

HOMAGE TO OUR PRESIDENTS





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COVER IMAGE

PAST PRESIDENTS OF MALAYSIAN BENGALI
ASSOCIATION

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SHANKHA

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**DISCLAIMER ON PAST PRESIDENTS PHOTOS AND THE RELEVANCE
OF TRYING TO BE WITHIN THE TIME FRAME.**

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PAST PRESIDENTS

1927 - 2022 (95 YEARS)



PUJA COMMITTEE

1927: DR.B.C. MAJUMDER
1928: MR. A.B. PAUL
1929-1930: MR. N.N. NANDY
1931-1933: DR.P.N. SEN
1934: MR.A.B.PAUL
1935: DR.B.C. MAJUMDER
1936: MR.A.B.PAUL
1937: DR.B.C. MAJUMDER
1938-1940: MR.A.K.SEN
1941: MR.U.C. DAS
1942-1943: DR.D.K. MAJUMDER
1944-1945: MR.B.B SEN GUPTA
1950: MR.U.C. DAS
1951: MR.N.C. DASS

M.B.A. PRESIDENTS

1951-1956: MR H.K. CHOUDHURY
1956-1957: DR J.B. RAY
1957-1958: DR J.B. RAY &
MR B.B. DAS GUPTA
1958-1959: MR S.C. SEN GUPTA
1959-1960: MR S.C. SEN GUPTA &
MR B.B. DAS GUPTA
1960-1964: MR B.B. DAS GUPTA

1960-1964: MR B.B. DAS GUPTA
1965-1967: MR H.K. CHOUDHURY A.M.N.
1968: DR A.K. DUTTA SHARMA
1969-1970: DR A.M. TARAFDER
1971-1972: DR K.K. MANDAL A.M.N.
1973-1974: MR N.C. DAS
1975-1976: MR N.G. CHAUDHURY
1977-79: MR S.K. GHOSH
1980-1983: MR D.K. BARDHAN P.M.C.
1984-85: MR S.R. SEN GUPTA
1986-1992: MR D.K. BARDHAN P.M.C.
1993: MS MONJULEE DAS
1994: DR K.K. MANDAL A.M.N.,J.P.
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1998: MR D.K. BARDHAN P.M.C.
1999-2001: MR AJIT ROY
2002-2003: MR D.K. BARDHAN P.M.C.
2004-2005: DR ANISH KUMAR ROY
2006-2007: MRS NOMITA PAUL
BALASINGAM
2008-2012: MR PRODEEP KUMAR ROY
2013-2016: MS NOMITA CHOUDHURY
2017: DR S. R. SEN GUPTA J.P.
2018: MS NANDITA GHOSH
(ACTING PRESIDENT)
2019-2020: MR SUJIT KUMAR GHOSH
2021 - 2022 : MS. SWAPNA DAS



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Nomoshkar! Wishing all MBA members and patrons a Happy and Prosperous New Year – 2023! Pray that we have a safe and blessed year ahead!

This has been an amazing experience for my entire team and I must say we have achieved much progress with the blessings of our Maas. All our committee heads and sub-committee members have worked very hard to bring significant changes to the MBA operations.

Our upcoming festivities for this year, shall for the most part take place in Port Dickson, our ancestral home which is a beautiful and ideal location to celebrate. MBA owns 3.4 acres of land with a Multipurpose Hall, Prayer Hall, Dining and Homestay facilities. We encourage our members to utilise and promote our facilities to any potential collaborations for the benefit of our inheritance.

MBA has lined up several interesting events primarily benefitting her members. This includes a 20% rebate for MBA Accommodation and members will be able to offer prayers to all our deities in Pooja Bari (Bengal House) at gazetted prayer timings.

I'd like to add that my efforts as President of my beloved Puja Bari are solely dedicated to restoring the very essence of the culture that our forefathers stood for, with no discrimination but with pure reverence that we can only become greater as one unified whole - we need you to help us transfer the spirit of our community to our children and their children's children: only together can we!

Please do enjoy the read of our very own MBA Publication (Online Edition) of Shankha Magazine Volume 4/5 (For terms 2019, 2021-23) Special mention for Dr Sandeep Poddar for his 2019-2020 editorial contribution and Sujata Nandy, is in charge of this edition of the Shankha magazine, which is ironic because my friend named the magazine back in 2008.

We offer our deep gratitude to Dr Professor Shudipta Ghosh for sponsoring the Termite Control Treatment for our MBA as it has been a true threat to our sacred building – thank you for your generous support.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family, including my mother, Sadhana Das, my sister, Kalpana Das, my brother, Jaideep Das, and nieces, as well as my husband, Raja Segaran Kuppuswamy, and my two daughters, Kieya and Shreya, for their unwavering support and understanding in my efforts to ensure that my father's and his peers' tributes are not in vain.

With hand on my heart, Nomoshkar!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Swapna Das', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Mrs Swapna Das
President (2021 – 2022)
Malaysian Bengalee Association

M.B.A COMMITTEE 2021/2022



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MS. SWAPNA DAS

VICE PRESIDENT

MS. NOMITA CHOUDHURY

SECRETARY

MR. ESHAN NANDAN ROY

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MR. SUBHASH CHANDRA DAS

AUDITORS

MRS. NOMITA PAUL BALASINGAM

MR. PRODEEP KUMAR ROY

THE LIFE OF GOURI DASİ MALAKAR MY BELOVED MOTHER

ROMARANI MALAKAR (PRONOTHY MALAKAR) DAUGHTER

East Bengal, India - My mother, Srimati Gouri Dasi Malakar, was born on the 11th of March 1931 in Habiganj, Faridpur, East Bengal, India (later East Pakistan, present Bangladesh). She was the oldest of five siblings and she had three brothers and one sister. Her parents were Sri Bijoy Krishna Malakar and Srimati Shenalatha Malakar. They all lived happily in an extended family unit.

My mother and all her family and friends had to leave their homeland with only their clothes on their backs, losing their native land in 1947. My mother had experienced British rule, the Bengal Famine and the Partition of India.



West Bengal, India - Coming from a serene and beautiful village to a city is the biggest challenge in life for the East Bengal people. Mother and her family came to Belaghata, Calcutta. It was a hard life there and she was just a young teenager then, around 14 or 15 years of age.

Then came the day when the authorities were placing the refugees in camps known as 'colony'. My mother's Makhan Kaku instead took my maternal grandfather and family to Belgharia, near them.

Soon a proposal of marriage came for my mother. My maternal grandmother disagreed with the proposal at first, as my mother will have to go and live in a foreign land, Malaya. However, with family persuasion, my grandmother, at last, gave her consent for the proposal. Thus, my mother, Srimati Gouri Dasi Malakar married my father, Dr. Bhupendra Chandra Malakar, a widower with several children, in 1950 in Calcutta, India. She decided to stay back to look after her stepchildren until the youngest son started school. By then it was March 1956 when my mother traveled by ship to Penang, Malaya.

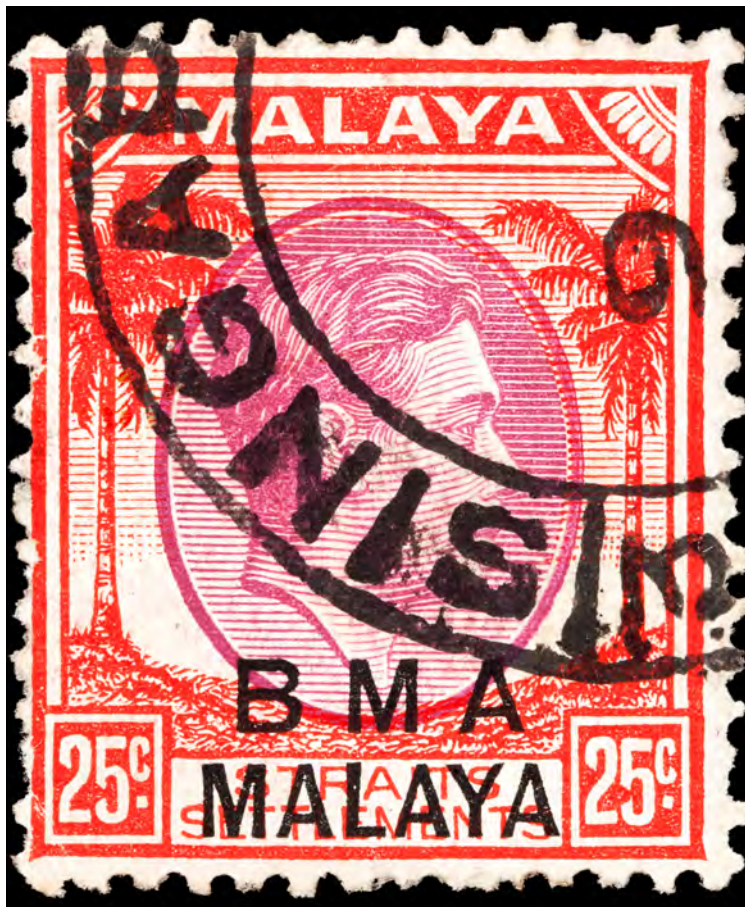


Life in Malaya - Jerantut, Pahang is where my father worked as a doctor when she had first arrived in Malaya. She was only equipped with her mother tongue, Bengali. Hence, my father mentioned this to the estate manager whose wife by chance knew the Bengali language. Soon the manager's wife, who spoke Bengali, came to visit. Hence, my mother had a friend at last.

One fine day, my father was informed of a vacancy in Sungai Mahang Estate, Nilai in Negeri Sembilan. He applied and was granted the position of the estate doctor there whereby, my parents moved to Sungai Mahang Estate, Nilai. Negeri Sembilan in 1957. They lived in the doctor's bungalow on the hilltop, overlooking the estate. They lived here until my father's demise.

My mother lived a very contented life here. My father even encouraged my mother to learn driving but my mother, having been afraid on the first day itself, abandoned the idea. Mother had a lot of help with the housework as workers were supplied to help clean, wash etc. She learnt Tamil from the estate 'Ayamah' who looks after the workers' children when they are out to work.

My mother being a visionary suggested to my father to buy a house or land. My father decided not to do so as he had planned to return to India, once he retires in a few years. My father even refused to buy land in 2½ miles Labu Road, Seremban, where many Bengalis had bought land.





Losing Her Life Partner, Her Husband - My mother's biggest challenges in life began when my father, Dr. Bhupendra Chandra Malakar passed away on the 29th of October 1960, after which my mother was all alone in Malaysia. It was the toughest time of her life, with no one to share her grievances. My mother, a doctor's wife, was suddenly stranded in a country with no family or relatives - neither from my mother's or father's side.

She was then seven months pregnant with me, Romarani Malakar/Pronothy. She had full faith in God and trusted Him; one day God will 'mukh tule chabeh' (God will answer our prayers). The Bengali Community came forward to help my mother in her time of need.

My mother was ever so grateful to my father's close friend (my 'uncle'), Dr. Kitish Chandra Roy Choudhury and family. Didi (Srimati Ashalatha Choudhury) was with my mother at the Seremban General Hospital just before my father passed away.

My father put my mother's hand in Didi's hand and said, "Please look after your kakima and the unborn baby." I was born on the 31st of December 1960. That is why she never allowed my mother to move out. She kept her promise and made sure we lived with them until I could look after my mother. My mother moved in with my uncle's family in Kirby Estate, 9th Mile Labu Road in November 1960 and lived with them until mid-1987. Then in November, 1966, we all moved to my uncle's new house in 2 ½ miles Labu Road, Seremban from Rahang where we lived for almost a year.

We were only to live with them temporarily, as my mother was waiting for my father's estate to be settled by the court here in Malaysia before she could go back to India. As my father did not have a will, the property/estate matters were delayed for almost 20 years before it was transferred to another lawyer in 1980, who cleared the issue within weeks. This was one of the reasons why my mother stayed on with my uncle's family.

A Loving Mother - Mother's love is unconditional. She put me first, her priority in life. She was ever so wise, humble, kind, honest, loving and giving, strong etc. She taught me to be good, patient, calm, and ever so forgiving. Her faith in god was ever so strong and never waived. She believed that serving others is serving God. Believing education to be important for both girls and boys, she always told me to study hard so that if at all one day I have to be alone I can live an independent life.

She worked hard every day, until mid-November 1985 to mid-May 1986, when she had her most deserved opportunity for the first time in thirty years to visit her family in India. She left with me for Calcutta to see her family and her parents in Belgharia.

My Beloved Mother's Life with me in RKT Sungai Merab, Selangor - My mother moved from 2½ Miles Labu Road and came to live with me in Rancangan Kemajuan Tanah (RKT), Sungai Merab, Sepang, Kajang from mid-1987 to November 1990.

Transfer to Seremban - Thence, when I got my transfer to Seremban in November 1990, we rented a house in Taman Permai 2. Mother was overjoyed as we were getting our own place.

Mother believed in the investment of buying a house, and Mother's close friend who was like a sister, Kem Mummy, Srimati Gunamani helped us in the purchase of the house in December 1990.



We moved to our new house in Taman Labu Jaya on the 30th of April 1991. We had a very happy life together here. There are many fond memories here. We lived here until the 22nd of January 2018, for almost 28 years. Maria Getrudis Kolo came into our lives at the end of January 2007. She hails from Indonesia and has helped me look after mother since then.

In 2011, my mother was given Malaysian citizenship application letters from the Home Ministry by the Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein. The ceremony was held in Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur on the 29 of July 2011 and it was one of the most memorable days in our lives. She had tried to get the Malaysian citizenship since the 1960's. Now after 56 years, her dream came true. Thus, she was extremely happy. The Singapore Bengali Association gave my mother a certificate of appreciation for being conferred the Malaysian citizenship. The initiative was taken up by Mr. Amar Bushan Nandy of Singapore.

Life in Taman Lian, Seremban – We had our ‘greha pravesha’ on the 22 of January 2018 and stayed here from that day onwards. My mother came into the house holding our Goddess Lakshmi’s photo on her lap. Her bedroom had a good view of the garden outside. Every morning and afternoon she would get up and walk to the window using her walking frame. She’d sit on her special rattan chair watching the birds, plants, cars, etc. pass by. She was much healthier once she came here as air was fresher and the house has very good ventilation. She lived here until her call to god’s abode on the 30 of March 2019. Om Shanti.

Time to be with God - No words were spoken, no time to say bye, you were gone before we knew it - an exceptional and noble soul, full of compassion and love for everybody. No words can express our feelings of your loss. You were a devoted daughter, sister, aunt, wife and a loving mother – a true Karmayogi with selfless nature. You were the backbone of the family and the pillar of strength to everyone in the family. You were and still are the source of our inspiration. You touched the heart of everyone you met. The legend of your life's struggle will always guide and inspire us each day. True, one year (30th of March 2020) has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, leaving a deep void in our lives. You were indeed a great source of strength, love to all of us. We pray to God to grant peace to your noble soul. (Adapted from the internet)



**SELFLESS SOUL ALWAYS LOVING AND KIND
SUCH ARE MEMORIES YOU LEAVE BEHIND
YOU FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT GOODBYE
BUT MEMORIES OF YOU WILL NEVER DIE**

N.B.

- My grandmother dedicated this song to my mother since she came to Malaysia: Amar Swapne Dekha Rajkanya by Shyamal Mitra
- This song - my mother said that it reflects her life: Teenti Mantra Niye Jader Jibon by Shyamal Mitra
- The song that I dedicated to my mother: Tu Kitni Achhi Hai by Lata Mangeshkar
- My mother loved this song by Rabindranath Tagore - Ekla Cholo Re

আমার নিজস্ব পুজো, যা আমাকে সারা জীবন ভরিয়ে রাখবে, আমার মতো করে

ড: অভিজিৎ ঘোষ
(DR. ABHIJIT GHOSH)



সকাল থেকেই মনটা ভালো লাগছে। কি সুন্দর রোদ এসে বারান্দা ভরিয়ে তুলেছে। মনে পড়ে গেল ছোট বেলার কথা। বারান্দায় দাড়িয়ে আকাশের দিকে তাকালে কেমন পুজো পুজো গন্ধ, আকাশে মেঘ ভেসে আছে, দেখে মনে হচ্ছে যেন তুলো দিয়ে আকাশ ভরে গেছে, এই বুঝি পড়লো টুপ করে খসে। আমি আর আমার ছোটো বোন রোজ সকালে বারান্দায় দাড়িয়ে আকাশের দিকে তাকিয়ে থাকতাম আর দিন গুনতাম, আর মাত্র ৬৭ দিন, পরের দিন ৬৬, পুজো আস্তে আস্তে চলেই আসতো। চলে আসতো আরো কতো কি, বাটার জুতোর আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকায় পাতা জোড়া জুতোর ছবি, কতো নতুন নতুন সব ডিজাইন, কোনটা ছেড়ে কোনটা কিনব?

