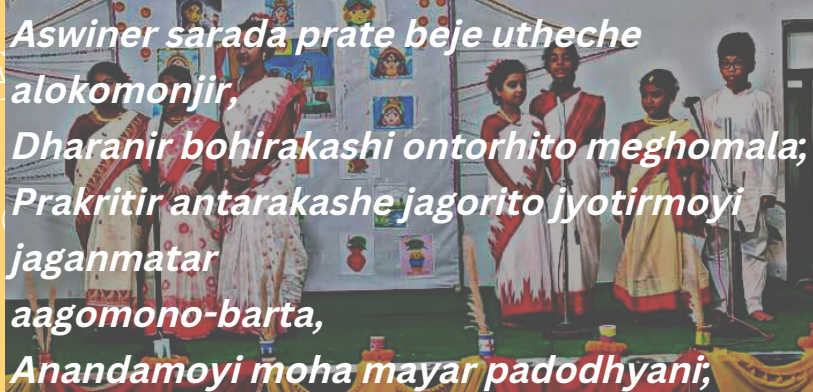


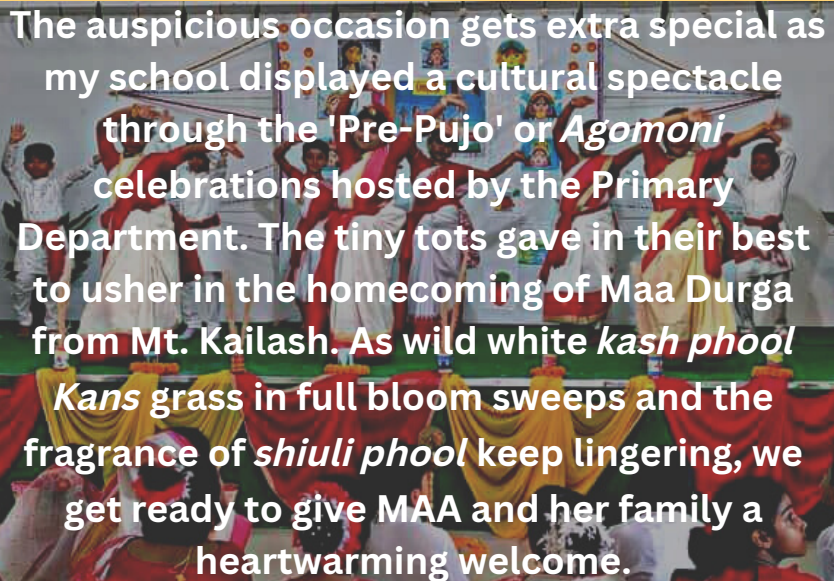
DURGA PUJA: BENGAL IN THE LIMELIGHT

Agomoni



*Aswiner sarada prate beje utheche
alokomonjir,
Dharanir bohirakashi ontorhito meghomala;
Prakritir antarakashe jagorito jyotirmoyi
jaganmatar
aagomono-barta,
Anandamoyi moha mayar padodhyani;*

