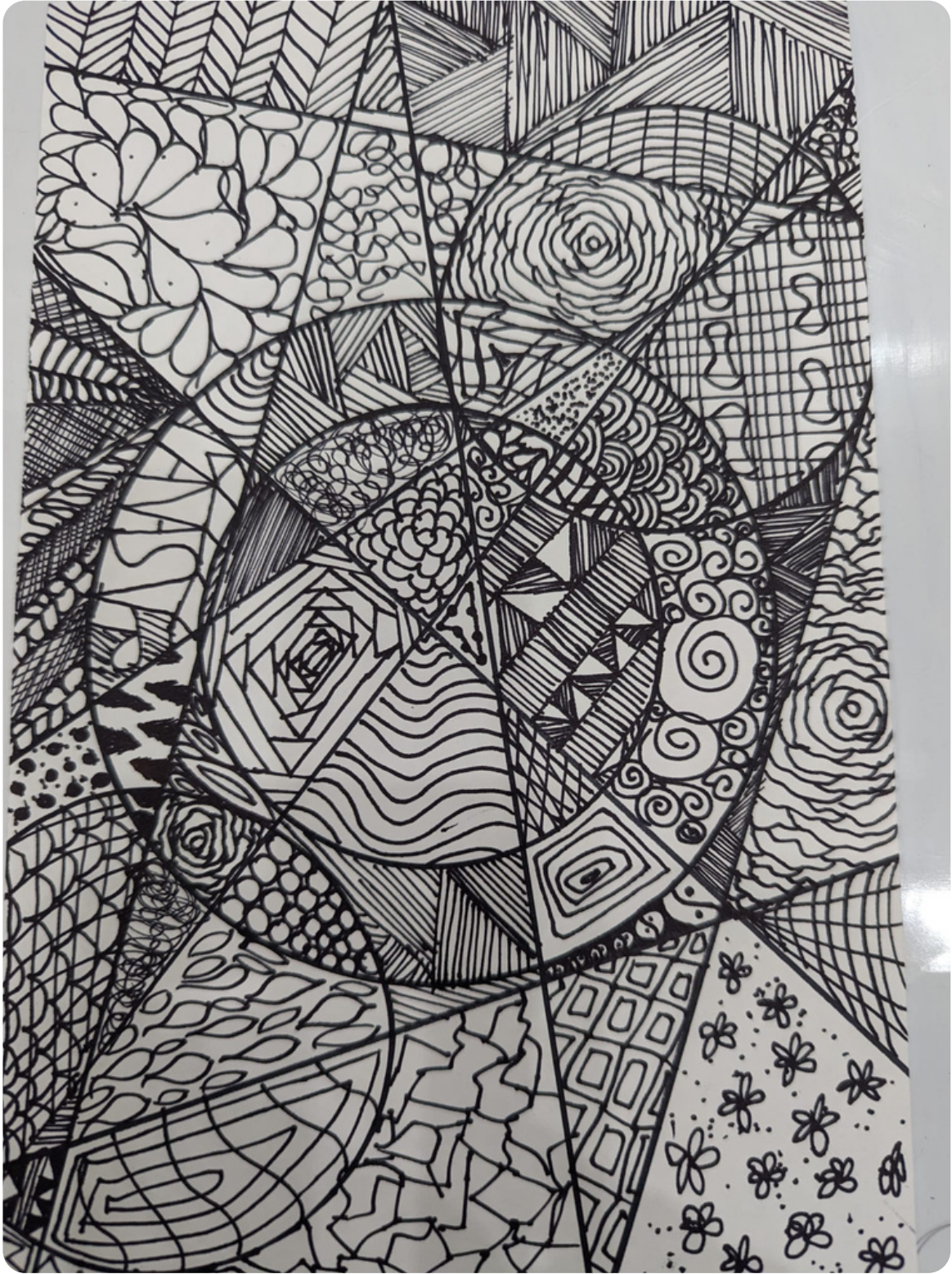
- Daytime is when you can see the sun from where you are, and its light and heat can reach you.
- Nighttime is when the sun is on the other side of the Earth from you, and its light and heat don't get to you.
- We get day and night because the Earth spins (or rotates) on an imaginary line called its axis and different parts of the planet are facing towards the Sun or away from it.
- It takes 24 hours for the world to turn all the way around, and we call this a day.
- Over a year, the length of the daytime in the part of the Earth where you live changes. Days are longer in the summer and shorter in the winter.