কতো জল্পনা, কল্পনা। দোকানের বাইরে গিয়ে একবার দেখে আসা, কি সুন্দর সব সময়। আমাদের বাড়িতে শিউলি গাছ ছিল। পুজো এসেছে বোঝার সব থেকে ভালো মাপ কাঠি, শিউলি গাছের তলা, ভোর বেলায় ভরে থাকতো সাদা শিউলি ফুলে, দেখে মনে হতো যেন পুরো গাছের তলাটা কেউ সাদা বরফ দিয়ে ঢেকে দিয়েছে। অদ্ভুত লাগে ভাবতে, কিন্তু সত্যি, আমরা গিয়ে দেখে আসার কিছুক্ষনের মধ্যেই কে বা কারা যেন এসে শিউলি তলা ফাঁকা করে দিত, আর আমরা ভেবলু বনে যেতাম এটা ভেবে যে কি করে এটা সম্ভব। আর ছিল বাবার সাথে দর্জির দোকানে জামা প্যান্ট এর মাপ দিতে যাওয়া। বাবাকে যতই বলি, পুজো এসে গেলো, চলো আজ যাই, বাবার আর সময় হয় না।



বন্ধুরা সবাই রোজ জিঞ্জেস করে, ভালো লাগে না। এদিকে বাবাকে যতই বলি, গত বছর কথা দিয়েছিলে, এবার আগে অর্ডার দেবে। কই, তার কি হলো? বন্ধুদের তো কবে অর্ডার দেওয়া হয়ে গেছে, বাড়ি নিয়ে এলো বলে। শেষ মুহুর্তে সেই দুরূহ বুদ্ধি আমায় বাবার সাথে দর্জির কাছে যাওয়া, আর শুধু টেনশন, যদি পুজোর আগে ডেলিভারি না করে? পুজোয় তাহলে কি পড়বো? একটা ব্যাপার কিন্তু রেগুলার হতো, বাটার দোকানে পছন্দের জুতো, হাজার চেষ্টাতেও কিন্তু প্রতি বছর ই পাওয়া যেত না। আর এই নিয়েই পুজোর আগে যত মন কষাকষি, যত রাগারাগি।

আরো একটা বিষয়, যেটা প্রতি বছর হতো, মা এর পছন্দের শাড়ী আবার পিসির ও পছন্দ হতো, আর পিসি সেই শাড়ী পরে যখন পুজো প্যান্ডেল এ জমিয়ে আড্ডা দিত, মা মন খারাপ করে, রান্না করতো। অবশ্য, রান্না ও হতো কত রকম। রান্না মানেই, মাছ, আর মাছ মানেই, তোপসে, ট্যাংরা, ভেটকি। আর মা এর থেকে ভালো তোপসে মাছের ঝাল আর কেই বা বানাতে পারে?

সমস্যাটা হতো মাংস এলে, ঠাকুমা, পিসি কেউ ও দিকে মারাবেও না, আবার পুজো মানেই তো মাংস রান্না আর কজ্জি ডুবিয়ে খাওয়া। কি আর করা, নবমীর দিন মামার বাড়িতেই মাংস খাওয়া। সব থেকে মজার দিন ছিল মহালয়ার সকাল, পুজো এসে গেলো, কি আনন্দ। ভোর বেলা উঠতে হবে বলে, ঘড়িতে এলার্ম দিয়ে তো শুলাম, কিন্তু একি, ঘুম তো ভাঙছে সেই মা এর ডাকে। তবে কি আর মহালয়া শোনা হবে না রেডিওতে? তাড়াতাড়ি উঠে বুঝতে পারা, না এখন ভোর হতে দেরি আছে, চারিদিকে অন্ধকার, কিন্তু সারা বাড়ী গম গম করছে।

বীরেন্দ্র কৃষ্ণ ভদ্র মহালয়া পাঠ শুরু করার সাথে সাথে সব চুপ, বাজলো তোমার আলোর বেনু গানটা যখন হলো, ও মা, দেখি সবাই গলা মেলাচ্ছে। পুজো তাহলে এসেই গেলো? আর মনে আছে মন খারাপের কথা, হঠাৎ করে অষ্টমীর সকালে কি বৃষ্টি, দশমীর দিন ঠাকুর চলে যাওয়া, রাতে সাদা কাগজে লাল কালি দিয়ে, শ্রী শ্রী দুর্গা মাতা সহায় লেখা। আর মনে পরে, গরম গরম ছানার পোলাও, মিহিদানা, আর নারকোল নাড়ু, গজা, নিমকি।

আর মনে আছে, প্রণাম করার ঘটা, যাকে সামনে পাবে, দাও প্রণাম করে, সে যেই হোক না কেন? পুজো এসেছিল, পুজো এসেছে, পুজো আসবে, পুজো মানেই তো এসব। আমরা বাঙালিরা তো নস্টালজিক, এই নস্টালজিয়া তো আমাদের এই বছরের গোটা পুজোটা ভরিয়ে রেখে দিল।

GROWING UP BENGALI



WHAT DEFINES A BENGALI?





FACE TO FACE WITH NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

by Ajit Kumar Roy
Photos by Unsplashed

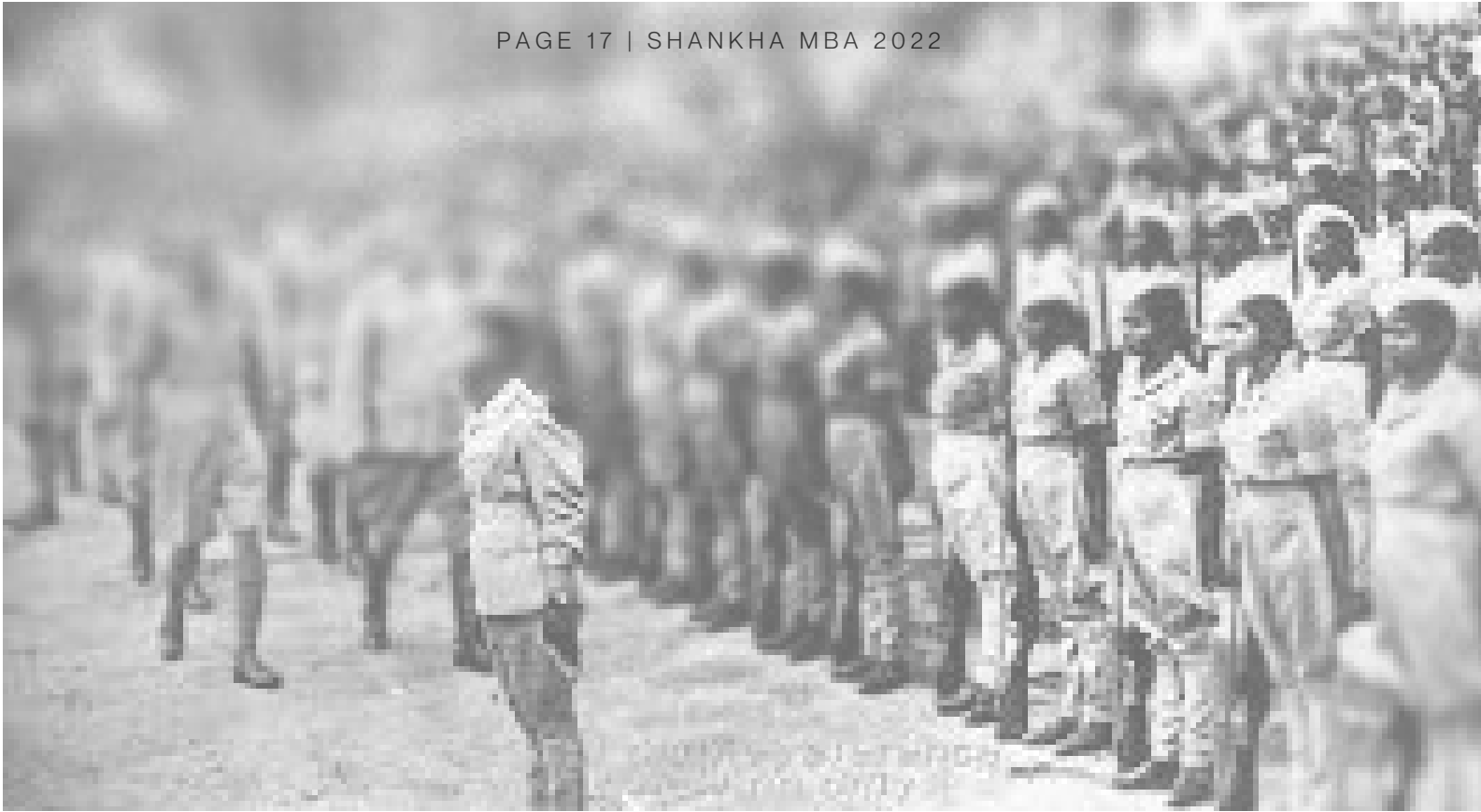
After my father passed away in April 1942 (during the Japanese Occupation). My family consisting of my widowed mother, a younger sister aged 3 years and a brother a few months old went to live with my uncle who was employed in one of the Dunlop Estates in Bahau, Negeri Sembilan.

I was not yet 11 then. When schools reopened by the Japanese, I came to live with a family friend in Malacca to attend school. Initially we were taught the Japanese language some Mathematics and History of the Japanese Empire. It was all very exciting.

I used to listen to elders talking about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. His escape from Calcutta and his travel through Afghanistan to Germany is well known.

When Netaji travelled from Germany to Japan and then to Singapore to assume control of the INA from Captain Mohan Singh, he fired the imagination of all Indians living in Singapore and Malaya.

**" I will give you freedom
still rings in my ears."**



Brigade of Jhansi

**THOUSANDS
JOINED THE
MOVEMENT TO
FIGHT FOR
INDIAN
INDEPENDENCE.
NETAJI'S
CRYING CALL-
"GIVE ME
BLOOD", ...**

His call to the Indians to support the movement thousands of young Indian men joined the INA after training in Batu Pahat, the training centre. He established the Rani of Jhansi regiment and called all young Indian women to join up. Thousands joined the movement to fight for Indian Independence. Netaji's crying call- "give me blood", I will give you freedom still rings in my ears. It was sometime towards the end of 1942, Netaji with the assistance of the Indian Independence League.

In Seremban set up a training school to train a group of secret service personnel. Instantly there were, 15-20 volunteers, mostly made up of Bengali men.

This facility was later relocated to Batu Feringgi, Penang. These volunteers would be infiltrated into Bengal initially and later to other parts of India.

My uncle was one of those who answered the call. These volunteers' main work was to infiltrate the local population in India and create awareness about Netaji and the INA and the struggle for Independence. In a special dispensation, Netaji with the assistance of Hikari Kikan (a liaison body) requisitioned four bungalows belonging to the Free School in Penang.

This accommodation was meant to house the Bengali Families whose male members had joined the Secret Service. The whole thing about the Secret Service had a tremendous impact on my mind. I wanted to do my part however small.

I wanted to do my part however small. The INA had set up a training centre for young boys to join the Balak Sena and later a girls' wing, the Balika Sena.

Those who joined were 'boys and girls aged 10-18. I was amongst the first batch of boys who joined the Balak Sena. I rose quickly in the ranks and soon was promoted to the rank of Havildar.

The training courses were for a duration of 3 months. It was mainly with wooden rifles and regular talks on our early freedom fighters. The exploit of revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh left a deep impact in me.

During my stay in Penang 1943-1945

I attended Japanese School in the morning and Hindi School in the evening. It was learning the language, some Mathematics, History especially India's fight for independence starting with the Sepoy Mutiny in 1856. I took an active role in the various activities both in the Japanese and Hindi schools.

I was soon Head Boy in the Hindi School. I was 13 years old. Once a month I would lead all the students - about ninety on a route march in various parts of Penang. This was very exhilarating and gave me a sense of pride and ambition for further action. I was then roped in, by the Training Team to conduct training courses for subsequent intake for Balak and Balika Sena.

I admired the Japanese sense of discipline and their loyalty to their Emperor and motherland. The skyline of Penang was occasionally disturbed by dog fights between the Japanese and British fighter planes.

On hearing the sound of the siren, we would take shelter in trenches. Moments of fright and anxiety filled our minds until the all clear siren sounded. All these left a deep impression in me.

As mentioned earlier about the four houses where the Bengali families lived were well provided with groceries, fish, meat and milk by the Hikari Kika

whilst the vast majority of people around the country lived on tapioca and ragi. We were an exception and this made possible by Netaji who took a personal interest for our well being.

I RECALL VIVIDLY ONE OCCASION WHEN NETAJI DURING A VISIT TO PENANG EXPRESSED A WISH FOR BENGALI FOOD. MY MOTHER ALONG WITH THE OTHER LADIES COOKED THE CHOICEST BENGALI DISHES.



At the appointed time, Netaji accompanied by some high ranking INA officers came for lunch. I can only remember the names of two officers. One was Colonel Habibu Rehman - ADC to Netaji and the other officer was Colonel Shah Newaz.

It was a memorable occasion. I was dressed in khakis with the Balak Sena emblems. With much trepidation, I walked towards where Netaji was seated. After giving him the Jai Hind salute I spoke in Bengali that I wanted to join the INA. He was touched and told me that when I was a little older, I will get the opportunity. During the same visit a public rally was organized by the local Chapter of Indian Independence league to listen to Netaji who was going to address the gathering a few thousand. I cannot now remember the actual location.

**THERE WAS PIN
DROP SILENCE
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HE SPOKE IN
ENGLISH AND
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OCCASION AND
GIVE ALL THEY
CAN FOR THE
CAUSE.**

It was a moment that comes only once in a while. Ladies with jewellery came forward to give away whatever they were wearing. The men did the same. All these were going towards the war effort.

Netaji with the assistance of the Japanese established a scheme to train Indians for future officers in the INA. They were called the Tokyo Cadets. I know of 3 Bengali youths among twenty-five were the first batch sent to Japan for officer training.

My turn came in early 1945 when I was informed that I was selected and would leave for Japan later in the year. Those of us who were selected continued with Japanese studies and some form of military training.

We were encouraged to eat Japanese food.



Handout portrait of the leader of the Indian National Army Subhas Chandra Bose that is on display at the Netaji Research Bureau in Kolkata. (Image: Reuters)

WE WERE PREPARED TO DIE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA.

All these proved to be very demanding but we took everything in our stride. The nationalistic feelings aroused in us is difficult to describe. We were prepared to die in the struggle for the independence of India.

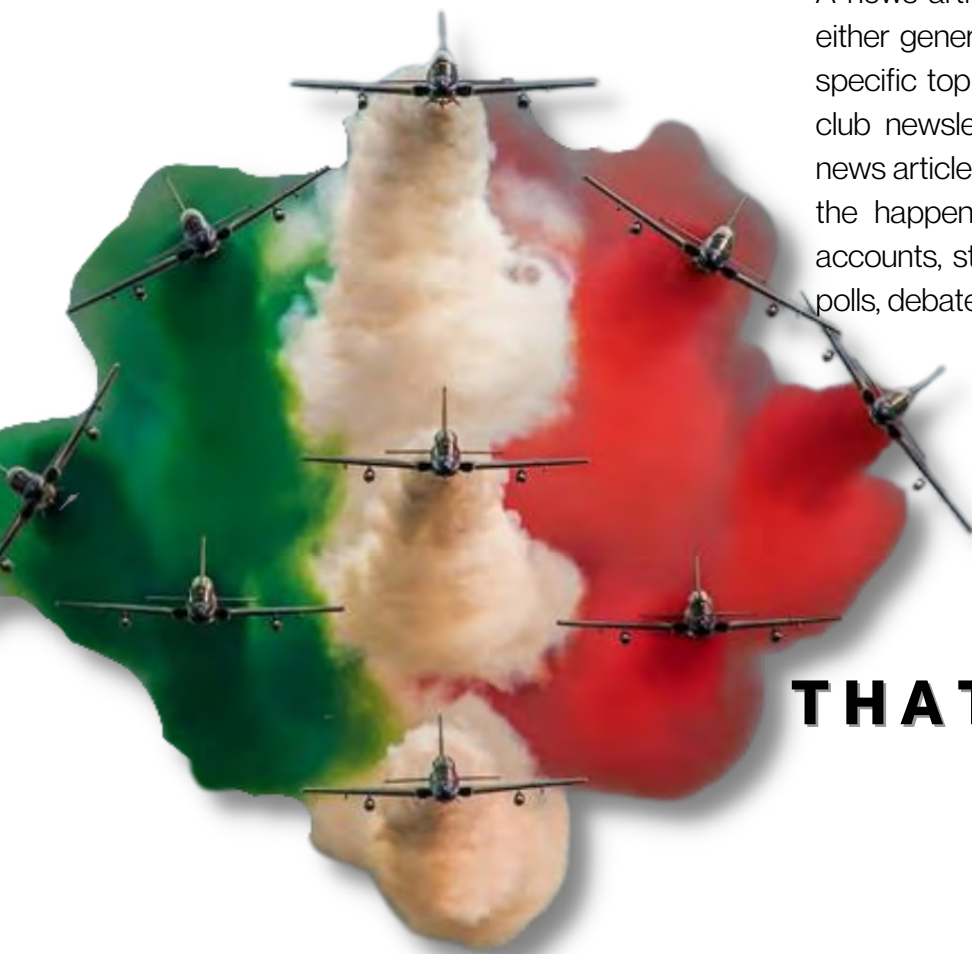
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The writer can use redirection to ensure that the reader keeps reading the article and to draw her attention to other articles. For example, phrases like "Continued on page 3" redirect the reader to a page where the article is continued.

A news article can include accounts of eye witnesses to the happening event. It can contain photographs, accounts, statistics, graphs, recollections, interviews, polls, debates on the topic, etc.

A news article discusses current or recent news of either general interest (i.e. daily newspapers) or of a specific topic (i.e. political or trade news magazines, club newsletters, or technology news websites). A news article can include accounts of eyewitnesses to the happening event. It can contain photographs, accounts, statistics, graphs, recollections, interviews, polls, debates on the topic, etc.



THAT IS ANOTHER STORY!

Did You Know?

THE BENGALI LANGUAGE



7TH IN TERMS OF THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO
SPEAK IT AS A FIRST
LANGUAGE



IT IS OFTEN KNOWN AS THE
SECOND MOST BEAUTIFUL
LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD
AFTER FRENCH.



THE WRITTEN FORM OF THE
BENGALI LANGUAGE IS
DERIVED FROM THE ANCIENT
INDIAN BRAHMI SCRIPT.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER
LANGUAGE DAY IS BASED
ON 'BENGALI LANGUAGE'
CELEBRATED ON THE 21ST
OF FEB



BENGALI IS AN INDIAN-
ARYAN LANGUAGE.