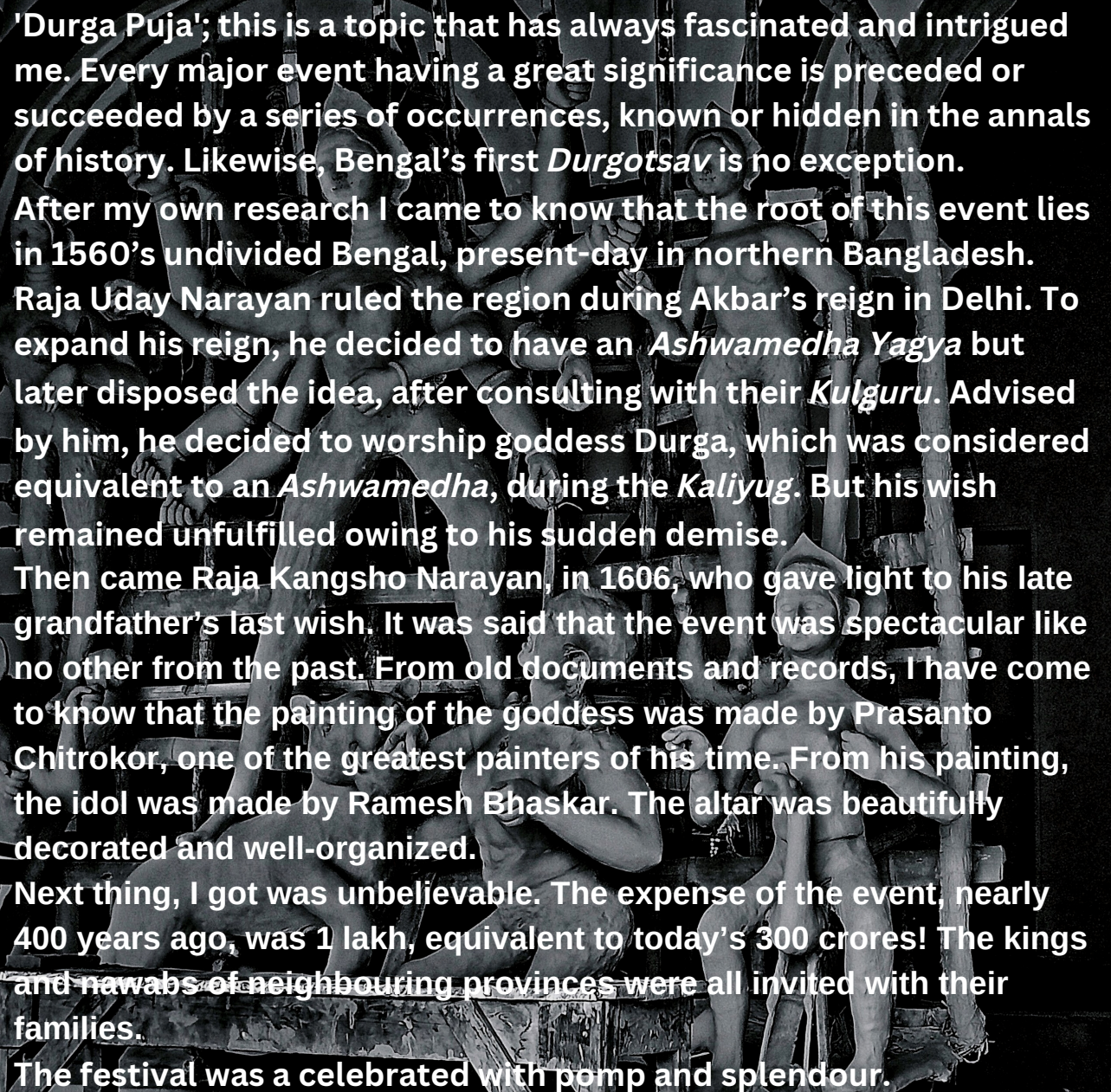
Like millions of Bengalis across the world, I woke up today at Brahma muhurta – a little over 1.5 hours before sunrise – to listen to the timeless and epic rendition of the *Mahisasura-Mardini* by Birendra Krishna Bhadra. *Mahishasuramarddini* is a widely known, the most popular early Bengali, oldest special dawn radio programme. It's a collection of shlokas and songs, that has been broadcasted at 4:00 AM since 1931 on All India Radio (AIR) in Indian state West Bengal. '*Jago tumi jago*', syncs with the beginning of *Devipaksha* i.e. the last day of *Pitri Paksha*. At the dawn of Mahalaya the artisans bring the Durga idols to a completion by drawing the eyes of the idol. This is known as '*chokkhu daan*' or eye donation.



The auspicious occasion gets extra special as my school displayed a cultural spectacle through the 'Pre-Pujo' or *Agomoni* celebrations hosted by the Primary Department. The tiny tots gave in their best to usher in the homecoming of Maa Durga from Mt. Kailash. As wild white *kash phool* *Kans* grass in full bloom sweeps and the fragrance of *shiuli phool* keep lingering, we get ready to give MAA and her family a heartwarming welcome.