**- Manasvi**



**"Art is an 'apprenticeship', devoted to the science of appearances in order to create illusions of likeness"**

**- Greg Allen**

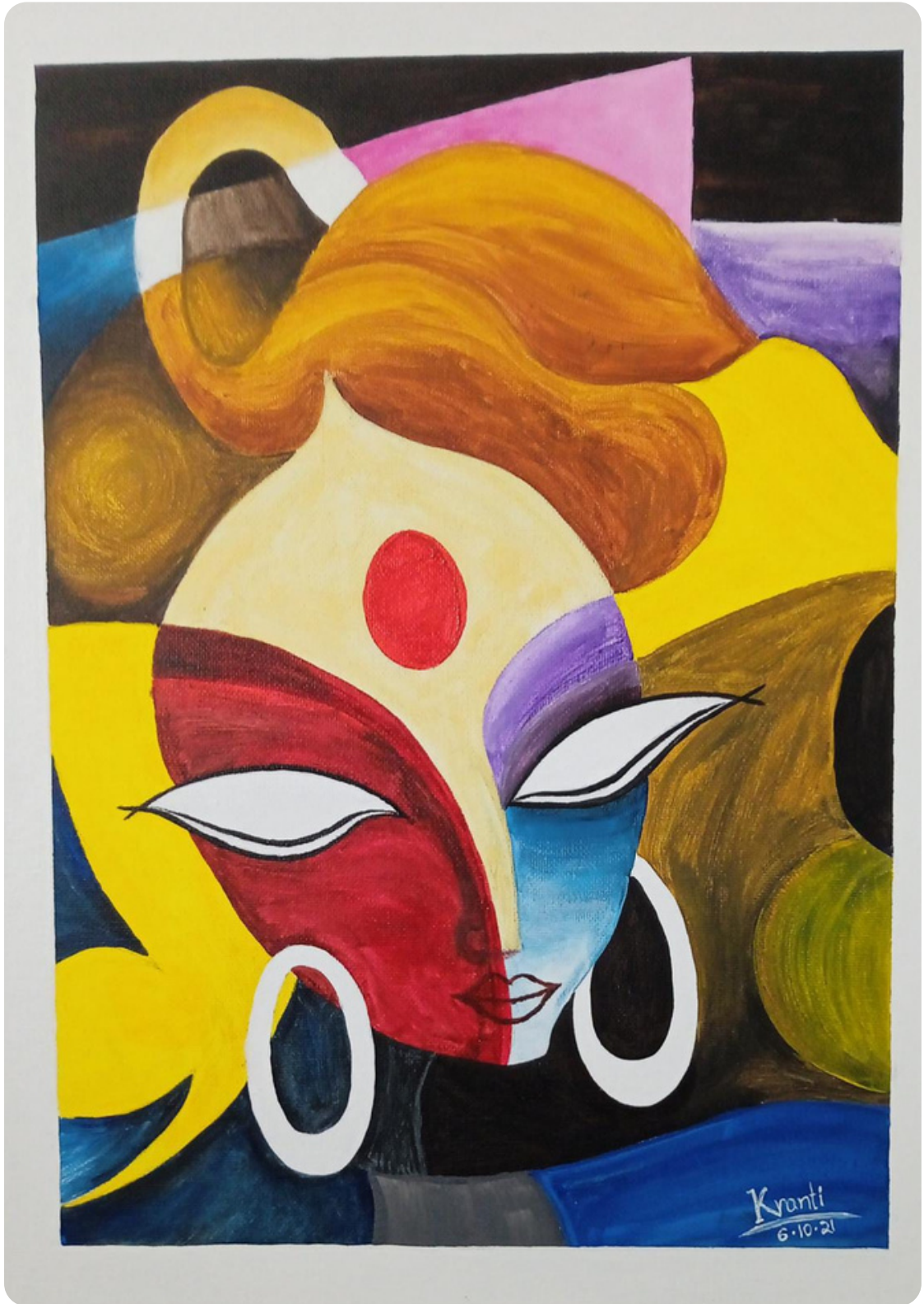


**- Manasví**



## IN MEDITATION!

“Brilliant things happen in calm minds. Be calm. You're brilliant.”