THE INDIAN
NATIONAL ANTHEM
IS WRITTEN IN
BENGAL

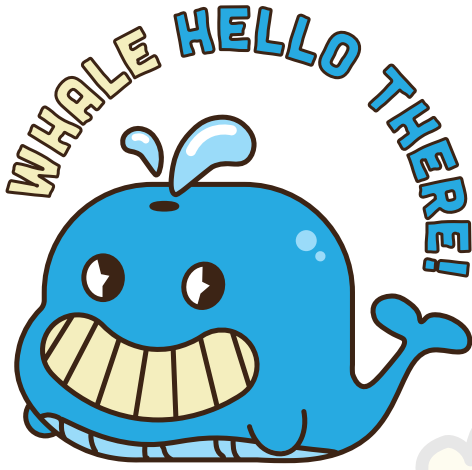
LEARN BENGALI



IT IS THE SECOND
MOST SPOKEN
LANGUAGE IN
INDIA.



BENGAL WAS A HUB
OF SANSKRIT
LITERATURE.



MEMES CORNER

Bangalis and their 'Ektu'



bolchhi, lonka fonka
ektu besi kore din

'Lie Detectors'



Other Countries -

Our professional detector
Will catch your lie

Le Bengali Mom -

amar gaa chhuye bol
biri kheychhis kina ?



Bengali Moms To Their Daughters



College Ist year: Prem korle amar
mora mukh dekhbi!

Before Marriage: Sudhu porashonai
korli, akta prem o korte parli naa!

Fun Fact

Yes I am Bengali
and I "eat" water
(Jol Khai)



I frankly do not care
what you think... 🤔

DURGA PUJA: WE WILL REMEMBER

by

**Susmita Majumdar
(Kolkata)**



Some memories remain etched in our mind that gives us pleasure whenever we reminisce. My son Aveek and his family are residents of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We had heard exciting stories of Malaysian Bengali Association (MBA) organized puja and we were eager to participate in it.

In 2019 we had a unique opportunity of experiencing an overseas Puja festival. Initially we were a bit apprehensive, being strangers and senior citizens, how the group would accept and integrate us among their midst. To our utter surprise we found that overseas Bengalis are inclined to the Bengali Customs more than the residents of Bengal.

They received us wholeheartedly without any inhibition. Our participation started with their “Ananda Mela” function; an array of Bengali Cuisine prepared by most of the families.

We took active part and prepared Paratha, Ghugni and Paneer roll with active participation from Sohini and our daughter Atreyi (she came all the way from Sydney Australia to be a part of the festival). The items were consumed like hot cakes. We took food from other counters as our family was relieved from cooking dinner.

Next day Puja started with great devotion and all the rituals were followed with respect and seriousness. The organizing body planned each event so meticulously that the events were absolutely hassle free.

An astounding experience: we saw the ladies group cooking “Mayer Bhog” themselves for offering to the Goddess Durga.

This practice was continued for all four days of the festival. All members, guests and their family joined in the community lunch and dinner where 300 members participated.

Another unique feature: senior citizens were allocated separate table for lunch and dinner where they were served by their volunteers. This shows their concern and respect towards their seniors.

The evenings were assigned for cultural programme where members showcased their talents. New generation kids speaking broken Bengalee also participated wholeheartedly to show respect towards their roots. Our son's family – Aveek, Sohini and Mirra took part in several programmes. The programmes were of high quality but we sensed that real objectives of such events were to foster goodwill and brotherhood among the members.

"Kumari Puja" was performed where young daughters of members were dressed like Goddesses and were offered puja to them.

Purohit was flown from Kolkata who was very happy with the organisers' devotion and hospitality.

On Bijaya Dasami day there was a grand feast which marked the concluding event of the function. We happen to participate in overseas Durga Puja in US and Singapore, but Malaysian Bengalee Association's Puja made a deep mark in our mind for their spontaneity and simplicity of the whole arrangement. This year we had a plan to be a part of such an endearing gathering, but

"MAN PROPOSES GOD DISPOSES",

due to the pandemic situation our plan was jeopardised. We wish MBA organizers continue to uphold such high standard of puja year after year.





কো ভি ড - ১৯, MOVEMENT CONTROL

এ বং আ ম রা

By ডা: নীলেশ কুমার মিত্র
by Dr.Nilesh Mitra



আপনারা সবাই নিশ্চিত একমত হবেন যে নীরদ সি চৌধুরীর লেখা বাঙালী ভদ্রলোক চরিত্র এবং British imperialism induced বাঙালী অভ্যাস গুলির অনেক পরিবর্তন উনিশের দশকেই আমরা দেখতে পেয়েছি। সর্ব ব্যাপী ইন্টারনেট আসার অনেক আগে সদ্য যুবা কলেজ পড়ুয়াদের ধ্যান-ধারণা কথা বার্তার পরিবর্তন শিক্ষক এবং অভিভাবকেরা সংকিত হয়ে লক্ষ্য করেছেন। পত্র-পত্রিকায় উপন্যাসের চরিত্রদের এবং বাংলা টিভি সিরিয়ালের নায়ক-নায়িকদের দিনের যে কোন সময়ে মদ্যপান, উপজাতি-সুলভ তুই-তুকারি ভাষায় কথা বলা দেখতে এখন আমরা অভ্যস্ত। রবীন্দ্রনাথের বাল্যসমৃতি-র মতো introvert জীবনের থেকে এখন বাঙালী adolescent ছেলে মেয়েরা candy crush saga বা PlayStation 4 -এ ডুবে থাকতে পছন্দ করে। কবিতা লেখার থেকে আরো রোমাঞ্চ আসে Netflix-এ ১৮+ series দেখতে।

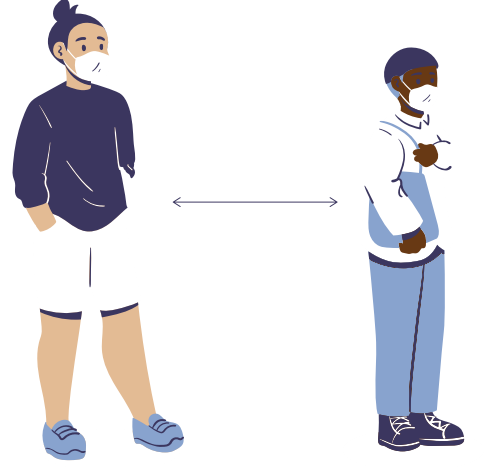
নিচের লেখাটা পশ্চিমবাঙলার আমাদেরই এক ভাই এর ডায়েরি থেকে।

কিন্তু ১৮ই মার্চ ২০২০-র সকাল থেকে সবকিছু ওলটপালট হয়ে গেলো। কলেজে যাওয়া বন্ধ। স্বপ্ন data connection-এ lecturer-এর একঘেয়ে slide পড়া আর YouTube-এর পুরানো video lecture শোনা। ক্যান্টিনের চা আর বন্ধুদের গালাগালি এখন স্বপ্ন। আমার GF সম্পা। কতদিন আর line আর WhatsApp কথা বলা যায়? একটু গায়ে গা না লাগালে ভাল লাগে? কবে যে Victoria যাবো।

দিনের পর দিন বাস-ট্রেন সব বন্ধ। বেশিরভাগ business, কল-কারখানা-য় তালা পড়ছে। কবে যে last ঘুখনি আর chicken roll খাওয়া হয়েছে মনে পড়ে না। রান্না ঘরে শুধু থিচুড়ি অথবা ভাত-ডাল আর সিম-কুমড়োর ঘ্যাট। আলুর আর মাছের দাম আকাশ ছুয়েছে। Sunday-তে mall-এ গিয়ে Selfie তোলা আর Instagram-এ post করা- সবকিছুই হারিয়ে গেছে। আর কিছু না থাকায় অগত্যা WhatsApp-এ ছবি, video, লম্বা রচনা আর jokes সারাক্ষণ forward করা। অত বড় posting পড়া যায় নাকি? কিন্তু group-এ forward করতে দারুন মজা।

“সারাক্ষন **musk** পড়ে না পারা যায় **drawing room**-এ বসে গল্প করতে, না পারা যায় **mobile**-এ কথা বলতে.”

সেদিন পেটের ব্যথায় অস্থির অবস্থা। মোড়ের মাথায় ডাক্তার বাবুর clinic এর দিকে রওনা দিই। ডাক্তার বাবুর ওষুধ খুব কাজ দেয়। আজকাল কোন ডাক্তার আর ৬০ টাকায় দেখে। ওমা রাস্তায় দেখি বিরাট jam. ডাক্তার নাকি covid-এ মারা গেছে। কোনরকমে pharmacy থেকে zinetac কিনে ব্যথা কমার পরে ডাক্তারবাবুর মৃতদেহ নিয়ে শোভাযাত্রায় গেলাম। দুদিন পরে শুনি দিদি নাকি covid-এর certificate ই দেয় নি। টাকা পয়সা কিছুই পাওয়া যায় নি। ওনার স্ত্রীর খুব দুর্দশা। নয় বছরের ছেলে।



সারাক্ষন musk পড়ে না পারা যায় drawing room-এ বসে গল্প করতে, না পারা যায় mobile-এ কথা বলতে। অথচ Vodafone আর Airtel-এ অফুরন্ত free talk time MCOর বাজারে বাজিমাত করতে। Musk ঝোলে কানের পাশে অথবা থুতনির গোড়ায়। কি জ্বালা। সকালের আনন্দবাজার থেকে দুধের packet দড়ি আর ব্যাগ দিয়ে balcony থেকে টানা। এমন কি দিদি কি কি কীর্তি করলো তা পড়তেও আনন্দবাজার sanitize করা।

কিন্তু এইভাবে কি থাকা যায়? যে সব বৈচিত্র্য এতদিন ধরে বন্ধুবান্ধবদের দেখে শিখেছি আর টিভির পর্দার থেকে নকল করেছি হঠাৎ life থেকে গায়েব। তাই black-এ whisky কেনার লাইনে দাঁড়ানো আর পুলিশের তাড়া খাওয়া।





2020 THE IDIOSYNCRATIC YEAR

BY BANDISHA CHATTERJEE

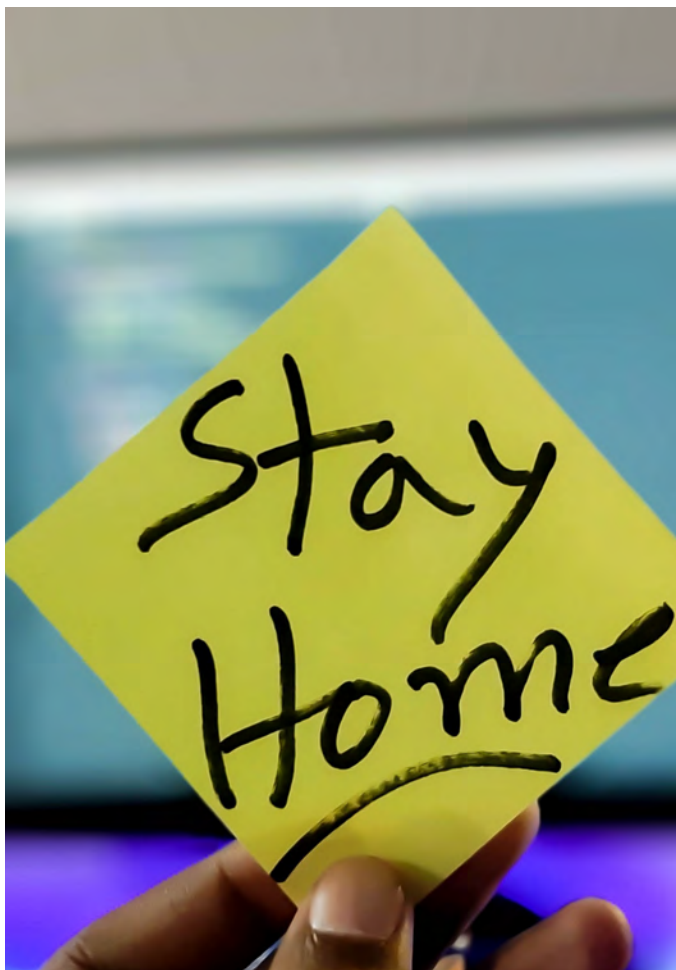
“If death was inevitable, “went the reasoning, “what then was the point of life?”

...The conclusion was that the meaning of life was to live it.

By the middle of this year we were ushering such assurance, right after flooding boisterous messages of a New year which just began? Who thought a year could have such a devilish demeanour in disguise!!

An epidemic that eventually grew into a pandemic, slithered across the globe spreading its venom, hospitals were running out of beds, masses were in graves, and gradually due to the new invented terminologies like, RMCO (Restricted Movement Control Order),

MCO and CMCO which inevitably became the need of the hour, loss of jobs added to a country's plummeted economic conditions.



WHAT MORE WAS TO BE WISHFUL FOR A YEAR SUCH AS THIS!!

A crisis, that entered deeply and penetrated into our collective consciousness, since the beginning of the year, pushed us to the edge of humanity where isolation and staying at distance bloomed to be the “New Normal”.

The brevity of mankind was tested, again and again, the aftermath of the cyclone Amphan left its myriad of depressing impressions for months to follow, the Atlantic hurricane, the monsoon floods, the Spring Tornadoes, the Puerto Rico Earthquakes are just a few to name for such nature's wrath.

Seemingly, mankind was living through a year of hell, natural calamities weren't enough to suffice the sufferance, then there were the massive Beirut explosions, the Civil unrest in the U.S, the Yemen humanitarian crisis, and the list of disasters continued. Depressive...despondent... disconsolate...dispirited... year 2020 was all of that horrid state, one can imagine...

HOWEVER, HUMAN MIND DWELLS IN POSSIBILITIES...

So, with a positive intent when I look at the flip side, there's a whole good thing, that we discovered during our days of, 'Quasi Quarantine Mode'.



While the pandemic continued increasingly, to dampen our soirees and galas, we began to virtually navigate to uncharted territories in such times of disconcert. E-addas and Online collaborations became a sort of revival from the mundane, other than the balconies and the windows, which served to be the only connection to the outside world. In the midst of such bizarre state of solitude, where mankind's power of adaptability was tried and tested, each day, like a daily dab of sunscreen, we were religiously masking, sanitizing and distancing... calling it Lifestyle 2020.



BUT THEN, OCTOBER BROUGHT THE BLUE SKIES...

Kaash phul ... pujo, pujo gandho and oodles of emotion of celebrating Sharodiya. But as we drown in the sea of disappointments, such times of festivals are now dreaded and anticipated with a sense of resignation at the same time.

Caught between Death and Durga... pensive about Pujo hobe ki hobe na (will the puja celebration happen or not) ... mulling to be the crowd or not to be...we all are fated to this year's, Protocol-e-Pujo.

This unusual year, when the swanky airports won't be flooded with Bongs arriving from across the world to celebrate the deity and the delights.

This year, the Bongs will only savour the moments as memories, of queuing up in line for the auspicious Ashtami's Bhog, the righteous waiting of day long, endless pujo adda, with infectious enthusiasm, the fervent prayers for families far and near, while offering pushpanjali, with wobbly legs and wandering hands, the constant engagement with the purohit and the gentle smile for a stranger's camera. A Bong's "Dugga Puja Story" is all about the camaraderie, the slight chaos, the meals and the celebration of community, it's these quintessential elements of Durga Puja, that remains forever etched.

However, given the lifestyle of 2020, This year Ma Durga will miss her devotees and ardently wait for

**“ASCHE BOCHOE
ABAR HOBE, AMAR
PUJOR KALOROE ”**

A year, as the budgets shrinks, so does hang the beaming hopes of hundreds of artisans and vendors who are involved in making this one of a kind socio cultural event a treasured memory of each Bengali.

This year will be a ...

A year, when the usual cliché, 'Pujor Bidhi' will be replaced by 'Pujor Precautions'.



A year, when the perfection and the detailing of Soshti to Dashami is lost in the bleak hope of surviving the year.

A year, when the fuss over the form of the diety, the thoughts over the puja porikroma listing, will be inconsolably missed.

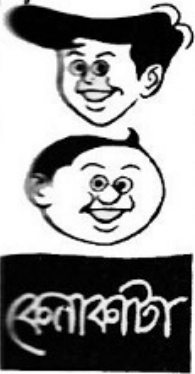
A year, when the dhakis will be muted and the masks will be opted, and bijoya sammilanis will be nagging nostalgia.

The sindur khela, the anondo mela, the dhunochi naach and the bisorjoner baddi...a year the Goddess herself will miss the show.

A year when the frayed hearts vehemently cries out, “Let the festivities begin”...As, we adopt to the harsh reality of lifestyle 2020.

A year, of parable I feel...