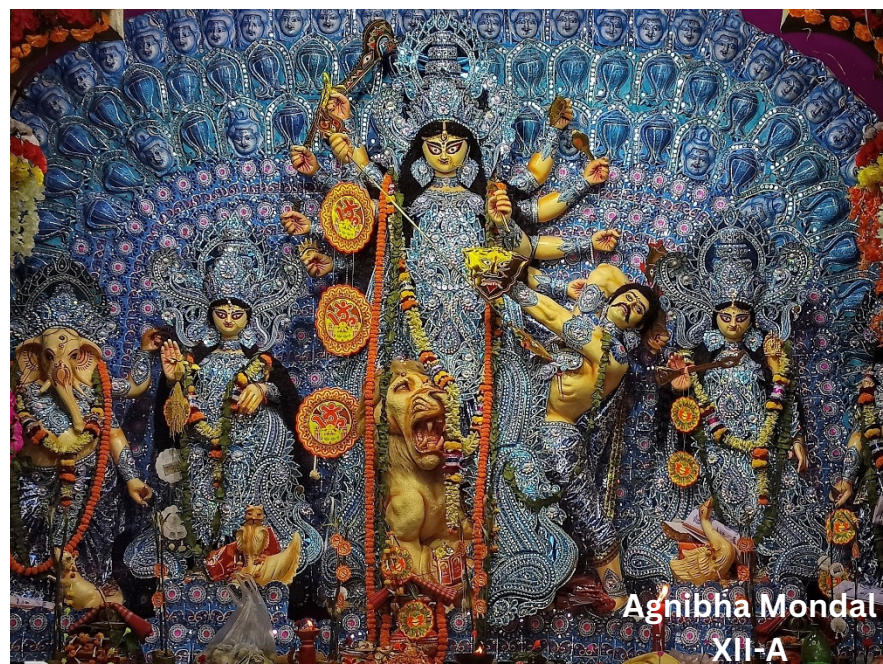
Bipasha Purkait
X-A

Bengal's First Durgotsav



'Durga Puja'; this is a topic that has always fascinated and intrigued me. Every major event having a great significance is preceded or succeeded by a series of occurrences, known or hidden in the annals of history. Likewise, Bengal's first *Durgotsav* is no exception. After my own research I came to know that the root of this event lies in 1560's undivided Bengal, present-day in northern Bangladesh. Raja Uday Narayan ruled the region during Akbar's reign in Delhi. To expand his reign, he decided to have an *Ashwamedha Yagya* but later disposed the idea, after consulting with their *Kulguru*. Advised by him, he decided to worship goddess Durga, which was considered equivalent to an *Ashwamedha*, during the *Kaliyug*. But his wish remained unfulfilled owing to his sudden demise. Then came Raja Kangsho Narayan, in 1606, who gave light to his late grandfather's last wish. It was said that the event was spectacular like no other from the past. From old documents and records, I have come to know that the painting of the goddess was made by Prasanto Chitrokor, one of the greatest painters of his time. From his painting, the idol was made by Ramesh Bhaskar. The altar was beautifully decorated and well-organized. Next thing, I got was unbelievable. The expense of the event, nearly 400 years ago, was 1 lakh, equivalent to today's 300 crores! The kings and nawabs of neighbouring provinces were all invited with their families. The festival was a celebrated with pomp and splendour.

Shreyan Sapui
XI-A1



Agnibha Mondal
XII-A

FACTS

Markandeya Purana, one of the eighteen major Puranas, contains the earliest texts on Durga, *Devi-Mahatmya* or more popularly '*Chandipatha*'.

The cult of matriarchical worship has been in India since the Indus Valley Civilization. The worship of mother-goddess has been also mentioned in Rig veda and Atharva veda.

Banedi Barir Puja

Kolkata goes crazy during Durga puja. Crowded pandals, crowded restaurants, crowded streets, crowded shops. Everything stays crowded. There are also some people who avoid crowds have their own puja. Yes! I am talking about *Banedi Barir* puja. For greater part of the year, life of the aristocratic families are no different than their neighbours. But as Durga puja comes each one turns into a hub of activity. The flow of time may have cut down some rituals and changed them, but these households started doing Durga Puja merely 100-200 years ago. Generations to generations the responsibilities of Durga puja gets passed on. Most of these households have their own *thakur dalan* where they keep the idol of Devi Durga and worship till *Dashami*. On the last day, the idol is immersed in the Ganga. During the *bishorjon*, huge crowd of people scream the same mantra "bolo durga mai ki.... jay!!!!" which means the victory of durga ma. And "asche bochor abar hobe!!!!", which means no matter what, we will bring out Maa Durga again next year. Sobhabajjar Rajbari, RaaniRashmoni, Saborno Roy Chowdhury are the pioneers of such '*banedi pujo*' and the tradition still continues.