- Krantí patel

# Petuk er Travel Diary – One day in Reykjavík city

Written by: **Swati Ghosh**

Photography: **Shae Ghosh, A Ghosh**

Petuk is a Bangla word that means Foodie in English. I consider myself a petuk as I love to eat and enjoy trying local flavors when traveling to different places. My family can vouch that wherever I go, I am always thinking of food. Good food that is...Whenever we travel, I am always thinking about where to eat & which local food to try. My itinerary planning not only includes where to stay or which places are must-see...It also includes research into the best restaurants to eat at. I read reviews carefully before I make a reservation for a table.



For example, when we traveled to Lima, Peru, I called 3 months in advance to book a restaurant that was on the top 25 world's best restaurant's list, and I made sure that my travel guide knew I love food so much so that she booked us to experience two food-related tours when we were in Peru. I did something similar when we went to visit Washington DC or Sydney or all the other places, except Iceland.



Before I visited Iceland, I had the impression that their local food is bland. So, I did not really try to go out of my way to reserve restaurant tables in advance or look up local flavors. We landed in Reykjavík after traveling 8+hrs on Iceland air from Minneapolis. This was our first time ever flying the airline and we had no idea that this budget airline does not

offer free food on their transatlantic legs. A petuk had to settle on some microwaved things that were sold as cheese pizza mid-air. So, when we landed in Reykjavík, we were starving. Generally, all flights to Reykjavík reach early morning and hotel check-ins are not till noon. So, we dropped our luggage at the hotel for safekeeping and asked the concierge for some suggestions for a good breakfast place nearby. She was excited to tell me about not only breakfast places but also places where I can try fresh ice creams and some fermented shark, a local favorite that every person visiting Reykjavík must try.

So, the first stop in the capital city was at Brauð & Co bakery. The bakery opened in the spring of 2016 in a colorful house in downtown Reykjavík and it is very popular as a breakfast place and is a must-eat place if you are ever in Reykjavík. And believe me, you will not regret it.





The bakery offers fresh & delicious sourdough bread, cinnamon rolls and assorted pastries made with local, high-fat butter *Ágúst* and other fresh ingredients. Their coffee choices are limited. After all it is a bakery and not a coffee shop.

After staring at all the warm deliciousness with fresh-baked-rolls smell in the atmosphere, we settled for cinnamon buns and assorted pastries and some fresh coffee. Their cinnamon buns were soft, warm & crispy. I could smell the freshness when I held one in my hand.

I couldn't resist a quick bite and found that the sweetness was just perfect – not too sweet that it will overpower you. There were few tables to sit but none were empty for a 3-person family. So, we took our breakfast in a paper bag and a cup drip coffee and slowly started walking towards the famous Hallgrímskirkja church, which is very close by.

Hallgrímskirkja church is probably the most photographed site in all of Reykjavik by Icelandic State Architect Guðjón Samúelsson.. This rocketship-esque looking church's inspiration came from Iceland's looming mountains and sweeping glaciers. Most notably, the church's towering steeple and wings are styled after the unusual columnar basalt formations along Iceland's coast.

Hallgrímskirkja is pronounced HALL-creams-kirk-yuh. That's a difficult pronunciation. But after a fresh cup of coffee in the crisp cool air, it was easy to pronounce HALL-creams-kirk-yuh. It means Hallgrimur's church. Hallgrímur Pétursson was a 17th-century minister and poet who penned the "The Passion Hymns", which became wildly popular and to this day is read at Icelandic homes (and even broadcast on the radio) during Lent.

Standing at 244 feet, Hallgrímskirkja is the tallest building in Reykjavik. It literally towers over the historic center of the city and offers one of the best panoramic views of the city from its observation deck at the top of its steeple.



After taking the customary pictures from all different angles, we headed towards Perlan which is around 1.2 miles walk from Hallgrímskirkja church.



Perlan is an award-winning museum in Reykjavik city that is a glass dome which sits at the top of six water tanks and is home to the most incredible and high-tech nature exhibition in Iceland.