হুঁদা- ডোদার



বঙ্গে'র চার শিল্পাচার্য

THE SHILPACHARYAS OF BENGAL

প্রণয় কুমার চৌধুরী

Pranoy Kumar Chowdhury

(এক)

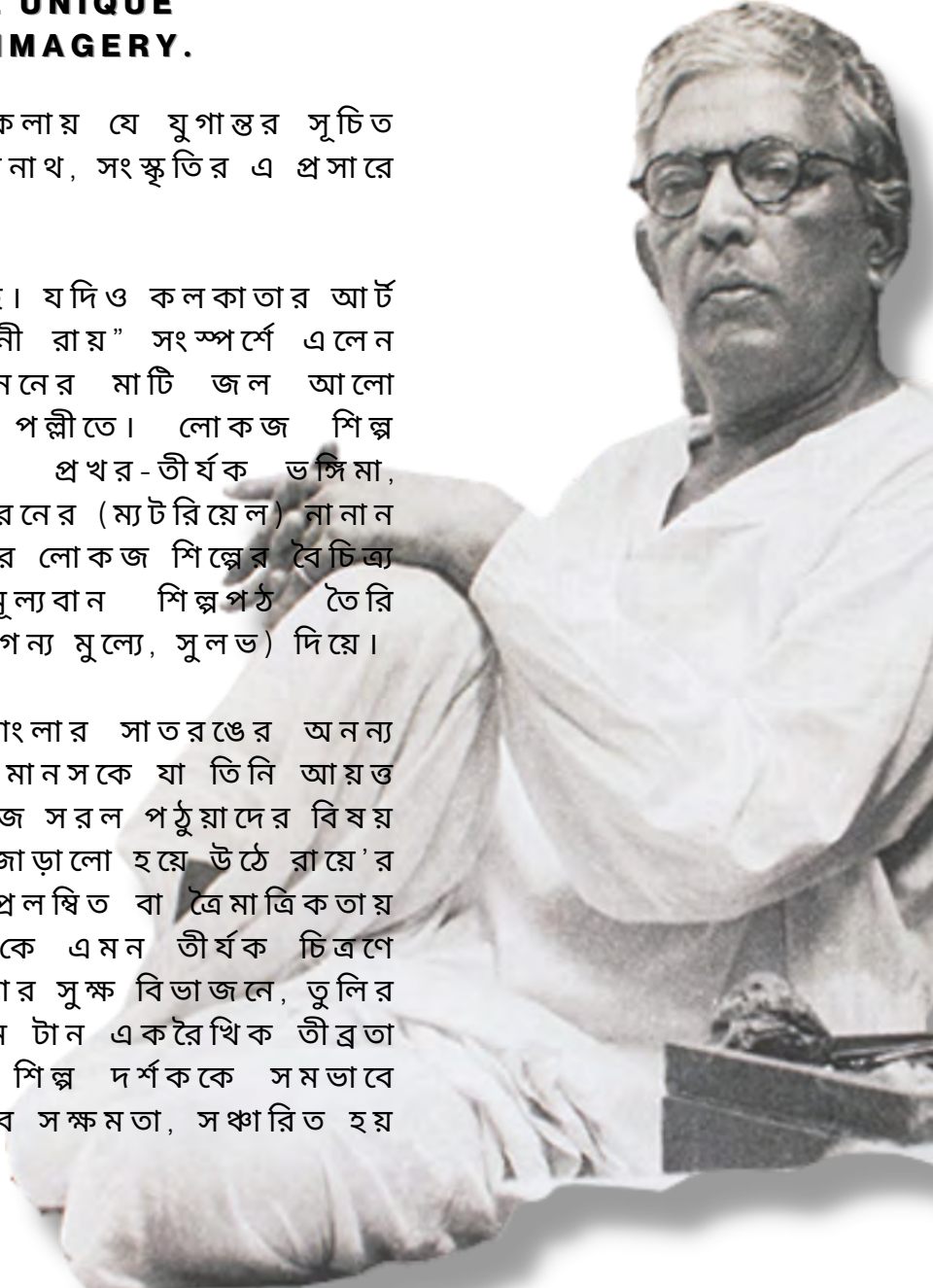
যামিনী রায়, চিত্রকল্পের অনন্য রূপদ্রষ্টা।

**JAMINI ROY, THE UNIQUE
EMBODIMENT OF IMAGERY.**

উনিশ শতকের শুরুতেই বঙ্গে চিত্রকলায় যে যুগান্তর সূচিত হতে থাকলো, শান্তিনিকেতন ও রবীন্দ্রনাথ, সংস্কৃতির এ প্রসারে ছায়া হয়ে এলেন।

চিত্রকল্পবাদ নুতন ক্ষেত্র খুঁজে ফিরছে। যদিও কলকাতার আর্ট স্কুলে শিল্পবোধের ভিত্তি নিয়ে “যামিনী রায়” সংস্পর্শে এলেন অবনীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের। রায়ে’র মননের মাটি জল আলো পেয়েছিলো বীরভূমের এক শান্ত পল্লীতে। লোকজ শিল্প উপকরণের নানান মাধ্যম, বিষয়, প্রখর-তীর্থক ভঙ্গিমা, আয়ত্ব হয়েছিলো আগেই এরং উপকরণের (ম্যাটরিয়াল) নানান সূত্র তিনি খুঁজে নিয়েছিলেন বীরভূমের লোকজ শিল্পের বৈচিত্র্য থেকে। জলরঙ-তেলরঙের মহামূল্যবান শিল্পপাঠ তৈরি করেছেন অতি সাধারণ উপকরণ (নগন্য মূল্যে, সুলভ) দিয়ে।

ক্যানভাসে তার অনায়াস ব্যবহৃত বাংলার সাতরঙের অনন্য দ্যোতনা চমকে দেয় সবসময়ের চিত্রমানসকে যা তিনি আয়ত্ত্ব করেছিলেন সেখান থেকেই। সেই সহজ সরল পঠুয়াদের বিষয় ভাবনা অন্য উচ্ছতায়-অভিব্যক্তিতে জোড়ালো হয়ে উঠে রায়ে’র ডাইমেনশনের বিস্তারে। আনুভূমিক-প্রলম্বিত বা ত্রৈমাত্রিকতায় তৃতীয় মাত্রায় ফিগার ও পঠভূমি কে এমন তীর্থক চিত্রণে যামিনী রায় অনন্য হয়ে আছেন। রেখার সুক্ষ বিভাজনে, তুলির দক্ষ নিয়ন্ত্রনে তিনি ফর্ম’কে এক টান টান একরৈখিক তীব্রতা দিয়েছেন যা শিল্পবোদ্ধা ও সহজ শিল্প দর্শককে সমভাবে আলোড়িত করে। তাঁর নিজস্ব অনুভব সক্ষমতা, সঞ্চারিত হয় অন্যে।





অনেক বিষয়বস্তু তাঁর কর্মে, চিরন্তনী মহাকাব্য রামায়ন-ভাগবতের কাহিনী গুলো পঠে রূপ নেয়, গোপিনি চিত্র সিরিজ অন্যতম উদাহরন, আর বাউল, উপবেশয়িতা রমণী, প্রকৃতি-পরিপার্শ্ব কবিতার মতো ছায়া ফেলে যামিনী রায়ের অসাধারণ চিত্রপটে।

পঠুয়া কামরুল হাসান প্রভাবিত হয়েছিলেন রায়ের পঠ-ফর্মে, তিনি বিষয় বিস্তারে বিচিত্র বাঁকে ফিরেছেন এবং মহা শিম্পি জয়নুল আবেদীন কাঠামো ও স্পেইস্ ব্যবহারে রায়ের ভঙ্গিটা ধরেছেন অনেক ক্ষেত্রে। আলোছায়ার দুর্ভিক্ষ ও মন্বন্তরের সেই কালজয়ী স্কেচ গুলো তিনি যামিনী রায় কৃত পথ থেকে অন্য পথে চলেছেন।

শান্তি নিকেতনে অনেকেই, সোমনাথ হোড়, রামকিংকর কতো বিখ্যাত জন আরো বিচিত্র বিষয় আঙ্গিকের পথ শিল্প তৃষ্ণার্তদের সামনে খুলে দিয়েছেন, যা অবন ঠাকুর-রায় পরম্পরায় সাহচর্য্যে।

যামিনী রায়ের “গোপিনি” চিত্রমালা আমাকে চমকে দিয়েছিলো সেই প্রাক যৌবনেই।

রামায়ন-মহাভারত-ভাগবত মহাকাব্য গুলো যখন পড়তাম তখন রায় কৃত অনেক ইলাস্ট্রেশন দেখতাম, পস্ট স্বাক্ষর “যামিনী রায়”। আমার চিত্রবোধের পঠভূমি এবং অবশেষে ‘গোপিনি’ চিত্রমালা। যেন নির্যয়ের স্বপ্নভঙ্গ হলো। সেই সময়েই শিম্পি চিত্রকল্পবোধের সাথে প্রথম প্রেম।

উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বয়সে শিল্প প্রদর্শনী গুলোতে বৃন্দ হয়ে কাঠাতাম, মুর্তাজা-দেবদাস চক্রবর্তি-কিবরিয়া, কত নাম বলবো, সেই সময়কার প্রতিভাশা চিত্রকরদের শিম্পিকর্ম গুলোকে বুঝতে চেষ্টা করতাম দিনে দিনে কোথায় বাঁক নিচ্ছে, পরিকাঠামো-গভীরতায় ও সর্বোপরি উৎকর্ষতায়, যদিও বা নিজে যতটা বুঝি। অনেক অনেক বছর ধরে দেশের বাইরে, নিভৃত মননে সুতোয় টান রাখি। চেষ্টা করি আপ টু ডেইট থাকতে। সেই সব নিজস্ব চিত্র ভাবনা বলবার চেষ্টা করবো ধীরে যতটা বুঝি বা স্মৃতিতে আছে।

পেশাগত বা চাকরির সুবাদে ভিয়েতনাম চায়না বা অন্যান্য এই এলাকার দেশগুলি-ইউরোপ-ল্যাটিন যেখানেই যাই, কাজের ফাঁকে চলে যাই সেই দুয়ারে। চিত্রকল্পলোকের সেই বিশাল বৈচিত্র আমাকে টানে।।

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

**FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE.
WORDS CAN GO IN ANY DIRECTION.
WORDS CAN SHARE LETTERS AS THEY CROSS OVER
EACH OTHER.**

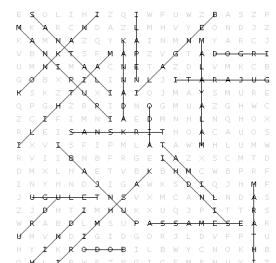
22 OF 22 WORDS PLACED.

E	S	O	L	I	H	I	Z	Q	I	W	F	U	W	Z	B	A	S	Z	P
M	K	A	R	C	N	D	A	Z	L	M	H	V	Y	E	O	N	D	J	Z
K	A	M	N	A	Z	Q	Y	K	A	I	N	M	N	M	Y	A	R	C	J
V	B	N	K	T	S	F	M	A	P	Z	V	G	T	A	D	O	G	R	I
U	M	N	I	M	A	A	C	N	E	T	A	Z	D	L	V	M	K	C	B
G	O	B	X	P	I	L	I	N	N	L	J	I	T	A	R	A	J	U	G
K	S	K	Z	T	U	X	I	A	I	O	J	M	A	Y	S	M	U	R	E
Q	P	G	H	Z	R	R	I	D	N	O	G	M	U	A	Z	G	H	W	C
Z	C	I	F	I	M	N	I	A	E	D	M	N	H	L	N	Q	H	O	X
R	L	E	I	S	A	N	S	K	R	I	T	H	O	A	C	A	U	O	S
I	X	V	I	S	F	I	P	M	L	A	T	A	W	M	H	L	U	M	W
R	V	I	I	B	N	B	F	R	G	E	I	A	Z	X	S	C	M	T	D
D	M	X	L	H	A	E	T	V	B	K	B	H	M	C	W	B	P	R	F
I	N	Y	H	N	D	J	I	G	A	W	K	S	D	I	Q	J	H	M	F
J	U	G	U	L	E	T	N	S	V	X	M	C	A	N	L	N	D	A	S
Z	J	D	H	T	I	M	H	U	K	X	U	Q	J	P	I	T	T	R	S
W	R	A	B	D	L	M	S	U	P	A	S	S	A	M	E	S	E	A	R
U	M	V	N	D	I	G	I	D	G	O	R	J	L	D	V	F	P	T	U
H	Y	I	K	R	O	D	O	B	I	L	B	W	Y	C	N	O	K	H	B
O	H	L	I	R	W	F	Z	P	G	I	G	F	M	F	N	U	Y	I	T

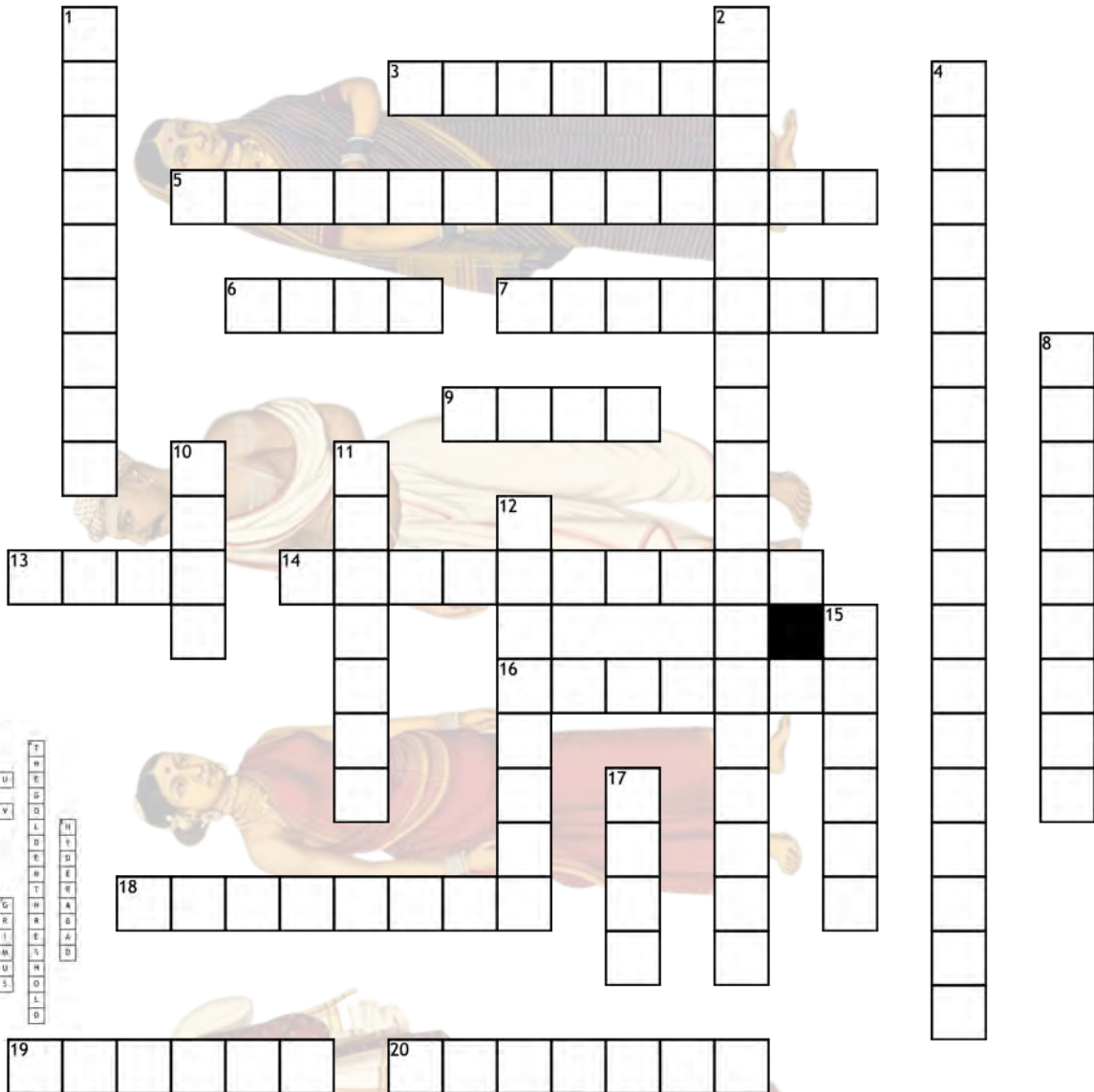
LANGUAGES IN INDIA

ASSAMESE BENGALI
BODO
DOGRI GUJARATI HINDI
KANNADA KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MAITHILI MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI NEPALI ODIA
PUNJABI SANSKRIT
SANTALI
SINDHI TAMIL TELUGU
URDU

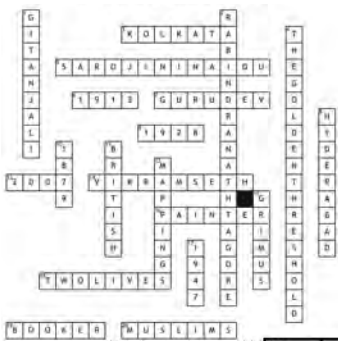
ANSWER :



INDIAN AUTHORS



Answer :



Across

3. Vikram Seth was born in the state of _____.
5. She is also known as "The Nightingale of India"
6. Rabindranath Tagore got a Nobel prize for literature in the year _____.
7. Rabindranath Tagore is popularly known as _____.
9. In the year _____, Sarojini Naidu received "hind a kesari" medal from the British for her work.
13. Vikram Seth received Padma Shri in the year _____ for Literature and Education.
14. In 1968, _____ wrote 'The Golden Gate' his first Major work.

16. Other than writer and poet, Rabindranath tagore was also a/an _____.
18. Vikram Seth got an advance of £1.4 million for his poem _____.
19. Salman Rushdie won _____ Prize for his second novel Midnight's Children (1981)

20. Salman Rushdie's fourth novel, The Satanic Verses (1988), was the subject of a major controversy, provoking protests from _____ in several countries.

Down

1. It is one of the most successful works of Rabindranath tagore. Theme of the poem is union with the God.
2. he has written anthems for three countries

4. In 1905, Sarojini Naidu's first collection of poems _____ were published

8. Sarojini Naidu was born in the state of _____.
10. Sarojini Naidu was born in the year _____.
11. Salman Rushdie is a _____ by citizenship.
12. Vikram Seth's first book of poems is _____.
15. Salman Rushdie's first novel _____ (1975), is a part science fiction tale.
17. Salman Rushdie was born in the year _____.