Kaushani Dasgupta
XII-C



When SHE (DURGA MA) Spoke

Dear society...
You all have a strong faith on me and I get referred as "Maa", but what about the women of your society??? Do you all really admire them??? Not at all right???
Then listen-
"Rupe Laxmi Gune Saraswati"
That's what you people say right
What if we are like neither
Does it harm in anyway??
Try to judge us from our outlook towards life, not from your perceptions
For life is never perfect, but we take comfort living..
True beauty stays retained..
Virtues can be found in all
Kept hidden, till unveiled.

Muskan Afrin
X-A

JAGRITI

Splash!
Prajukta woke up from her beautiful dream. It was Mohul, her brother, who spilled water on her face. "Ay, dumbo! Wake up!" said he. Prajukta got up from bed and forgot her sleep just to ask her brother his death wish. She was chasing Mohul until they entered the lawn when she was stopped by the pleasant



smell of Shiuli flowers that had bloomed.

"Is it already October?!" she exclaimed. "Yes. Today is the first day of October. We are going to visit Kolkata today." Mohul said.

"Kolkata! Where in Kolkata?"

"Deshopriya Park"

"No, I can't go back there."

"Why not?"

Prajukta didn't reply and ran away from there. Mohul understood the situation and decided to make her feel comfortable sharing the real reason with him. Thus, he convinced their parents not to go out for that year.

For the year, Mohul always stayed close to Prajukta, trying his best to act like her friend. Before September, Prajukta finally opened up with the real reason. That was when she used to live in a flat near Deshopriya Park, she had a bully in school who used to be her neighbor too. She suffered a lot because of him but she never shared it with her family. And hence she feared that if she meets him again, her life will become as miserable as before.

Mohul understood it and inspired her to strengthen herself. It was time to visit Deshopriya Park in the upcoming puja, but Prajukta was a bit nervous to meet her past bully.

At the puja pandal, she came across her bully. He tried to pull her out of the pandal to bully her again. Prajukta tried to call her brother, but Mohul intentionally pretended not to hear it. Prajukta thought, "It is enough! I have to fight for myself like the other girls who really represent the *Narishakti* of Goddess Durga. I shouldn't let her down!" She pushed her bully and attacked him with an intense punch to his face, giving the best lesson for the bullies on earth. The women are all Durgas in their own domain, being the epitome of strength, successful in multitasking as well 'slaying' the evil force/asuras (demon).

Srijita Chatterjee
VIII-A

नवरात्री

नवरात्री हिंदू धर्म के लोगों द्वारा मनाया जाने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण पर्व है। यह उत्सव असत्य पर सत्य की जीतको दर्शाता है। 'नवरात्री' एक तत्सम शब्द है जिसका शाब्दिक अर्थ है 'नौ रातें'। इन नौ रातों के दौरान तीनदेवियाँ – महालक्ष्मी, माँ सरस्वती तथा महाकाली के नौ स्वरूपों की पूजा होती है। नवरात्री एक प्रमुख त्योहार है जिसे पूरे भारतवर्ष में महान उत्साह के साथ मनाया जाता है। भारतीय मान्यताओं के अनुसार नवरात्री वर्ष में दोबार मनाया जाता है – चैत्र महीने में एवं आश्विन मास में। हमारे देश में मनाए जाने वाले सभी त्योहारों के पीछे बहुत सी पौराणिक कथाएँ होती हैं। इसी प्रकार नवरात्री के साथ भी अधिक कहानियाँ जुड़े हुए हैं। इनमें से सबसे प्रचलित कथा के अनुसार नवरात्री को मनाने का एक कारण यह माना जाता है कि रामायण के समय में रावण द्वारा सीता जी के हरण के बाद रावण से युद्ध करने से पहले प्रभु श्री राम जी ने माता दुर्गा की पूजा अर्चना कर नौ दिनों तक उनका हवन किया। यह हवन होने वाले युद्ध से पूर्व, माता आशीर्वाद प्राप्त करने के लिए किया गया था। नवरात्री के नौ दिन पूरे हो जाने पर हर वर्ष रामलीला का आयोजन कर दसवां दिन दशहरे के रूप में मनाया जाता है। दशहरे के दिन राम जी ने रावण का वध करके बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत हासिल की थी और यह उम्मीद दी थी कि बुराई चाहे कितनी भी भयानक या शक्तिशाली हो, अंत में अच्छाई की ही जीत होती है। इस दिन जगह-जगह में रावण की पुतलियाँ भी जलाई जाती हैं। भारत में नवरात्री अलग अलग राज्यों में विभिन्न तरीकों और विधियों के साथ मनाई जाती है। गुजरात में यह उत्सव डांडिया खेल कर मनाया जाता है। बंगाल के गली व शहरों में पंडालों पर माता जी की मूर्तियों को स्थापित कर उनकी पूजा धूम-धाम से नाच-गाने के साथ की जाती है। इसी प्रकार हिंदुस्तान के हर हिस्से में यह उत्सव अत्यंत आनंद सहित मनाया जाता है। नवरात्री का पर्व हमें कोशिश करना सिखाता है। हमें जीवन में परिश्रम करने का उत्साह देता है ताकि हम अपनी अंदरूनी शक्तियों को पहचान कर अपनी राह चून कर उसे हासिल कर सकें। नवरात्री के इस पावन उत्सव को लोग पूरी निष्ठा से निभाते हैं। इस त्योहार का यही मकसद होता है कि समस्त लोगों के जीवन में सुख, शांति और समृद्धि प्रदान करें।