It does an amazing job at pulling you in and making you feel immersed in Icelandic nature. The exhibits are fascinating, engaging, and interactive. We were intrigued by the deep look into the geological activity of Iceland and mesmerized by the beautiful videos – including the outstanding and moving Northern Lights Planetarium Show. About 10% of Iceland is covered in glaciers

and there are popular tours available to explore glacier ice caves. However, not everyone has the time or budget to take one of these epic tours. It is wonderful that Perlan has created the ice cave to give visitors an idea of how a glacier ice cave looks and feels like. The ice cave was off course icy and very cold, and surprisingly similar to the real thing. We wandered through tunnels, looked into crevices, and were very impressed with this realistic exhibit.

There was Ice Throne in the cave for a photo opportunity. But I did not try sitting on the throne. I was looking for the exit to feel warm again. We ended the Perlan tour by going to the top deck to take in and enjoy a 360-degree view of the surrounding scenery of this beautiful city.



After spending a couple of hours in Perlan, it was time for lunch. We walked back to the city and looked for Café Loki which is a cozy little café and restaurant very close to the Hallgrímskirkja church our hotel concierge had recommended. The inside environment of Cafe Loki is best described as modern and cozy. The cuisine is inspired by many traditional Icelandic recipes that were passed on from generation to generation. The restaurant offers a variety of combination platters which allows patrons to taste all the best authentic food Iceland has to offer.





We were hungry after the walk back and started our lunch with Icelandic meat soup. The traditional meat soup had local lamb meat and was wonderful. It was served with warm rye bread and butter. I have had rye bread here in US, but this rye bread was the best I ever had before.

It was finished within a few minutes. We were so fast in finishing the dish that there was no time for food pictures.

After the soup, each of us took a combination Icelandic plate that had 3 Rye bread slices with each slice with different toppings. First, one had mashed haddock, potato & onion called Plokkfiskur, the second slice with smoked trout, and the last one with smoked lamb. On the side, it had dried fish with butter. A small cup in the middle of the plate had the fermented shark, a delicacy of Iceland. This delicacy is to be eaten along with Brennivin schnapps (only if you are above the drinking age).

My not-so-picky teenager was suddenly very picky and did not enjoy the smoked trout or smoked lamb. But I am born a Bengali and never say no to anything fishy..... well almost. I enjoyed the Plokkfiskur and the smoked trout. Even chewed on the dried fish which was slightly salty and almost reminded me of the dried fish (Shutki) we make back home with a lot of spices & chilies. But fermented shark. I had to draw the line. This was chewy with a weird after-taste and I almost doubted if I am Bengali enough as I immediately knew that I will never try this again. But I have to say that Caffe Loki will remain one of my favorite places to eat when in Reykjavik. It was a long day & it was time to check into the hotel to take some rest before going out to enjoy the rest of the city at the night. We came out and started walking back to the hotel excited and happy about the next few days of exploration that will take us all around Iceland's famous ring road but were tired as well after a long day of wandering around a new city.

At the end of my first day in Reykjavik city, I am happy to say that I was totally wrong about my thinking of Icelandic food being bland. The dishes we tried were not spicy-hot but they are full of flavors. For a family like us, whose vacation & life, in general, revolves around food, we looked forward to bonding with each other, and reminisce about the best and worst food experiences in our past vacations without thinking about work or school or house chores. Petuk is making memories with her teenager who is almost ready to leave the nest in a few years.

# Adol Bodol!

Adol Bodol or Adla Badli is a story about Jayanta and Amiyo who are travelling to Madhusudanpur on the same night. While Jayanta is going to meet his newly wedded wife Rekha at his brother-in-law lawyer Souren Nag's house, Amiyo who is a school teacher is travelling there to join the local boy's high school.



Let's see what adventures they both go through on that dark stormy night and whether they are able to reach their respective destinations or not. Things are about become chaotic and confusing. Join us to witness their hilarious adventurous journey in this comedy drama.