Beginning of 20th Century

The first generation of Malaysian Bengalees came from Bengal, British India in the early part of the 20th Century. Some of them came as Government officers, others as doctors in the medical service, engineers and clerical officers and some as conductors and dressers in the rubber plantations that were then springing up in the Peninsula. Most of them were settled in Negeri Sembilan, Selangor and Malacca. One of the early pioneers was Dr. Sarojini Bardhan who came as a medical officer to Malacca. His name is commemorated in the "Bardhan Trophy" which was donated by his son, Late Major General P.N. Bardhan (I.M.S.) in memory of his father to be competed for in a Football Tournament among the various state Indian Associations of Malaya and which is still carried on annually in today's Malaysia. In the late 20's it was felt that the Bengalee community that was scattered in Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Perak and Malacca should get together at least once annually and so the first get together was at the Durga Pooja in 1928 at Seremban. It was then decided that since Durga Pooja is not a Public holiday that they should get together during Deepavali which is a Public holiday. There was no registered body to organise these functions but it was on an ad hoc basis. At the annual get togethers one of the leaders of the community would take charge of the celebrations for the forthcoming year. The pioneer leaders were, Dr. P. N. Sen, Mr. A. B. Paul and Dr B. C. Majumdar who took turns to organise the Kali Poojas (Deepavali celebration) which were held in Seremban.

1930s and 40s

In the mid 30's it was felt that the Bengalee community should put up its own "Kali Temple" and ancillary buildings. A levy of a half month's salary was placed on every Bengalee and with that contribution a two and half acre plot of land was acquired in Rasah, Seremban. The second World War intervened and the temple was put on hold.

ASSOCIATION



*All images are extracted from: MBA Facebook Page

During the 40's the leadership was passed on to Dr. D. K. Majundar, Mr. A. K. Sen, Mr. B. B. Sen Gupta and Mr. U. C. Dass. From 1939 it was decided that the Kali Poojas would be held in Port Dickson and these continued even during the Japanese Occupation. From 1946-1949, there was a hiatus as the Bengalee population had dwindled and there was no initiative to organise the Kali Poojas.

Registration and Renaming

With the formation of Malaysia, the Malayan Bengalee Association was amended to "Malaysian Bengalee Association". In the late 70's there was a great concentration of Bengalees in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya. They decided that they would hold the Durga Pooja in Selangor and it was done on an ad hoc basis. It was then felt that it should be regularised and in 1984 it was organised under the auspices of the Malaysian Bengalee Association.

So two Major Pooja celebrations are held - Durga Pooja in Petaling Jaya and Kali Pooja at Port Dickson. The Bengalees also celebrate the Hindu New Year in Port Dickson. During these celebrations cultural events such as music, drama, dances and art exhibitions are organised so that the younger generation can get a feel of their vast cultural heritage.

Modern Times: 1990s

In 1990 it was felt that as there was a large concentration of Bengalees in Selangor, a branch of the MBA should be established in Petaling Jaya. As a result, we now have the MBA Pusat Petaling Jaya which caters for the large number of Bengalees in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. From its formation it has been headed by Dr. K. K. Mandal. The Pusat organises the Rabindra Jayanti annually, musical soirees, talks by distinguished scholars and a host of other activities. The Malaysian Bengalees are proud of their cultural heritage having come from the land of Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Kaji Nuzrul and a whole host of other cultural and intellectual icons and try to inculcate their cultural, intellectual and moral heritage among their younger generation with all these activities in the Malaysian Bengalee Association.

DURGA PUJA GOES GLOBAL: FROM FINLAND TO COLOMBIA TO NIGERIA AND MORE

MY KOLKATA TRACKS DOWN PROMINENT OVERSEAS PUJAS THAT ARE RETURNING WITH APLOMB AFTER THE PANDEMIC

PRIYAM MARIK
(TELEGRAPH INDIA | MYKOLKATA)



HELSINKI, FINLAND

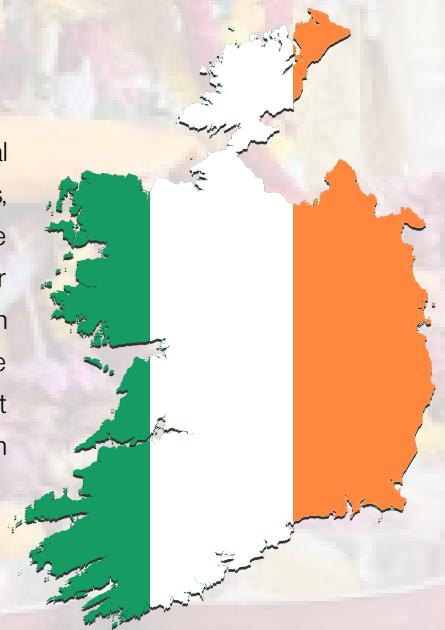


This year, Helsinki will host the world's northernmost puja, which will mark its 24th anniversary. The Helsinki Durga Puja, now run by the Bengali Association of Finland (BAF), began as an impromptu puja organised by a few expat Bengalis in 1999 and has slowly grown in size and stature over the past ten years. In the early iterations of this puja, a pot depicting Durga was worshipped by a Finnish woman. The first pratima was then held in 2003 as a result of the sincere efforts of neighbourhood Bengalis, and it has since been complemented by Bengali cuisine, cultural activities, and a yearly increase in the number of devotees.

Along with the customary rituals, singing, and dance, the BAF also creates a unique Puja magazine called Srijan that gives Bengalis a chance to express their creative side. Chandrabindoo visited the virtual puja that BAF sponsored in 2020 to perform a concert to celebrate Vijaya Dashami.

DUBLIN, IRELAND

The Ireland Durgotsab Committee (IDC) has organised a Durga Puja celebration at the Commercial Rowing Club in Dublin for Bengalis for the sixth consecutive year. The puja, which lasts for five days, includes every ceremony practised in pandals all around Kolkata, from the kala bou snan to the sandhi puja (but with lilies) to the sindur khela on Dashami. Every year, six to seven kumaris line up for the kumari puja, demonstrating the excitement and involvement of Dublin's Bengalis. This puja has an intriguing feature in that it creates distinct provisions every year for training people to perform the puja, validating their advancement with certificates that permit them to take over Puja ceremonies at other events throughout Ireland. Over the years, a number of celebrities have been associated with Puja celebrations put together by the IDC, including Usha Uthup and Kailash Kher.



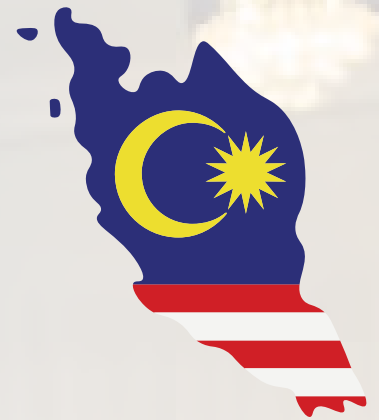


BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Bogota's Puja celebrations will turn eight in 2022, making it one of the few Durga pujas performed in South America. This two-day event, which is usually conducted a few days after the Puja dates in Bengal, contains two aspects that are rarely seen in international pujas. One is a havan, during which all devotees congregate to give their prayers, and the other is a tambola, which adds to the fun element alongside more typical kinds of Puja amusement. Last year, at Covid-19, the Bogota puja gave 250 complimentary dinners to the city's frontline medical professionals. In addition, the Indian community in charge of the puja contributed a large sum to the Missionaries of Charity in 2021.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Durga Puja is said to have been celebrated in Malaysia for the first time in 1925, courtesy to a few Bengalis in Seremban. The Malay Bengalee Association (MBA), subsequently changed to the Malaysian Bengalee Association (MBA), was founded in 1952 and has been organising Durga Puja in the nation ever since. Puja festivities were initially held in Seremban before being relocated to Petaling Jaya (part of the Greater Kuala Lumpur region) in 1978. The location was altered once more in 2007, with the vast portals of Kuala Lumpur's Bangunan Peladang Hall taking over. Every year, Puja in Kuala Lumpur consists of five days of devotion, entertainment, and delectable cuisine. Most Bengalis relocating to Malaysia, especially those from Bangladesh, are inextricably linked with this puja. MBA also holds Kali Puja events at The Bengal House in Port Dickinson, south of Kuala Lumpur, in addition to Durga Puja.



LAOS, NIGERIA

Since 1981, when the Lagos Bongiyo Parishad (LBP) organised its first event in the shape of a Durga puja, Sharadotsav has been an important part of the Lagos cultural calendar. The dhunuchi naachh, a sit-and-draw competition, and even fashion shows have lighted up Puja festivities for the 200 or so Bengali families that live in Nigeria's most populous metropolis in recent years. All Puja-related events are held at the Newcastle Hotel in Lagos. The Parishad publishes an annual "Sharadiya keepsake," named Amader Katha, in which Bengalis can flex their literary capabilities. Apart from Durga Puja, the LBP has gained permission to build a Kali temple on the grounds of the Indian Mandir Foundation in the Lagos neighbourhood of Ilupeju.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

IndClub, a non-profit organisation made up primarily of Indian families in Melbourne's western suburbs, organises a Durga Puja celebration for more than 2,500 people in Wyndham. Durga Puja, which began in 2014, has grown to become the flagship event of IndClub, with MPs, deputy mayors, and other Victoria state officials in attendance. The puja, which was initially led by Bengali IT professionals, has grown into a multicultural extravaganza attended by people of various faiths, nationalities, and backgrounds. IndClub's puja is closely associated with the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA), and proceeds from Puja celebrations as well as other IndClub events benefit charitable causes such as donations to the Red Cross and Melbourne's annual fundraising event, the Good Friday Appeal.



পুজো আসছে

PUJO ASACHE

শুক্লা মিত্র

BY SHUKLA MITRA

গ্রাম - বাংলার সোঁদা জলের পাশে
কাশফুলের ঘ্রানে
পুজো আসছে ।
ঢাকের শব্দে অপেক্ষায় আর
নুতন সষা ঘ্রানে
পুজো আসছে ।
ধূপের গন্ধে প্রসাদের মিষ্টি
সুবাসে
পুজো আসছে ।
সারাবছরের অপেক্ষায় মন
মাতানো সুরে,
পুজো আসছে ।
বল দুর্গা মাইকী জয় ।



COVID-19

by

প্রণয় কুমার চৌধুরী
Pranoy Kumar Chowdhury

করোনাক্রান্ত শারদীয়ায় একগুচ্ছ কবিতা। শুরুতেই প্রার্থনা রাখি, এমন পুজো
এমন সংকট বাঙালী অঙ্গনে শুধু নয়, এই ধরিত্রীতে যেন কখনো না আসে।

(০১)

কবিতা, জাগাও জাগাও-

কবিতায় কিছু হবে না
কিছু নান্দনিক অক্ষয় বাক্য
কোন সেনিটাইজার নয়,

তবু ও আশা করতে পারি
মনের গভীরে জমা হওয়া
শঙ্কার ভাইরাস ধুয়ে দিতে পারে।

কবিতায় কিছু হয় হয়তো'বা
মারাত্মক করোনা জীবাণুর
প্রতিষেধক 'নিরীহ বর্ণমালা নয়',

কোনো বৈজ্ঞানিক ল্যাবরেটরিতে
প্রতিরোধী শব্দপুঞ্জ উদ্ভাবিত হয়নি
ধরিত্রীর জমা ভয় ঝরিয়ে দিতে পারে।

চিন্তাবিদ বস্তুবাদিরা যদি হেসে ওঠে
ওদের জমাট সঘন ললাট রেখা
মুছে দিতে পারে প্রশান্ত বর্ণমালা,

কবিতার নিরীহ প্রতিটি অক্ষর
আনন্দে গান গেয়ে উঠবে
অক্ষর মননের জীবাণু ধৌত করবে।

ধরনীর আকাশ জুড়ে পুঞ্জীভূত মেঘ
কবিতায় কোন ঝড়ের শক্তি নেই
কিই বা করতে পারে অক্ষরমালা,

জোড়হাতে শব্দে শব্দে বন্দনা গাই
মারণাস্ত্র হও করোনা'কে প্রতিষেধ করো
'শব্দ' প্রবল শক্তি হবে শক্তিমান মানবের।

(০২)

প্রাকৃতিক ও অপ্রাকৃতিক-

প্রশ্ন আমারো করোনা'র প্রাদুর্ভাব
প্রাকৃতিক না অপ্রাকৃতিক-

এই প্রশ্নের উত্তর খোঁজা চলুক।।

জরুরী হচ্ছে বন্ধ করা ধংসলীলা
মানবিক ও অর্থনৈতিক-

আক্রান্ত গ্রহের আরাধ্য বিষয়বস্তু।।

নির্ণায়ক কীট নিরাময়ী ভ্যাকসীন্
বিস্তার রোধী নীতিমালা-

সমুখ সৈনিকের সুরক্ষার আবরণ।।

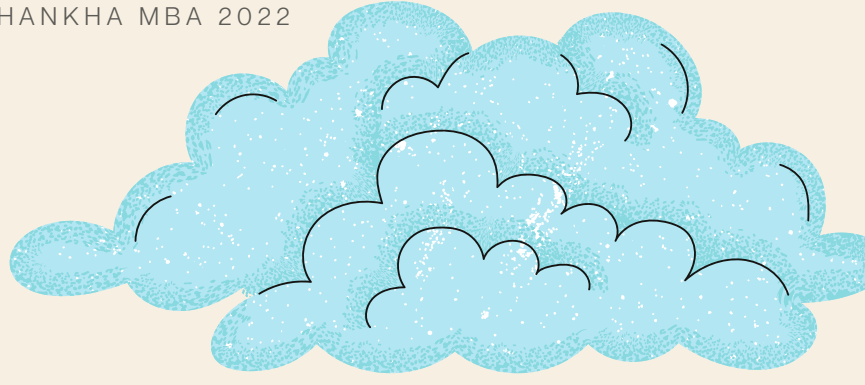
প্রাচ্য-প্রতীচ্যের বিনাশী প্রান্তর হতে
খুঁজে নাও রক্ষাকবচ অদ্যই-

প্রকৃতির না অপ্রাকৃতিক খুঁজো পরে।।

অলৌকিক স্রষ্টার আলায় উর্ধপানে
প্রণত হয়ে করুনা চাইতে পারো-

'করুণাময়' ধরণীর কল্যান নির্ধারক।।





(০৩)

নিছক পদ্য-

=====

আদুর বাদুর রাতের বাদুর
কত বাদুর উড়ে ফিরে
আঁধার ঘরে চুপটি ঝিমোয়
দেখা মেলে ত্রিসংসারে।

এ সব ব্যাট সেই ব্যাটা নয়
যত কথাই লোকে বলে
ব্যাটম্যানেরাই ফন্দি পাকায়
গো-বেচারি বাদুর ঝুলে।

আরো অনেক কিস্যা শুনি
জীবাণু অস্ত্র বানায় কারা
ধুংতোরি ছাই এমন ভাবনা
ভাবছি বসে সৃষ্টিছাড়া।

পৃথিবী জুড়ে আকাশ নীলে
মেঘ জমে আঁধার ঘনায়
বাদুর নয় গো মানুষ কুটিল
অংক কষে ধংস সাজায়।

তোমার আমার জীবন যুদ্ধে
মারণাস্ত্র হানছে ওরাই
প্রকৃতি বা খেলছে কারা
একদিন তো জানবে সবাই।।

(০৪)

কথার কথা-

কথায় কথায়

না বলাই ভালো মনে হয়
মহামারীর প্রদাহী প্রমত্ত দিনে।

দুঃখের দিনে
ওরা তরণীর দাঁড় টানছে
না জেনে বকে যাবার অর্থ নেই।

যাঁদের বলার
দিশেহারাদের তাঁরাই বলুক
ভরসার বাঁকে দিক নির্ণয়ী যাঁরা।

অ-সন্তর্পণে
হাজারো কথার কথায়
আসল কথাটি হারিয়ে ফেলি।

অযথা কখন
মূল্যহীন বালখিল্য রাতে
চাঁদকে কাছে আসতে দেয় না।

অ-বন্ধু কাছের
কথা সব তুণী'তে সাজায়
তীক্ষ্ণশরে বিদ্ধ করে সুযোগেই।

নিজের ছোরা
ফিরে আসে বুমেরাং হয়ে
কথায় কথা'র তখন বাক্যবাণ।

ক্লান্ত সময়ে
উদভ্রান্ত প্রশান্ত নদীতীরে
সচকিত হই তখন দেবী হয়ে যায়।।

PHIRE DEKHA

Ranjana Roy Chowdhury

Dhaker sur, neel aakash, shiuli aar kaash phool..

Monta amar ure jaae dur...bohu dur!!

**Saath somuddur tero nodir paare boshe aaj
lcche amar hocchena je korte kono kaaj!!**

Jodi amar thaakto ek mosto boro danaa

Ek jhaaptaae pouche jetaam na shune kaarur maana!!

**Ghorir kaa(n)ta ditam besh kichu bochor pichhie
Fire petaam sesob din jaa geche aaj haarie!!!**

Bochor ghure ashto jokhon ei chaarte din

Sobar mon uthto bhore aanonde shimahin!!

**Pujor aamej gaaye mekhe sobai tokhon uthto mete
Bhule sokol dukkho bishaad aaponjoner saathe!!**

Pujo maane notun jama notun saaj goj

Pujo maane paarae paarae mosto boro bhoj!!

Pujo maane neel aakashe saada megher bhela

Pujo maane jomie adda perie jeto bela!!

Pujo maane shishir bheja shiuli fuler gondho

Pujo maane pujor dine lekha pora bondho!!

Pujo maane ashtamite prothom saree pora

Pujo maane bhirer maajhe tomaar haath dhora!!

Pujo maane raat jege thakur dekhar dhoom

Pujo maane shohor jure neiko kaarur ghum!!

Pujo maane maa Duggar ashur nidhon paala

Pujor seshe mishtimukh , kolakuli aar sindur khela!!!