Arya Bose & Pallabi Biswas
X-A

বাঙালি, খাওয়াদাওয়া...

.....AND MORE

তুমি আসবে বলেই হাসবে আমার পুজোর চারটে দিন,
তোমার জন্য জাগবে শহর মহালয়ার ভোরে।।
তুমি রঙে রঙে বাঙিয়ে দিলে আমার সাদা কালো,
তোমার জন্যে মুখ তুলেছে আগমনীর আলো।।

YESSS.. নতুন জামার গন্ধ... পুজোর শুরু মা আসছেন.. তার
PLANNING...wait. OOTDs READY করতে হবে যে... তুমি বললে keto diet
আমি শুনলাম পেট পুজো. Pujo without মায়ের ভোগ is like biryani
without aloo. খিচুড়ি, লাভডা, লুচি, বেগুন ভাজা, মাছের
কালিয়া, কষা মাংস, মিষ্টি, আইঃ কোনটা ছেড়ে কোনটা
বলি?? Even the high-end restaurants give each other a tough fight in
presenting to us the perfect পুজো খালি. Roadside stalls are no
exception.. কাঠিরোল, ভেলপুরি, ফুচকা, এসব জুড়েই রয়েছে
বাঙালির এক আলাদা আবেগ, অন্যরকম ভালোলাগা।
বাঙালি পেট-পুরে, চেটে-পুটে খাওয়ার জন্য বাঁচে, আপ্যায়ন
করে খাওয়ার জন্য বাঁচে। তাইতো এটা

আমাদের কাছে শুধুই পুজো নয়, its also about আমাদের পেট
পুজো!!!!!!!!!!!!

Debolina Mondal
XII-A

দেবীর কাছে আবেদন

দুর্গা মাগো তুমি কি চাও
থিমের পূজায় আসতে ?
যে যাই বলুক, তোমায় মানায়
সাবেকিআনায় থাকতে।
মহালয়ায় আগমনের গানে
পূজার গন্ধ নিয়ে,
সবার মনের দুঃখ-কষ্ট
দাও যে তুমি ভুলিয়ে।
মহারাত্রী রীতি রেওয়াজ
নতুন জামা পরা,
যে ছেলেটা কাজের বাসায়
তার কী জোটে জামা ?
সপ্তমীতে তোমার প্রবেশ
নবপত্রিকার মধ্যে,
চারদিক ভরিয়ে তোলা
শিউলি ফুলের গন্ধে।
মাগো, অষ্টমীতে সামনে তোমার
কত যে অগ্র বলি হয়,
এই বলিতে সত্যি কি মা
অসুর নিধন হয় ?
মাগো, নবমীতে সামনে তোমার
হোম যজ্ঞ হলো,
সেই যজ্ঞে মানব জাতি কি
মনের অসুর কে আছতি দিলো ?
দশমীতে বরণ করলো
কতো সধবা নারী,
এই আচারে কেন স্হান হয় না
বিধবা নিষ্পাপ নারীর ?
বিসর্জনে সবাই যখন
নাচের তালে মাতে,
আমি মাগো পারি না যে
অক্ষ ধরে রাখতে।।

Shreya Ghosh
XII-D



দুর্গা দলিল



PROUD HOSTS

The West Bengal Sepaktakraw Association, in collaboration with Bengal Olympic Association, organized the 32nd Senior National Sepaktakraw Championship for Men & Women at Jyotirmoy Public School, from 16th to 20th October.