**Is it a plot to murder Jayanto???**



**MAA ASHCHEEN**

Venue: Campo Verde High School  
3870 S Quartz St.  
Gilbert  
AZ-85297

**To know the truth, see Adol Badol,  
Sat 1st Oct, -7PM onwards...**



**Will Rekha Runaway with Amiyo???**



**MAA ASHCHEEN**

Venue: Campo Verde High School  
3870 S Quartz St.  
Gilbert  
AZ-85297

**To know the truth, see Adol Badol,  
Sat 1st Oct, -7PM onwards...**





# Cast

<b>Amita</b>	-Sarmistha Gupta	<b>Jayanta</b>	-Mithun Thakur
<b>Amiyo</b>	-Surajit Sarkar	<b>Soma</b>	- Kuntala Saha
<b>Reba</b>	-Sharmistha Bhattacharya	<b>Leena</b>	- Deblina Banerjee
<b>Rekha</b>	-Rasna Sarkar	<b>Pandit Moshai</b>	- Anupam Banerjee
<b>Souren</b>	-Dilip Chakraborty	<b>Thakur</b>	- Devika Choudhury
<b>Alihak</b>	-Saikat Banerjee	<b>Headmaster</b>	- Chayan Bhattacharya
<b>Tewari</b>	-Sanjay Gupta		