Aamar pujoe nei je esob kono kichur aabesh

Dur e boshe bhabchi shudhu sesob din i chilo besh!!

Tobuo mon bhoreche aaj ojana ek aanonde

Pujor mejaaj aante hobe je thaak je praante!!

Naai ba baajlo dhaaker sur...naai ba holo kaasher baahar

Tobu Maa go esho tumi aamader maajhe shotobaar!!!

ACHIEVEMENTS CORNER



Dr. Kalpana Das - PHD in Medicine from Monash University

Dr. Mohua Roy Chowdhury - Doctor of Philosophy from Universiti Putra

Malaysia (UPM)

Attreyi - Masters in Finland

Neel Chakravarty - Graduated in Master in Economics and Governance

from Leiden University, Netherlands

Aditya Bardhan - Bachelor's Degree in Mechatronics Engineering

Kieya Arshia - Graduated Environmental Sciences

Deepika Das - Bachelors in Science in Chemical Engineering with

Honours from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

Mithali Maya Mittra - Best Young Maybanker 2022

Sneha Das - Finalist for Eurasian Spelling Bee





HIGH ACHIEVERS (ACADEMICS)

Jinia Chatterjee - 6A* (IGSCE)

Sneha Nandy - 4A* (A-Levels)

Sweta Biswas - 7A (CBSE)

Priyankita Roy - 3A+ & 5A (SPM)





PRIDE OF HUMANITY AWARD

DR SUDHIR RANJAN SEN GUPTA (JP)

Pride of Humanity is an award given by Take Care International Foundation in collaboration with LEAD Malaysia as the event partner and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Foundation as the knowledge partner to individuals who have worked selflessly for the betterment of the less fortunate and society. This award recognises and rewards many of these great heroes who worked quietly to make the world a better place.

A leader, in our opinion, is someone who prioritises the welfare of humanity over his or her own. We are grateful for Dr. Sudhir Ranjan Sen Gupta and his ongoing selfless contributions to society.



Dr. Sen Gupta is pictured above with some of Malaysia's most prominent people, including Dato Sasikala Devi Subramaniam, the state's Deputy Police Commissioner and the country's first Indian female police officer.



APJMJ Sheik Saleem, Co-Founder of the APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation, he is also the grand nephew of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.



Dr Srimathy Kesan is the only Indian scientist to be decorated with the Ambassador status to the top 3 Space centers of the World, NASA, ESA, and GCTC – Moscow. Apart from taking children to these research centers for hands-on Space training – Rocket building and launching techniques.



A.R. Reihana is an Indian playback singer and composer for films. She is the sister of the famous singer A. R. Rahman.

Soundararaja is an actor and film producer who appears in South Indian Films. Following a stint as a system engineer and had worked in Singapore and France before he began considering acting as a career.

We are extremely proud that our beloved Daddy, Dr Sudhir Ranjan Sen Gupta was presented with this prestigious award "PRIDE OF HUMANITY" on 25th August 2022.

CRITICAL SITUATIONS LEAD US TO OUR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

BY JOY NANDY

The bad and nasty situations in the world have given birth to some of the best ideas, results, solutions, concepts, music, books, literature, theatre, movies, etc., the world has seen. Some of the world's best products and services we enjoy today, were invented out of a desperate or hopeless situation in someone's life.

We have been creating and developing better products and services only from bad situations. Therefore, we should learn to embrace the bad as we do the good to find the gems within these situations.



So it appears that we have to always endure pain before we can be given the medicine to cure the pain. And when it comes to emotional and mental anguish – the medicine is Spiritual Knowledge.

Just as a person with a physical illness shall see a medical doctor at a clinic to help eradicate her or his illness, for emotional and mental pain, people have been visiting gurus or sages at ashrams over the centuries to remove that pain.

Every time there was a plane or train crash, most of the time something technical was at fault, and through that experience something new will have to be invented so that such an incident does not repeat.

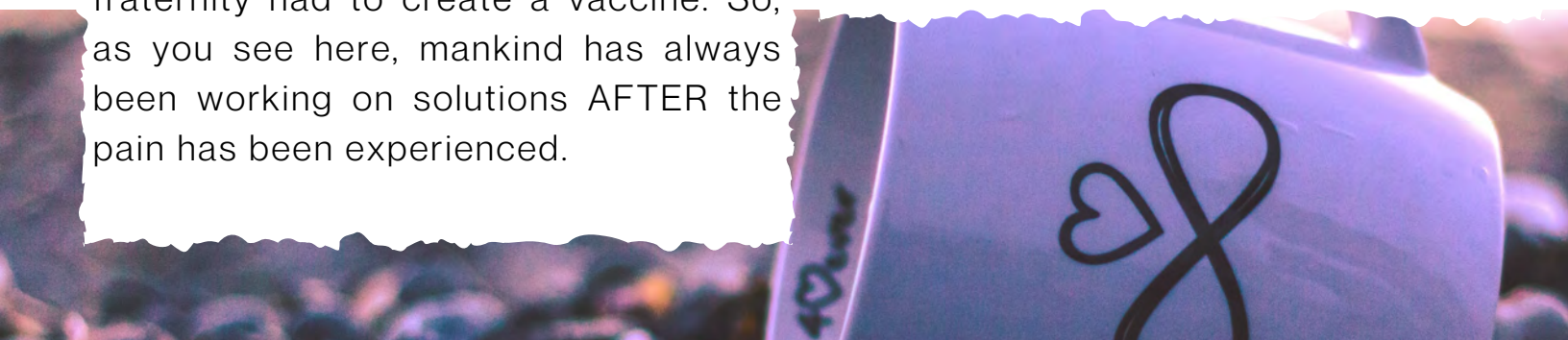
Great things have always and only come out of bad situations and conditions. Many great inventions and preventions of today have been developed at the price of man's blood and lives.

An example that is more current is the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the whole world. Thousands have died from this pandemic, so the medical fraternity had to create a vaccine. So, as you see here, mankind has always been working on solutions AFTER the pain has been experienced.

Ancient wisdom and sages state that “something critical has to happen in our lives for spiritual awakening to happen”;

and when it does, there is “knowledge” ready that shall guide us towards our goal of life.

This Spiritual Knowledge is what gives us the strength to go on and to rise above all adversities thrown by life. It shows us the path to be unaffected by the changes and disappointments in life.



It is Knowledge that comforts our troubled minds and hearts, while leading us to eternal joy. One legend who comes to mind is the great Nelson Mandela who was imprisoned for 27 years for his political views. He suffered. He was in pain. But while in prison, he had many realisations about life. And when he was released, he became the President of South Africa who ruled his country.

Many of his quotes of wisdom circulate us even today. Sometimes any kind of solitary confinement helps us find ourselves with the questions we start to ask ourselves, and this starts a journey inward. This is the start of a spiritual journey, which is a journey inwards to realising the real Self or identity of a person.

It may not seem so to anybody who is suffering at the moment, but rest assured that millions of people, including many noble and greats of our time, have once suffered too, but lived on to become mammoth icons that you and I shall admire and respect. These include Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, T.S. Elliot, Emerson, Bob Marley, George Harrison, Einstein, and Tesla, to name but a few. Many of them have read the Holy Bhagavad Gita – which now appears to be the

‘Knowledge for Superstars’.

If you are experiencing any kind of suffering, sorrow or pain right now, please do not fret. Please do not be confused and frustrated. The great sage of India, Swami Vivekananda, said that those who are going through any kind of suffering, are fortunate. Yes, he said, “fortunate”. He was a wise sage who had cognised the world’s secrets and he knows this for certain, so there is no reason for us to doubt it.

It is only during our “down times” that we learn. We do not learn anything during the happy times. There is nothing to learn when we are celebrating and enjoying life. But once hit by a sudden jolt that takes us away from our Comfort Zone, is where we find the gems of life’s greatest secrets that can lead us to peace and joy.



Think about it, only when we are sad and depressed do we go inward and start thinking and reflecting on life, our thoughts, and actions. It is also a phase that makes us humble, or less egoistic. And it is only at these times do we enjoy great realisations and inspirations that can catapult us into the Divine path, peace, and success that many of us crave.

So, if you are in sorrow today, rest assured that you are one of the few “chosen ones” by the great Almighty to receive His great Knowledge and wisdom that you shall use for your own good, and for others. You shall find your purpose in life through this very suffering. Embrace it. Accept it. We cannot make any progress if we do not first “accept” what is happening to us, and that it is actually happening to us. It is not a dream that we will wake up from where everything is alright and good. Accepting that this unfavourable situation is actually happening to us, is the key to rising from sorrow.



Once you rise from your sorrow, through the wisdom provided in the Ancient Hindu Spiritual Scriptures, such as, the Holy Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads (Hindu Spiritual Philosophy) and your own realisations – you shall become a beacon of hope for the others who are going through sorrow and pain, and you shall relieve them of their sorrow. This was said by the Great Buddha.

**“EVERY FAILURE BRINGS
WITH IT THE SEED OF AN
EQUIVALENT SUCCESS.”**

- PROSPERITY BIBLE BOOK

BENGAL TIGER, THE HUNTER ...

POACHING

On the black market, tigers are a mine of gold. The demand is huge and prices continue to skyrocket becoming the animal in a critical situation. The demand is varied and people used part of the tiger as traditional Chinese medicine (or local medicine), objects of status or symbols and amulets, etc.

- Traditional Chinese or local medicine
- Superstition-amulet
- Status symbol

■ **BRAIN** —
Used to treat laziness and pimples

■ **EYEBALLS** —
For epilepsy and malar

■ **NOSE LEATHER** —
To treat superficial wounds such as bites

■ **WHISKERS** —
Are used as "good luck" amulet

■ **FAT** —
Prone to accumulate fat in the abdomen, is used by traditional medicine to treat leprosy and rheumatism

■ **TEETH** —
Used for treat fever. Also demand as amulet

■ **BONES** —
It is the defendant. With bone powder or "wine" is supposed prepares to cure soothes rheumatic pain and cure

■ **SKIN** —
To make carpets and use as home decoration. A status social

■ **TAIL** —
Are used for Chinese traditional medicine to treat cutaneous conditions and rheumatism

■ **PENIS** —
Used in love potions such as tiger soup, as an aphrodisiac

■ **CLAWS** —
Used as sedative and insomnia. As well as fancy ornament in necklaces and other objects

Many of the tigers and their diet were expelled from their natural environment which made seeking shelter and food near the human population.

This sometimes will lead to a tiger becoming a man-eater, meaning it will hunt humans for food.

Bengal tigers can ingest up to 40 kilograms of food on a single occasion

The approximate number of specimens is less than

2,500

An estimate of the World Tiger Recovery Program indicates that there are about:

individuals

■ **40**
Bangladesh

■ **155**
Nepal

■ **75**
Bhutan

Order: **Carnivora**

Family: **Felidae**

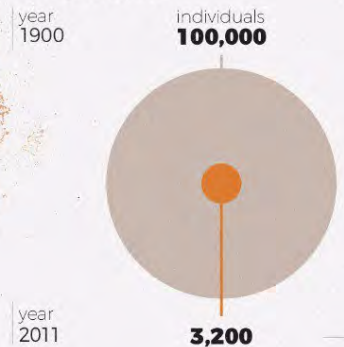
Genre: **Panthera**

Species: **Panthera tigris**

Subspecies: **Panthera tigris tigris**

Bengal tiger, also known as the Royal bengal tiger or the Indian tiger. Usually lives at marshes, tall grasses and tropical rainforests.

POPULATION



MASK TO CONFUSE TIGERS

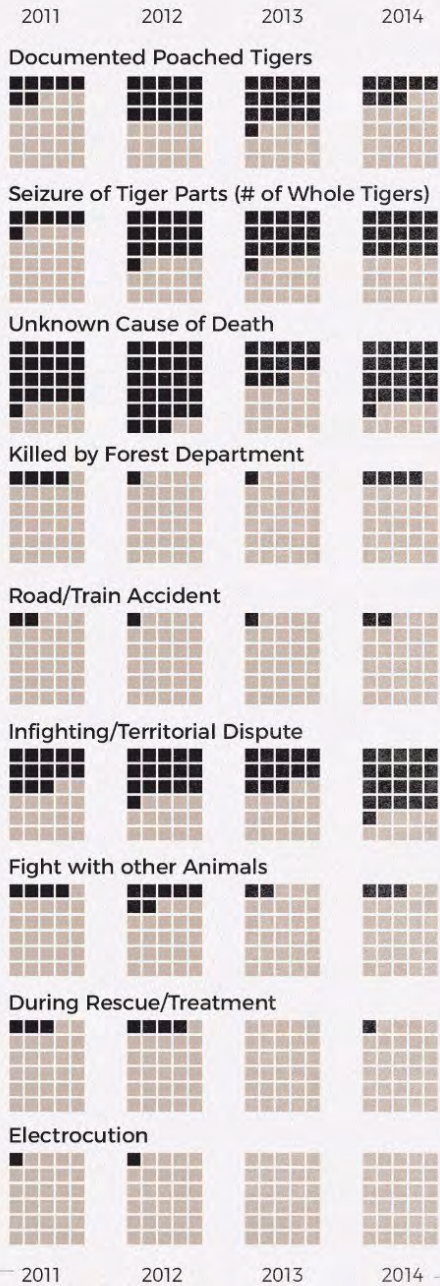
Man-eaters almost always attack from behind, usually aiming for the victim's right shoulder/neck. Some people wear human masks on the back of their heads, hoping to confuse or discourage their predator.

In places in India, where there are no bathrooms (basic service), people must go to make their needs to the shores of the jungle. When people tilt down, the tiger sees them as food. This must be that the tiger only recognizes the man in a vertical position (stand up) and not tilt down.



.. HUNTED

IN-DEPTH DATA ON TIGER MORTALITY (2011-2014)

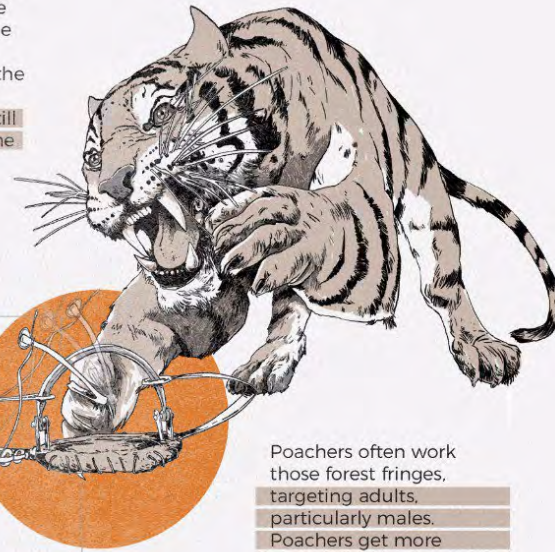


HOMEMADE JAW TRAPS
One trap can be reused again and again.

POACHER'S TRAPS

Poachers have a vast knowledge of tiger behavior and their distribution across India. Tigers that live on the edges of reserves or in adjoining forest are in the crosshairs of the poaching gangs or more exactly with a foot inside the jaw traps.

At moment the tiger put his foot into the trap and press down the lock's piece. The sudden movement of the jaws catches the tiger's leg till the arrival of the poachers.

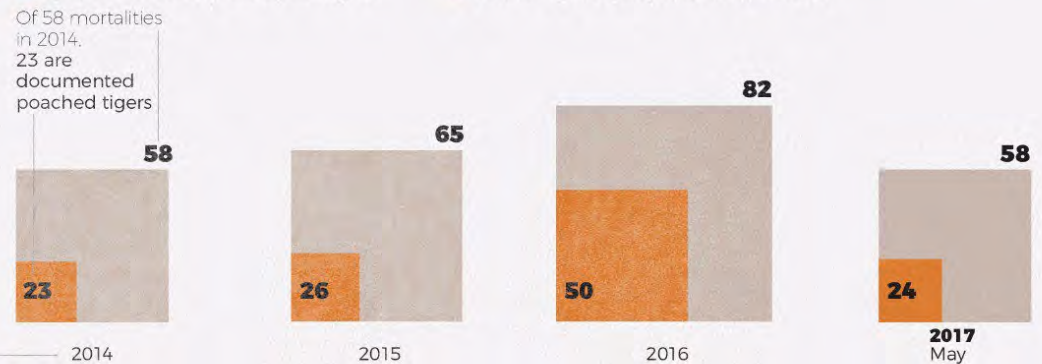


CRUSHING JAWS
There was no way of knowing how many tigers this hunk of metal had taken.

Poachers often work those forest fringes, targeting adults, particularly males. Poachers get more money for their larger skins. Tiger's skins are used to make carpets, as home decoration. Skins represent a high level status, socially speaking.