Although only a few teams could win, the sportsmanship displayed by all was applaudable. Our students were not just spectators, but also volunteered with opening dance performance, March Past, etc. All of us witnessed and became a part of this cultural extravaganza.

Pranjal Deb
XI-B



Mind Fest

Quiz

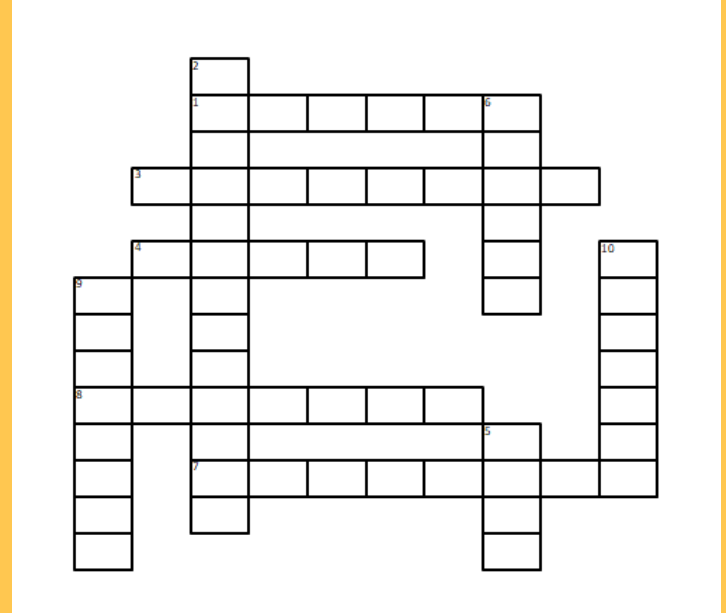
1. Name the ritual where a young girl is worshipped as Maa Durga.
2. The ritualistic practice of tying nine different leaves together is called _____.
3. The name of which goddess literally means 'born from cells'?
4. Which famous ghat of Benaras is said to have been built on the river where Devi's sword fell?
5. Which goddess did Raja Krishna Chandra Roy invoke, when he failed to worship Durga?
6. Who was the first to worship goddess Durga on the Bhuloka, i.e., the Earth?

CHANCE TO GET FEATURED IN THE NEXT EDITION!!!

<https://forms.gle/6wjptorPnurnrgFW6A>

First three correct entries will be featured next...

Crossword



ACROSS

1. Shiva; a direction (6)
3. Name literally means 'beautiful-eyed' (8)
4. Gave *Vajra* to Maa Durga (5)
7. Day marks the beginning of Devi Paksha (8)
8. Day on which Sandhi Puja is performed (7)

DOWN

2. Last Day of Durga Puja (5)
5. Attendant of Devi; Mahabharata (4)
6. Month in which Sharad *Durgotsab* falls (6)
9. Slayed *Arunasura*; one of the *Pancha-Durga* (8)
10. Buffalo-demon slayed by Devi Durga (7)

Sreeja Naskar & Poulami Sanfui
IX-C

Congratulations!!
Winner of the
previous edition

SREEJA NASKAR
IX-C

ANSWERS FOR THE PREVIOUS EDITION

- A.1.** Letter m
2. Candle
3. Needle
4. Smiles
5. Umbrella
6. Stamp
7. Clock
B.1. Onam
2. Gurpurab
3. Pongal

- ACROSS**
1. Society
7. Damage
8. Sword
9. Bangs
10. Airtel
DOWN
1. Sand
2. Community
3. Lotus
4. Ozone
5. Element
6. Solar

Stay tuned for the next edition to get the answers.



Getting Ready to Celebrate the Festival of Light...

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