*We (the entire drama cast) thank our lifelines, I mean our Prompters.*

**Bobby Saha, Esha Bhattacharjee and Abhirupa Layek.**

*We thank our editing team*

**Arnab Ghosh, Sarmishtha Gupta and Mithun Thakur**

*We thank our make up team*

**Esha Bhattacharjee, Abhirupa Layek**

*We thank our Props preparation team*

**Soham Ghosh, Aditya, Dhritiman**

*We thank our Our Sound Engineer*

**Dhritiman. Thank you. Thank you Surajit and Anupam for creating the sound files.**

*We thank*

**Surajit, Anupam, Tanushree, Binoy da, and Babu da for helping us in setting up the sound on stage.**

*We thank*

**All the Samhita family members who opened their doors to our drama group for rehearsals.**

*We thank*

**Binoy Saha who initiated this entire journey for drama this year and our one stop solution point.**

*We thank*

**Mr. Biru Mukhopadhyay, the author of this original script.**

**Thank you all.**



# Arizona!!

॥আগমনী॥

আঁধার ভেদিয়া রবি এলো পূব দিগন্তে।

শুভ্র তুষার পর্বত শিখরে রবিরশ্মি জ্বালিল প্রদীপ।

ক্ষণকাল পরে স্তব্ধ অম্বর মাঝে, উড়িয়া বেড়ায়

ক্ষুদ্র শুভ্র পুষ্পরাশি দিক দিগন্তে।

হওয়া উত্তল আনিল আনন্দ দোল।

স্বর্গ হতে মায়ের মর্তে আগমন।

কিছু নাহি দেখি, শুনি শঙ্খধনী,

ঘন্টারবে মঙ্গলারতি, মা আসিছেন মর্ত ভূমি পরে।

হে মঙ্গলময়ী, দয়া কোরো, সকলেরে কোরো করুনা, হিংসা ভুলে,  
দর্প ভুলে,

পাই যেন তব পদতলে ঠাই।

- Samar Majumdar

# Farewell!

॥ বিদায় বেলা ॥

শহরের পথে পথে বনে বনানন্তরে যদিকে দুচোখ যায় দেখি  
আবির খেলা।

প্রকান্ড লম্বা লম্বা গাছগুলিসব ছোটদের সাথে রঙের খেলায়  
উঠেছে মেতে।

সবুজ পাতা রঙিন হয়েছে,

হয়েছে শুকনো আজ।

ঝরে পড়ে যায় রঙিন পাতা

কেউবা হলুদ, কেউবা সাদা, কেউবা আবার রক্তরাঙা।

বহে হওয়া শন শন

ডিগবাজি খায় পাতারা তখন।

ঘাড় ধরে দল বেঁধে

লুটো পুটি খায় পথে পথে।

বিদায় বেলায় রঙের ভেলায়

বলে যায়, আবার আসবো ফিরে।

- Samar Majumdar



# Beautiful!

॥ওগো সুন্দরী॥

ওগো সুন্দরী তব মুখপানে চাহি

হয়েছে কি বিষম দশা দেখ দেখি।

তোমারে দেখিয়া ভুলেছি নিজে

মন মোর ধায় তব পানে।

ভুলেছি সমুখে পিচ্ছিল পথ

লুটায় পড়ি পথ পরে নিজেরই অজান্তে।

সবুজের সমারহ।

সবুজের মাঝে লাল নীল হলুদের ছোঁয়া।

অপূর্ব এক অঙ্গের শোভা।

মুখ খানি তব লজ্জায় রাঙা

রং খানি যেন দুধে এক ফোঁটা আলতায় ছোঁয়া।

কিছু ফোঁটা কিছু অফোঁটা কুঁড়ির মাঝে

সবুজ পত্র বিন্যাসে দেখি সব কিছু অসীম উৎসাহে।

রূপের আধার লয়ে দুলিছ মৃদু সমীরনে।

রসিক পথিক পারে না মুখ ফিরাতে তব সুবাসের ডাকে।

- Samar Majumdar



# Beautiful Beauty!

॥ মায়াময়ী সুন্দরী ॥

পশ্চিমের আকাশ রাজা

বুঝি এ এক লৌহ কপাট।

পিছনে ক্লান্ত সূর্য্য পরিশ্রান্ত

জানেনা কি দোষে বন্দী হয়েছে সে আজ,

ঘনান্ধকার রাত্রি বাস।

কাঁদে একাকী নীরবে।

মুছে যায় দিনের আলো

নীড়ে ফিরে যায় পাখী।

রাস্তার আলোগুলি ঘুম ভাঙ্গা চোখে, আলো জ্বলে পথের ঠিকানা  
দেয় বলে।

কিছু আলো জানালার ফাঁকে পর্দা এড়িয়ে উঁকি দিয়ে কি জানি কি  
দেখে।

রাত এলো গুটি গুটি পায়ে।

নিজের মহিমায় আঁধার সরিয়ে দেখা দিল মায়াবিনী চাঁদ, আলোর  
বন্যা লয়ে সাথে।

চাঁদের হাট বসেছে আকাশ জুড়ে।

আলো ঝলমল পূর্ণিমা রাত, শুভ্র মেঘদল মাঝে

অবাক তারারা মধুর ভায়োলিনে সুর তোলে।

মর্তলোকে বিছায়ে জোছনা চাঁদ বলে দেখো আমি কত সুন্দর এ  
রাতে।

কবি বলে তুমি সুন্দরী, তোমার মায়ায় মুগ্ধ মর্তভূমি।

- Samar Majumdar



# Busy World!

॥ ব্যস্ত পৃথিবী ॥

ব্যস্ত পৃথিবী ব্যস্ত। এখন যেটুকু সময় আছে দু লাইন লিখি। সময় এগিয়ে চলেছে। দিনের শেষে সূর্য ডোবার পালা দেখেছ? এ জীবন সূর্যেরই মত একদিন হটাৎ ঘন অন্ধকারে হারিয়ে যাবে। মৃত্যু অনিবার্য, ভয় নেই কিছু তাতে। এ সংসারে যখন প্রয়োজন ফুরায়, তখন আনন্দের অসময়ে মৃত্যু হয়, নিজেরই অজান্তে। বৃষ্টির জলে ঝরা পাতা যেমন অবহেলায় পথে পথে গড়িয়ে যায়, বার্ধক্যের জীবন ও একা একা হেথা হোথা ঘুরে ফেরে। যে মোমবাতি নিভে গেছে তাকে জ্বালানোর প্রয়োজন হয় না। এতো হল বাস্তবের এক কঠিন রূপ, যা সবার চোখেই ধরা পড়ে।

আমি ভাবছি এর আর এক রূপ। জীবন বহুরূপী। সময় এসেছে ওকে নতুন করে সাজাতে। এবার নিজের কথা ভাব। সূর্য ডোবার পালা দেখেছ। দেখেছ রঙের বাহার পশ্চিমে। কিছু রং তুলে নিজেকে সাজাও, আনন্দ আবার জেগে উঠবে, গান গাইবে। সম্মুখে অনন্ত আলো। এবার সেই আলোতেই খুঁজে দেখ নিজের সুর। মনের হারমোনিয়াম জোর দিয়ে বাজাও। এখানে বাটারীর চিপের জন্য ভয় পেয়োনা আর দশটা বিশ্বজয়ী গাড়ি তৈরির কম্পানির মত। যা ভাল লাগে তাই করো। বেপরোয়া সৃষ্টির আনন্দে মাতাল হলে তুমি হবে জয়ী।