DETAILED TIGER POACHING STATISTICS (2005 - SEPT 2017)

Documented poached tigers Other documented mortalities



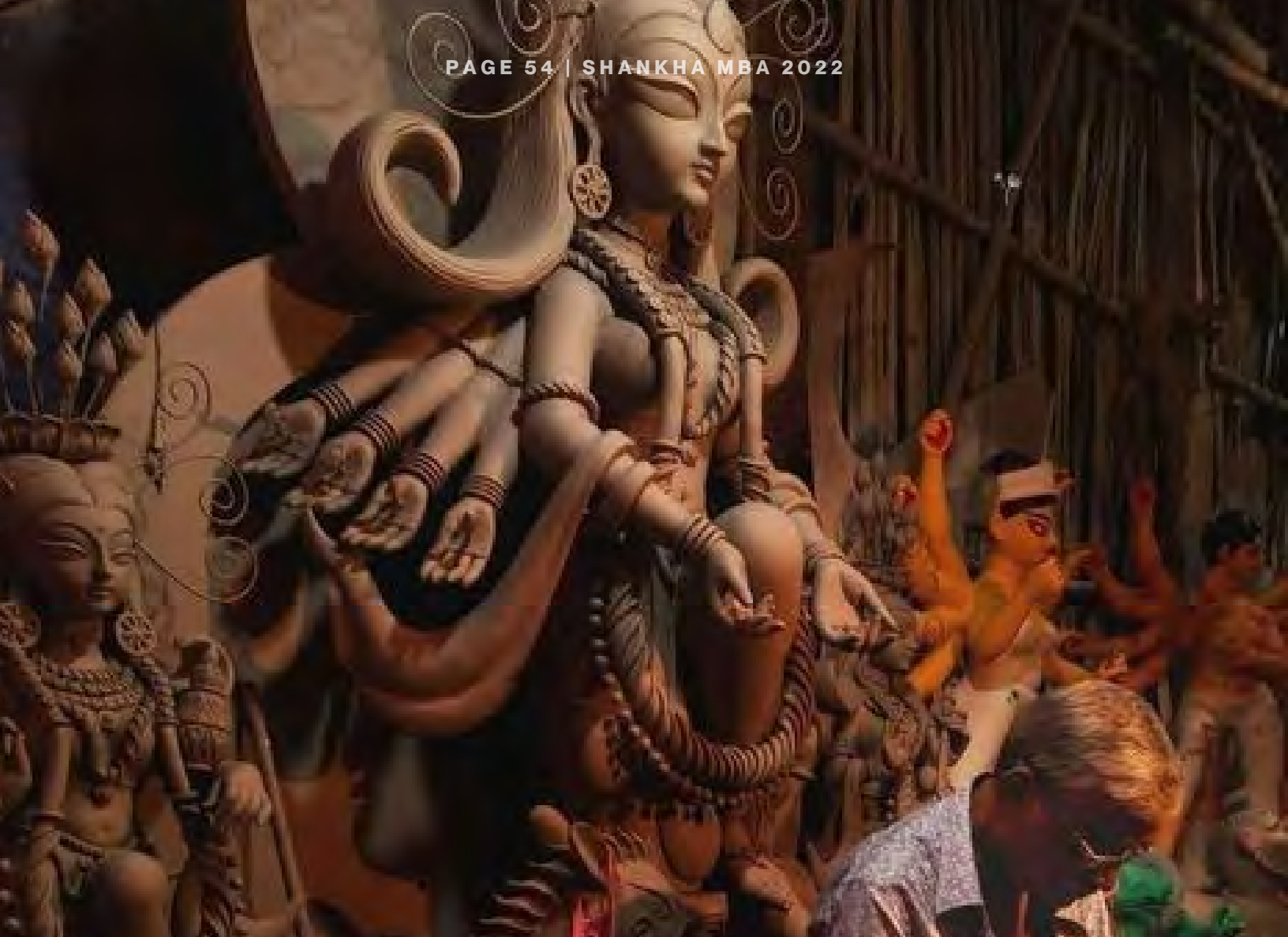
Of 58 mortalities in 2014, 23 are documented poached tigers

Source: India - WPSI Tiger Mortality Data

Source: WPSI's Tiger Poaching Statistics, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017; India - WPSI Tiger Mortality Data. WPSI - Wildlife Protection Society of India.

HISTORICAL TIGER POACHING STATISTICS (1994 - SEPT 2017)





KUMARTULI KI JOY

BY SUJATA NANDY

The Kumartulis of Kolkata are often by-passed in recognition when it comes to witnessing the play of divine beauty in our idols.

Mesmerised with the idols that I have been exposed to in Puja Bari, my dream was one day to visit the men and women who were intrinsic in the birth of these idols. I often wondered, what possessed these men and women to create such beauty and intricacies in our idols that many of them have left vivid impressions, in our minds in the process of time.

My dream turned into madness when I had the opportunity to visit this place of work and play of the Kumartulis. The journey there was never-ending - as is with all journeys in Kolkata.

The taxi ride was dry and monotonous until the scene outside the window of the taxi displayed glimpses of the Kumartulis being not too far away.

As our taxi took the bend around the Kumartuli village, the scenery outside wasn't the typical stereotyped landscape of green and blue; rather it was idols that were laid out in the river banks pulled out from the previous 'bishorjon'.

IT TAKES ART TO A DIFFERENT LEVEL ALTOGETHER



With Shiva and Parvati, Ganesh and Karthik all displayed in the many variants, it was a moment to behold. For me, it was as if, I was being ushered into the Holy land with all my Gods standing in welcome.

Located in Banamali Sarkar Street in the north of Kolkata, the Kumartuli is a village more than 300 years old. Unkempt, smelly and truly a dump-site, it is not the usual haven for artists of our generation. It takes art to a different level altogether, leaving you confused and bewildered.

A piece of advice though, don't let the stench (which comes from the clay that had been dug out from the bottom of Ganga), get to you, for within it lies true beauty and legendary artistry.

The Kumartuli or Coomartolly village is congested and narrow with stacks of hay and bamboo placed in every available spot.

And there, inside every shack, we caught glimpses of the 'murthis' that were being readied for the next occasion from Maa Kali to Lord Shiva to Ramakrishna. It was inspiring to see all these idols, some giant size, all laced out in a row, drying to perfection.

It felt like the Gods from the heavens had come to just lay around and I was one of the gifted few, to be able to touch them and feel them at close up.





Amidst juggling the narrow lanes, for fear that one might fall on the finished clay idols, it was a landmine of anything that could possibly go wrong, no matter how much caution was exercised.

Yet, I was bent on getting to the bottom of my visit there immaterial of how much my children and husband begged me to get out of there. The stench was quite overwhelming actually... nonetheless, I pressed on.

And there, inside every shack, we caught glimpses of the 'murthis' that were being readied for the next occasion from Maa Kali to Lord Shiva to Ramakrishna.

At a keener look, I got to witness how they carefully painted the idols' eyes and gave them so much 'aliveness' that I forgot they were clay idols. The bold colours and the intricate strokes of the brush, made me realise that this is how God created me too - carefully hand-crafted to the best of His/Her manifestation, ready to be collected by the next family.

Alongside this, were men making little sarees and garments for the idols - with shocking pink and orange brocade patterns with gold frills whilst some others were preparing jewellery. From 'nakh chabi' to earrings and bangles, every detail was carefully hand-crafted piece by piece into magnificent ornaments. I could imagine waking up every morning to such a scene - this was my haven!

Coming home to our idols here in Puja Bari, I am often transported back to that village where I saw the whole creation in process and of the men and women who are responsible for my trance-fixed state that grips me whenever I stand in front of the idols before me.

THE BOLD COLOURS AND THE INTRICATE STROKES OF THE BRUSH

SUJATA NANDY



PARIBAR RATION DRIVE 2021

RM 10,386

AMOUNT RAISED
PARIBAR RATION

Thank you 

MBA WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK ALL DONORS/SPONSORS!

SPECIAL MENTION

- **COOKING UTENSIL DONATED GENEROUSLY BY BABY GHOSH**
- **DIPOK MANZUR FOR LADIES BLOUSES (PARIBAR)**
- **HASHEGA - SANITIZERS (PARIBAR)**
- **TERESA TAN - CLOTH MASKS (PARIBAR)**

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MALAYSIAN BENGALLEE ASSOCIATION

PARIBAR RATION DRIVE 2021- PEMULIH PACKAGE

MBA RECEIVED A GOVERNMENT GRANT **PEMULIH FOOD & ECONOMIC PACKAGE** OF RM 3,000 FROM **SENATOR WAYTHA MOORTHY** TO PROVIDE FOOD PACKAGES FOR THE NEEDY.

ON 8TH AUGUST, 2021, THE MBA COMMITTEE CARRIED OUT THE DISTRIBUTION AT BENGAL HOUSE FOR 40 NEEDY FAMILIES LOCATED IN THE PORT DICKSON DISTRICT.

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MALAYSIAN BENGALLEE ASSOCIATION

PARIBAR RATION DRIVE 2021 (ROUND #2)

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS HELPING THE NEEDY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

MBA WOULD LIKE TO HELP MORE NEEDY FAMILIES BUT HAVE YET TO REACH OUR DESIRED TARGET! YOUR DONATIONS WILL HELP A HUNDRED FAMILIES!



VALUE PER PARIBAR PACK : RM 10.00
TARGET : 100 FAMILIES
COLLECTION TO DATE : RM2450
TO RAISE ADDITIONAL : RM 5000
CLOSING DATE: 27TH AUG 2021



ACCOUNT NAME: "MALAYSIAN BENGALLEE ASSOCIATION"
BANK ACCOUNT NO.: "8010724193" - CIMB BANK BERHAD

MBA WILL BE CARRYING OUT ROUND 2 OF PARIBAR RATION DISTRIBUTION ON MERDEKA DAY, 31ST AUG 2021 AT BENGAL HOUSE, PORT DICKSON.

For more info, please visit MBA FB/INSTA: @MalaysianBengaleeAssociation



mba
MALAYSIAN BENGALLEE ASSOCIATION

PRE-PARIBAR RATION DRIVE 2021

A CONTRIBUTION OF 20 'BENEVOLENCE' RATION PACKS WERE DONATED TO MBA ON 17 JULY 2021 BY CAPITOL SDN. BHD. & ROTARY CLUB KL. THESE PACKS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN THE AREA OF BANTING, DAMANSARA, KELANA JAYA AND BANGSAR. THE RECIPIENTS WERE MOSTLY THOSE OF LOW INCOME, JOBLESS, REFUGEES AND DAILY WAGE EARNERS SUCH AS TEMPORARY STREET TRADERS.



CHOUDHURY BASH

A FAMILY REUNION 2022



A BACKGROUND

The progenitor of the Malaysian Choudhury was one Rai Sree Pratap Rai, believed to have lived in 17th century Mughal India. He was charged as the taluqdar (area administrator) over an area named Bholachang in Comilla Division, India (current Bangladesh) and conferred the title of Choudhury (landlord or zamindar) which he adopted as the family name, hitherto being Rai Debogupta.

The Choudhury first arrived on the shores of Malaysia (then Malaya) in the 1920s and 1930s; the first to come were Dinesh Chandra, Kshitish Chandra, Shachikanta, Hirendra Kumar and Parul. A second wave arrived post WW2 till the early 1960s; they were Kalyani, Kiran Kumar, Anil Kumar and Bani Pani. However, Parul was to return to India along with her husband and children in the early 1960s.

The majority of the early Choudhury settled in the rubber estates of Negri Sembilan centered around the capital Seremban. From the original 9 pioneers, the Malaysian Choudhury number close to 200 today, although some have on beyond Malaysia, possibly given birth to new Choudhury chapters in their adopted countries, just like our ancestors did for the Malaysian chapter.



◀ PAST REUNIONS ▶

Since the early days, the Choudhury have been a very close family unit and would often meet up, usually in Seremban or Jeram Padang. Examples of such gatherings are depicted in the photos on the right.

The majority of the early Choudhury settled in the rubber estates of Negri Sembilan centered around the capital Seremban. From the original 9 pioneers, the Malaysian Choudhury number close to 200 today, although some have on beyond Malaysia, possibly given birth to new Choudhury chapters in their adopted countries, just like our ancestors did for the Malaysian chapter.



Photo taken in Jeram Padang circa 1936.
Standing L-R: Kshitish Chandra, Shotu Dutta (brother of Shanti Kona) and Dinesh Chandra.
Sitting L-R: Badol, Shanti Kona, Nanu, Sailabala, Uma, Rakhal & Nani

CHOUDHURY FAMILY REUNION 2022

As 28 years had passed since the last gathering of the clans, it was proposed that a family reunion was well overdue. Further, for first time in our family, multiple family members, namely Biplob, Bijoy, Eva and Pratima, would all be 80 years young in 2022.

The reunion could not be held in the first half of 2022 primarily as movement restrictions caused by the pandemic were still in place. But as such were slowly lifted, the reunion, given the moniker *The Choudhury Bash 2022*, was held over the weekend of 6-7th Aug. Around 100 family members turned up, the largest Choudhury reunion to-date, including many who travelled from afar such as USA, France, UK, Abu Dhabi, Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand.



PHOTO TAKEN AT DINESH
CHANDRA'S HOME IN SEREMBAN
CIRCA 1961



1961 - 182 Rahang Road, Seremban

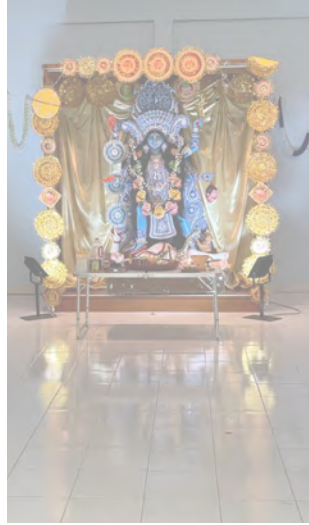
1994 - Kamal's house in Kuala Jelai Estate



PHOTO TAKEN AT KAMAL
CHOUDHURY'S HOME IN KUALA
JELAI CIRCA 1994



BENGAL HOUSE



EARLY 90'S



2010

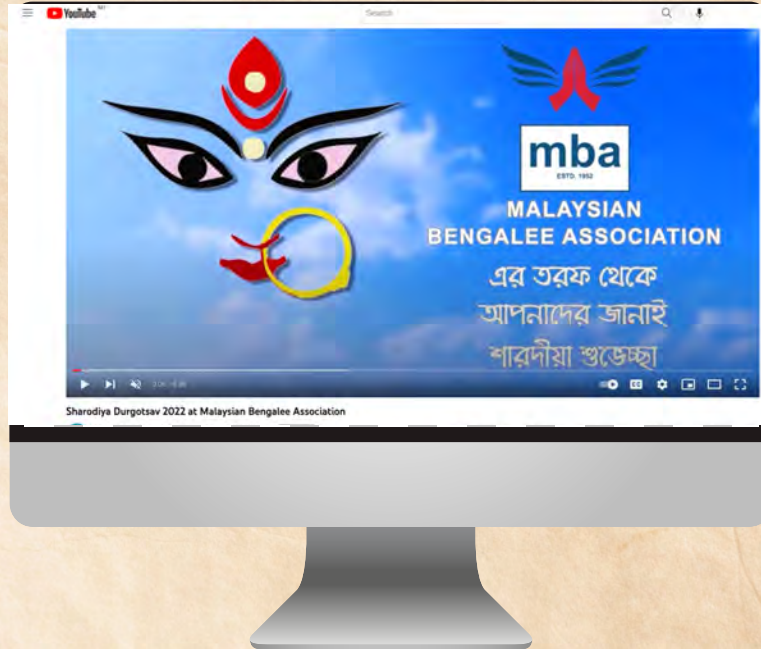


2022



GLOBAL PUJA

WINNING VIDEO ENTRY



FIRST PLACE in Global Puja (outside India) contest that was organised by Shyam Steel India. A YouTube video, that was prepared by our very own committee member Mr. Subhasis Roy Chowdhury, highlighted the history of Durga Puja celebrations held in Malaysia as well as our Tagore Appreciation events.



MBA EVENTS

YEAR 2022

23RD JAN NETAJI JAYANTI	5TH FEB SARASWATI PUJA @GEETA ASHRAM	16TH-17TH FEB PAILA BAISHAKH	1ST-5TH OCT DURGA PUJA	2ND OCT RABINDRANATH TAGORE JAYANTI	9TH OCT LAKSHMI PUJA
23RD-25TH OCT KALI PUJA DIWALI	6TH NOV INA -RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS	3RD DEC MYICE PROGRAMME FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	10TH DEC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		

POILA BAISHAKH 2022

by Eshan Nandan Roy



After two years of not being able to organise any open gatherings due to the pandemic, the MBA Committee 2021-2022 was thrilled to plan our first event of the year - POILA BAISHAKH 2022 (16TH - 17th April 2022) at our home ground, Bengal House, Port Dickson. We had several events embedded into our programme itinerary:

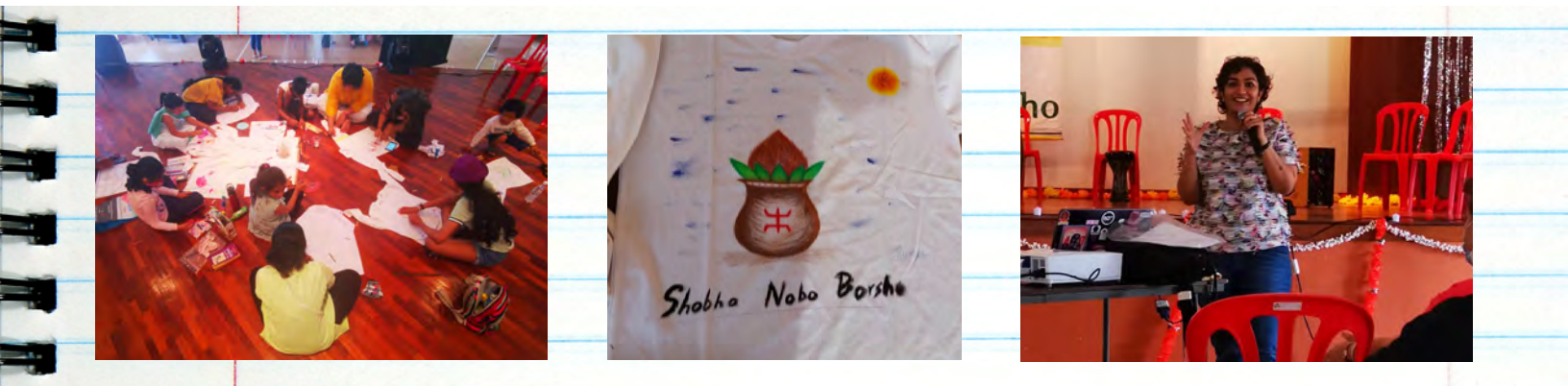
- Drum Circle facilitated by Eshan N. Roy;
- Entrepreneurship Workshop led by Lobhini Gunasegaran, founder of The Sambar Incident;
- Ananda Mela - Food, Clothing & Accessories and Games;
- Cultural Programme (Evening) - Token of Appreciation, Award giving for T-Shirt Design Winners and Performances;
- Holi; Live DJ.