- Samar Majumdar

# Rain!

।वृष्टि।।

টেবিলের পাশে বসে আছি। জানালার পরে বিশাল আকাশ। আর তারই নীচে ছোট বড় কিছু গাছপালা।। সন্ধ্যা এসে গেছে। পর্দার ফাঁক দিয়ে তাকে দেখলাম। বছরের শেষ মাস ডিসেম্বর। ঘোলাটে আকাশ। অস্তাচলে রবি অলস ভাবেই চলে গেল নীরবে। যাবার সময় মনটা তার বেশ ভারাক্রান্ত ছিল বলেই মনে হয়। চোখে পড়েনা সেই মন মাতানো আবির্ভাব মাখা সন্ধ্যার আকাশ। এ এক প্রাণহীন আকাশ। ঘোলাটে আকাশ। ঠিক যেন ভেজা, ছাই রং এর একটা কাপড় কে যেন শুকোতে দিয়েছে। হয়ত বা বার্ধ্যক্যের এক নিঃপ্রাণ ছবি।

অদূরেই গাছ গুলো দাঁড়িয়ে আছে। পাতা নেই তাতে। মাস দুই হল তারাও চলে গেছে। ওদের হাড়গুলোই শুধু চোখে পড়ে। যৌবনের রূপ নেই, এ ওর গায়ে ঢলে পড়া ভাব নেই, কানে কানে কথা নেই, চাপা মিষ্টি হাসির রব নেই, বাহারি রঙের সাজ নেই।

এরই সাথে শুরু হয় বৃষ্টি। এ বৃষ্টি কখনই সে ভয়ঙ্কর কালবৈশাখী নয়। সে ছবি দেখিনা পশ্চিমে। যেন এক যুদ্ধের প্রস্তুতি, চারিদিকে থম থমে ভাব, কি জানি কি হয়। শুরু হয় শঙ্খনিবাদ, আকাশ জুড়ে আন্ধকার। ঘন কাল মেঘের হুংকারে শুরু হয় হিংস্র মেঘের তান্ডব নৃত্য। মুহূর্তে মুহূর্তে বিদ্যুৎ চমকে দেখা যায় কম্পিত তরবারির বিঘ্নয়কর দৃশ্য। ভাবি মনে অতি উৎকণ্ঠায় এই বুঝি পৃথিবীটা হয়ে যায় দুটুকরো। এ সব কিছু আজো চোখে পড়েনি। পাড়া পড়শীর কাছে শুনিনি কখনো সে কথা।

এখানে বৃষ্টি, সে তার আপন মনেই চলে। একটু অলস প্রকৃতির। কখনো একটু জোরে আবার কখনো বা হালকা হওয়ায় উড়ে যায় মনের অজান্তে অন্য কোথা অন্য কোনো খানে। বাড়ির সামনে এক হাটু জল নেই। সে ছোট বেলার কথা। কাগজের নৌকো বানিয়ে দিতাম ভাসিয়ে জলে। সে দিন গুলো আজ কোথায় যেন হারিয়ে গেছে।

- Samar Majumdar



# SAMHITA YOUTH

By **Debalina Banerjee**



The youth wing of Samhita had been involved in various cultural activities and community outreach events throughout the year. Some of the remarkable events led by Samhita youths had been part of the Grand launch of the Bharat Heritage Organization (BHO) representing the state of West Bengal, Assam and North East states in the cultural carnival.

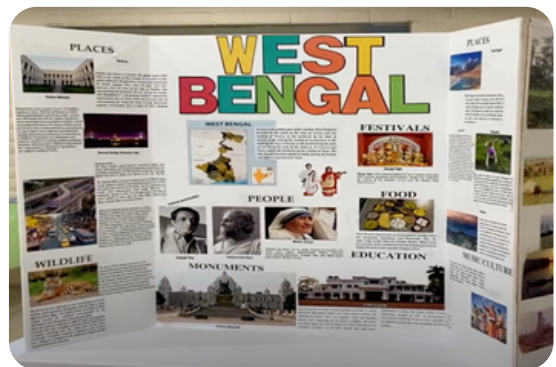
The event was held on 24th April at SVK Temple organized by the Youth Artists Development Association (YADA). Samhita's youth participation led by Debopam Banerjee enabled the organizations and communities from different parts of India enrich their youth with the cultural heritage of West Bengal, Assam and North East states. It also enabled the youth artists of Samhita showcase their talents at such a multicultural event.



*Posters on display representing culture and heritage of West Bengal, Assam and North Eastern states of India*

This event facilitated in promoting knowledge about most Indian states which were on display by various organizations representing various parts of India and also helped the participants explore and acquire more knowledge on their roots from which they originate which was in alignment to the mission to "promote, preserve and propagate our rich Bharat Heritage."

The second major event organized and led by Debopam and participated by the Samhita Youths helped to turn "hunger into hope". Youth volunteers took initiative in this event of packing meals at "Feed My Starving Children" that is eventually being served to different underprivileged children across the world. This was a wonderful opportunity for children and families to give back to the society in a meaningful way.



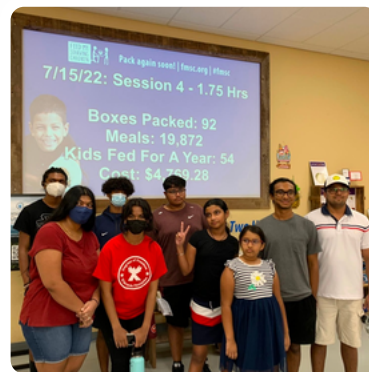
*Posters on display representing culture and heritage of West Bengal, Assam and North Eastern states of India*



**Youth Volunteer and Lead Debopam receiving certificate of Appreciation from BHO head Ramya Ranganathan**

Participation from everyone is most welcome which would not only help the youth team to strengthen but also help them continue to grow. Write to us at [info@azsamhita.org](mailto:info@azsamhita.org) for participation for such youth endeavors

This also gave the opportunity for the Samhita families to have quality time together for a noble cause. Samhitas help contributed towards feeding 54 Starving children for a whole year. The Samhita youth has many such events lined up in their agenda that can help in community and social outreach and also extend the hands towards a social cause.



**Samhita sincerely acknowledge participation of all Samhita youths as listed below**

**Anouska Banerjee, Debopam Banerjee, Hrijoo Bosu Mullick, Manasvi Pathak, Prakriti Saha, Rishit Maiti, Sanman Das, Srijon Saha, Sthuthi Das, Swastika Sarkar**





# SHIVA AS LORD OF DANCE – NATARAJA

## SAMAR

As a symbol, Shiva Nataraja is a brilliant invention. It combines in a single image Shiva's roles as creator, preserver, and destroyer of the universe and conveys the Indian conception of the never-ending cycle of time. Although it appeared in sculpture as early as the fifth century, its present, world-famous form evolved under the rule of the Cholas. Shiva's dance is set within a flaming halo.

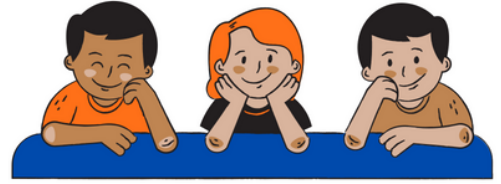


The god holds in his upper right hand the damaru (hand drum that made the first sounds of creation). His upper left hand holds agni (the fire that will destroy the universe). With his lower right hand, he makes abhayamudra (the gesture that allays fear). The dwarflike figure being trampled by his right foot represents apasmara purusha (illusion, which leads mankind astray). Shiva's front left hand, pointing to his raised left foot, signifies refuge for the troubled soul. The energy of his dance makes his hair fly to the sides. The symbols imply that, through belief in Shiva, his devotees can achieve salvation.

***"O my Lord, Thy hand holding the sacred drum has made and ordered the heavens and earth and other worlds and innumerable souls. Thy lifted hand protects both the conscious and unconscious order of thy creation. All these worlds are transformed by Thy hand bearing fire. Thy sacred foot, planted on the ground, gives an abode to the tired soul struggling in the toils of causality. It is Thy lifted foot that grants eternal bliss to those that approach Thee. These Five-Actions are indeed Thy Handiwork.."***

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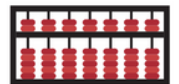
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