We started off the morning with an energetic drum circle that was facilitated by our MBA Secretary, Eshan N. Roy, who's also an avid percussionist himself and has led several drum circle events at MBA's past events. For readers who are unaware of what a drum circle is, it is essentially a group of people sitting in a circle playing different types of percussion instruments with the aim of uniting everyone with rhythm and fostering communal spirit. The drum circle definitely fired us all up with positive vibes for the day ahead.





Following that, we had an Entrepreneurial Workshop led by Ms. Lobhini Gunasegaran the founder & CEO of The Sambar Incident, a local T-Shirt business. The Sambar Incident (TSI) prints Malaysian and Indian pop culture designs which are unique and attractive and have established themselves as a successful local brand. Lobhini was an incredibly inspiring speaker and shared many useful, practical and informative tips and strategies on how to build a successful brand. We're sure those who attended felt inspired and emboldened to set out on their entrepreneurial journeys! MBA thanks Lobhini!



While the Entrepreneurial Workshop was being conducted, in the background our industrious vendors - chefs, fashion designers, gardeners, alike were busily setting up their stalls in preparation for Ananda Mela. Ananda Mela was our food and fun fair that ran for both days of Poila Baishakh. We had several vendors there selling all kinds of food ranging from Indian chaat masala to Malaysian local delights. We also had apparel vendors selling pre-loved items as well as established brands like TSI with their famous prints! There was a games stall - Paper Plane Toss and Target Practice that were popular with both kids and adults! MBA thanks all vendors for their participation in Ananda Mela!

In the evening, we had our cultural programme. We started off with a beautiful sitar performance by Abhisheg from Unique Arts Academy, sing and dance performances by MBA Youth, we also awarded the T-Shirt Design Competition Winners (1st Place - Ashfaq, 2nd Place - Shorolipi Emma Choudhury) with MBA Merchandise & Certificate and gave a token of appreciation to those who contributed to our MBA events.



Pranay Kumar Chowdhury
Subhasis Roy Chowdhury
(Entertainment Sub Committee)

Alo Roy (Emcee)
Abhisheq - Abhisheg Unique Arts
Swarnima Poddar
Himanshi Soni
Shreya Das
Kieya Arshia d/o Swapna Das
Anushkha Arshia @ Shrieya d/o Swapna Das

Shivani Chakravarty
Suchismita Das
Kriishanté Narendra d/o Sujata Nandy
Bhawna Soni
Shikha Sen
Bina Ghosh
Sandeep Poddar

The next day was our highly anticipated Holi event which we opened up to the public with banners and advertised through social media. Besides smearing each other with colours we danced and grooved away to a Live DJ set spun by DJ Freazz. Ananda Mela continued for Round 2 and we all made sure we filled our bellies with all that amazing food! MBA Souvenirs were also sold that day!

Listed below are the names of vendors that participated. MBA thanks you all for your services!

<i>Avataras</i>	<i>Nitha's Homemade Cuisine</i>	<i>The Sambar Incident</i>	<i>Sadhana's Briyani</i>
<i>Boutique</i>	<i>Royal Rajasthani Food</i>	<i>Vilash Artistry</i>	<i>Shrieya's Corner</i>
<i>Basanti's Bakes</i>	<i>(RRF)</i>	<i>WEA</i>	<i>Super Life</i>
<i>Dee's Fashion</i>	<i>Seventy Five</i>	<i>Yummy Patties</i>	
<i>Hub</i>	<i>Sukla's Bengali Sweets</i>		
<i>Komalah & Maha</i>			

MBA 2021-2022

SARASWATI PUJA

5th Feb 2022



DURGA PUJA UTSAV

1st - 5th October





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KOJAGORI LAKSHMI PUJA

9th October 2022



T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST



WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS

ASHFAQ

A map of Port Dickson has been positioned over the entire drawing.

- The bottom portion is designed to resemble a scene from Bengal and features a variety of items, including the Howrah Bridge, the Bengali people, the Bengali tiger, Bengali food (fish dressed as dowry, Lau, mangos, Rasamalai, Rasgulla, and more).

- In the upper portion, it appears like the entire Bengali scenario is making its way down a road to the very first Bengali home in Port Dickson.

- In the Bengali home, people can be seen playing traditional games like kancha, lagori, and silambatam to pass the time.

Since
1952



SHOROLIPI EMMA CHAUDHURY

Being actively involved in MBA events when I was a teenager, there were so many things we did that we enjoyed for entertainment: food, pupa, dance or music practices for any of our events. We spent so much time together and many special moments were shared among family and friends.

Narrowing it down to one thing in common during any MBA event, engaging in a lively "Adda" session is never missed! With that, as you can see, I was clearly inspired by this favourite pastime of ours. "Adda" is to engage in conversation, sometimes it can be intense, sometimes it can be full of joy and laughter or sometimes just the good old banter. And, it can really be about anything (personal, political, about life, you name it) and happens anytime. It's often accompanied with tea and food to pass the time while engaged in an "adda" session. That's why Bengalis love talking...even when we bid goodbye, we still talk outside the gate before actually leaving. Haha!

For the front part of the shirt, the top left shows people engaging in "adda" while having tea and food. There are also some typical Bengali expressions written there, which are sometimes heard when engaged in "adda". The bottom right is a question to initiate the joke about why we engage in "adda" with the answer on the back of the shirt, which I shamelessly think is clever! Haha xD

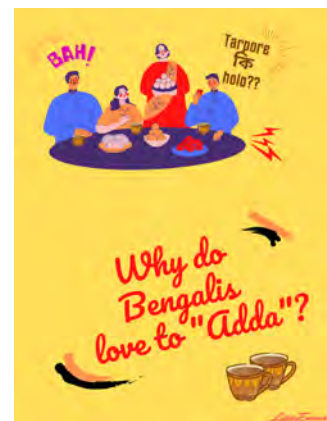
For the back of the shirt, to accompany the pun-my answer...or shall I say...accom-puny the answer, I certainly had to put fishes in water, seemingly "engaged" in "adda". It totally suits the answer and is more significant because Bengalis are also known for their love for Maach (fish). We cannot live without fish, it even swims in our stomach, I believe! I also added some cute little seaweed on the bottom left, hopefully it reminds you of the small green chullies we always put in our Maach'er Jhol (Bengali fish curry). And of course, I added the MBA logo (tried my best to follow it) on the top of the back part of the shirt, so it looks like exclusive merchandise!

I've also added my signature with the copyright sign on the bottom right of both sides of the t-shirt.

Finally, I picked a light mustard yellow colour for the entire t-shirt design because...it just cannot be any more Bengali than this (in my humble opinion xD). Mustard oil and mustard sauce (Kasundi) are like the sacred elixirs of life that bring out the taste and colour of pretty much every Bengali cuisine, so here's to honouring that!

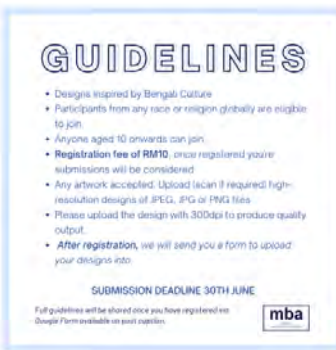
And now you have an essay of my description, clearly I've had too much "adda" in my life, see, I told you we talk...TOO MUCH!

By,
Shorolipi Emma Chaudhury.
(I had too much fun doing this)



REONA CHATTERJEE

In my opinion, Bengali culture cannot be represented via a specific object or item. So I've decided to include key architecture, food, festivals and animal that is synonymous amongst all Bengali's all around the world. I hope you all like my logo!. Thank you.



INA RAISING DAY

Malayan Bengalis involved in the INA and the IIL Movements during the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945)

Extracted from an article written by Late INA Veteran Mr D.K.Dutt in MBA's publication SHANKHA Volume 2

On November 6, INA Raising Day honoured all INA Veterans and their families for their contributions to the creation of an independent India from Malaya under Netaji's direction. Our ancestral home and the residence of many Malayan Bengalis who served the INA but have since passed away, the home of the Indian High Commissioner to Malaysia, agreed to host this historic occasion there. He honoured Mr. A.K. Roy, Mr. M.R. Sen Gupta, and Dato Saroja Param on that particular day. Between 2 and 5 PM, an atma shanti prayer in the name of Netaji was dedicated before the Missions event.

INA VETERANS

1. INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE

Dr. D.K. Majumder
B. K. Dass
S.C. Sen Gupta (Sitendra Chandra)
H.K. Chaudhury

2. INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (AZAD HINDI FAUL)

Capt. S.C. Dutta
Capt. D. Bardhan
Capt. S.C. Bardhan
Lt. M.L. Dutt
Lt. N. Guha Thakurta.

3. TOKYO CADETS

N.G. Chaudhury
N.C. Mukherjee
A.K. Ghosh

4. SECRET SERVICE

S.C. Bardhan
S.R. Paul
Phanidranath Roy
Pabitra Mohan Roy
Tuhin Mukherjee
Saradindu Datta
H.P. Bhounick
S.C. Sen Gupta (Samarendra)

5. AZAD HIND DHAL

N.R. Roy
S.N. Roy
S.C. Sen Gupta (Satyendra)
Shanti Kumar Deb
Kshitish Roy Chaudhury
Girendranath Roy
Anil Kumar Dutt
M.L. Bhounick
Amulye Bhounick
Shankar Deb
M. Sen Gupta
Bhulon Nandy
Monindra Chandra Datta Gupta

6. RANI OF JHANSI REGIMENT

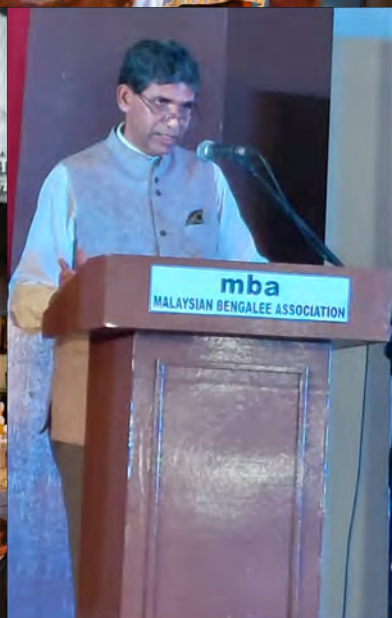
a) Pratima Paul
b) S.B. Bhounick
c) B. Bhounick
d) B. Dutt
e) Amy Biswas

7. BALAK SENA

a) D.K. Dutt
b) T.K. Dutt
c) P.K. Dutt
d) M.R. Sen Gupta
e) P.R. Sen Gupta
f) P.K. Paul
g) S. Paul
h) N.G. Chaudhury
i) S.C. Chaudhury
j) A.K. Roy
K) Kishori Lal Bhattacharjee
l) S. Sen Gupta
m) D.K. Majumder

8. BALIKA SENA

a) Saroja Bala De
b) Madhuri Majumder
c) Gita Majumder
d) Bani Paul
E) BANI SEN GUPTA
f) Uma Rani Chaudhury
g) Anjali Sen Gupta
h) Rukumani Bhattacharjee
i) Shikha Bhattacharjee
j) Myra Majumder



In Remembrance

আমরা যাদের ভালোবাসি তা কখনই আমাদের থেকে দূরে সরে
যায় না,
আমাদের হৃদয় এবং স্মৃতিতে তারা আমাদের সাথে চলে

MBA extends our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and may their soul rest in peace.

- Dr. Bimal C. Roy – departed on 15 February 2022
- Ms Tripti Kana Das – departed on 28 February 2022
- Mdm Aroti Choudhury – departed on 13th June 2022
- Datuk Dr Prabir Ranjan Sen Gupta – departed on 7th July 2022.
- Mdm. S.C Bhattacharjee Nee Saraswati Hazrah – departed on 7th August 2022
- Ms Trishna Banerjee Nair – departed on 16th August 2022
- Mrs Anita Abraham née Sinha Roy – departed on 21 August 2022
- Mr. Dilip Kumar Bardhan – departed on 2nd September 2022
- Mdm Anuja Kumari Nandy – departed on 20th September 2022
- Dr Anil Kumar Das – departed 4th October 2022
- Mr Biren Chandra Malakar – departed on 8th October 2022



Sushil Kumar Chakrabarty

WRITTEN BY SUCHITRA CHAKRABARTY (DAUGHTER)

The late Sushil Kumar Chakrabarty was very well liked and much respected by everyone. He was born on 14th February, 1934 on Jeram Padang estate in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. His father was Khagendra Nath Chakrabarty and his mother was Jibon Tara Chakrabarty. Khagendra Nath was originally from the village of Shridhorpur in what is now Bangladesh. He came to Malaysia sometime between 1910 to 1920 and worked in Guthrie plantations as a conductor. They had 8 children, and Sushil Kumar was the 5th child.



Shortly before the start of World War II, Jibon Tara brought all the children back to India to arrange for her older daughters' marriages. Sushil Kumar completed his education in India.

At the age of 17, he was asked by his father to come back to Malaysia. His father had had a stroke by then and was partially paralysed. He was being looked after by the late Mr and Mrs DC Choudhury and in Jeram Padang estate. They were very kind to take him in and care for him. Sushil Kumar took over his father's small shop in the estate, which Guthrie's had given him after his retirement. Shortly after, Sushil Kumar had the opportunity to join the first group of cadets recruited by The Guthrie Corporation to eventually fill management positions when the British managers retired.

After completing his cadet-ship, he became a junior assistant in one of the estates. He used to get up early in the morning, to do the morning muster with the workers. His hard work, integrity and eagerness to learn endeared him to the British managers at that time and he rose quickly to senior assistant and to manager in mid to late 60s. He worked in a number of estates all over Malaysia, from Kedah to Johor. Along the way he met and married Nilima Dutt who was a teacher, and they had two children, Suchitra and Sekhar. Sushil Kumar completed 37 years with Guthrie's and his last position was the Regional Controller of the northern region, from 1984 until his retirement in early 1989. He and Nilima then moved to Kuala Lumpur and stayed in Brickfields. Soon after that he was offered a 3 year contract with IOI Corporation as the head of their plantation services.

When he was in Tanah Merah Estate (near Port Dickson) around 1978, he had the chance to be involved in MBA activities, where he served as a committee member and as Vice President. He had to give up his MBA activities when he was posted to the Northern region. After his retirement from Guthrie's and when he moved to Kuala Lumpur, he had the opportunity once again to become active and involved in the MBA. He remained active from 1989 until around 2016. Sushil Kumar was always happy and excited to be involved in all the Bengali Pujas and functions, both in the Pusat PJ as well as Puja Bari in Port Dickson. In fact, he also enjoyed taking part in some of the Bengali plays in Pujo Bari, although he had a hard time keeping a straight face during the comedy scenes!!

He was always ready and willing to help everyone in any way he could. Later, he also assisted with many family and community customs and rituals, including the funeral rites of members of the community. Together with so many of our parents and grandparents who came to Malaysia in the early years, Sushil Kumar Chakrabarty made many sacrifices to ensure that the Bengali community could come together a few times a year, keep their customs alive and enjoy each other's company.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Chakrabarty departed on 14th Sept 2021. We all pray for his soul in heaven. Thank you for your tireless service and support to the Bengalee community.

Remembering DIDA

by Granddaughter
Thaera Roy

As the days went by and one ritual was completed after the other, it really dawned on me that she is no more. The ever so kind, caring and loving lady who I call my Dida is no more.

I always wonder, "How did life take such a drastic turn so quickly?" She was unwell, I knew that, but, that was only from February this year. Before that, she was as healthy as an 88-year-old lady could be.

Since February, she was hospitalized three times. Sadly, it was only two out of three times that she made it home alive. What I thought was the least important reason for admission turned out to be the most important and painful one instead.

I couldn't bear to see her suffering. Every time I sat by her side, I prayed and prayed that she was comfortable and pain-free. It really broke my heart seeing her with a tube through her nose and needles poked through her delicate skin.

While I am truly and utterly heartbroken that she is gone, I am grateful that her suffering has ended, and that she is now in peace up there with my Dadu and all her other loved ones.

Not a day goes by where I do not think of her. Sometimes, I even forget that she is not here and think to myself, "Oh, I should go visit Dida today," and then the sad reality hits me all over again.

Very frequently, I find myself zoning out while recollecting the times I spent with my Dida and Dadu. They were two wonderful people who played an important role in my upbringing. It is so surreal to me that they are both only present in spirit. I am never again able to converse with them, visit them or hug them and kiss their cheeks. I cannot accept it, but what can I do if life is such?



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☐

Associate Membership

(Please tick where applicable)

Please Note: Non-Malaysians Bengalee New members can only apply for Associate member. Only after 5 years of continuous membership, they can be Ordinary Members. This is as per MBA Constitution, Clause 4, Sub-Clause 5

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(As in NRIC/Passport)

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E-Mail ID: _____

I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and correct. I agree to abide by all the Rules and Regulation set by the Association at all times if this application is approved. I understand that the subscription is payable in advance for the 1st year and for subsequent years to be paid by the 30th of June. In compliance with Personal Data Protection Act, MBA would like to seek your permission to add your mobile number to our Whatsapp Group and send MBA circulars and event details to your e-mail. If you do not wish your mobile number to be added to our whatsapp group, please indicate so above. MBA will not share your Personal Data with any 3rd party.

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