WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter









The Kolkata Gerktage Gazette

Kolkata, often called the "City of Joy," is a city steeped in rich cultural heritage and history. Founded as Calcutta in 1690 by the British East India Company, it served as the capital of British India until 1911. The city is renowned for its iconic yellow taxis, predominantly Ambassador cars, which have been a staple of Kolkata's streets since the 1950s. These taxis, though gradually being replaced by modern vehicles, remain a nostalgic symbol of the city's vibrant life





Kolkata's heritage is also marked by its historic tram system, the oldest operating electric tram in Asia, which adds to the city's old-world charm. The bustling Kolkata Port, one of the oldest in India, continues to be a vital hub for trade and commerce, reflecting the city's economic significance.

The city's culinary scene is a delightful blend of flavors, with street foods like puchka (pani puri), kathi rolls, and sweets like rasgulla and sandesh being particularly famous. Kolkata's festivals, especially Durga Puja, are celebrated with immense fervor, showcasing elaborate pandals, artistic idols, and vibrant cultural performances.

Architectural marvels like the Howrah Bridge and the Victoria Memorial stand as testaments to Kolkata's colonial past and architectural grandeur. The city's literary and artistic heritage is equally rich, with luminaries like Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray hailing from here. Kolkata's unique blend of tradition and modernity, its historical landmarks, and its cultural vibrancy make it a city like no other!

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this newsletter you will find:

KOLKATA AND ITS ENORMOUS HERITAGE AND CULTURE, THE CULTURE OF DIWALIAND BHAI DUJ THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME AND 2ND INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO BHUTAN MIND FEST SWARALIPI DAS XII A

DIWALI FESTIVE

ভাইফোঁটা



কার্তিকের প্রভাতে স্নিগ্ধ সূর্যের আলো, ভাইফোঁটার রেওয়াজে জাগে শুভ্র ভালো। তিলকের থালা হাতে বোনের নীরব প্রার্থনা, প্রেম আর আশীর্বাদে ভরে ওঠে প্রাণ।

গঙ্গাজল, তুলসী, চন্দনের দান, ললাটে আঁকা হয় পবিত্র সনাম। বোনের মমতায় জড়ানো সেই স্পর্শ, ভাইয়ের হৃদয়ে জাগায় এক গভীর বুর্ষ।

রূপার থালায় মিষ্টির সম্ভার, সন্দেশ, পায়েস, রসে মাখানো হার। ভাই বলে, "এ কোন অমৃতের স্বাদ!" বোন হেসে বলে, "এ আশীর্বাদের উপহার সাধ।"

কিন্তু আনন্দের রীতি এখানেই শেষ নয়, উপহারের দাবি তবু আছে নিঃশব্দ ভয়। ভাই বলে, "বোন, কী চাও বলো আজ?" বোন হাসে, "তোর ভালবাসা ছাড়া আর কী সাজ?"

তবু কিছু সোনা-রূপা থামে বোনের হাতে, ভাইফোঁটার দিনে সারা বছর ভ্রাতৃত্বের রাতে। প্রতিটি ফোঁটার কণা হৃদয়ে আঁকে ছবি, ভাই আর বোনের প্রেম, যা থাকে চিরজীবী।



SOUNAK BHANDARI VIIO



Sparkling Lights, Endless Joy

"Lighting Up the City of Joy: Kolkata's Radiant Diwali Spirit"

In November, Kolkata's Diwali celebrations stood out with a unique and heartwarming approach, prioritizing both environmental sustainability and the well-being of local wildlife. The city, known for its rich cultural heritage and vibrant festivals, embraced an eco-friendly Diwali that focused on the health and safety of around 150 local bird species. Across neighborhoods and residential complexes, communities actively reduced their use of firecrackers, choosing instead to celebrate with dazzling light displays, engaging musical evenings, and immersive cultural programs that highlighted Kolkata's artistic spirit.

This conscious shift was driven by a collective effort to address growing concerns about noise and air pollution, which have long been associated with traditional Diwali celebrations. By cutting back on firecrackers, residents not only ensured a quieter, more serene environment but also significantly reduced the harmful impact on the city's delicate ecosystem. Birds, pets, and even vulnerable human groups such as children and the elderly benefitted from the thoughtful approach, fostering a sense of inclusivity and community care.







Cultural organizations and youth groups played an instrumental role in promoting this green Diwali movement. They organized street plays, art workshops, and social media campaigns to spread awareness about the benefits of sustainable festivities. Many complexes hosted diya-lighting ceremonies and storytelling sessions that brought people together in a meaningful and nostalgic way, reminding them of the festival's deeper essence—celebrating light over darkness and good over evil.







SAYANTAN DEBNATH IX A



Bhaiphota holds a special charm in Kolkata, where the city comes alive with the warmth of sibling bonds and festive cheer. Celebrated two days after Kali Puja, it is a day when sisters across the city lovingly apply a ceremonial "phota" (mark) of sandalwood paste or kajal on their brothers' foreheads, praying for their health and prosperity.

In return, brothers shower their sisters with blessings and thoughtful gifts. Kolkata's vibrant spirit is reflected in the elaborate family gatherings, traditional feasts featuring luchi, alur dom, and sweets like sandesh, and the bustling markets filled with festive shoppers. The festival resonates deeply with the city's essence of togetherness, love, and cultural pride. For many in Kolkata, Bhaiphota extends beyond biological relationships, symbolizing unity and affection within extended families and communities. It is a day to reconnect, rekindle bonds, and express gratitude for the people who stand by you like siblings. The celebration carries a sense of nostalgia, reminding many of the warmth of simpler times, while also evolving with the city's modern ethos. In every corner of Kolkata, Bhaiphota is a testament to the enduring beauty of relationships and the timeless traditions that bind the city together.



PRATAP MONDAL

MAHAGATHA: TALES FROM THE MAHABHARATA By Ashokamitran

MAHAGATHA: TALES FROM THE MAHABHARATA BY ASHOKAMITRAN IS A CAPTIVATING AND INNOVATIVE RETELLING OF THE ANCIENT INDIAN EPIC. PRESENTED AS A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES, IT DELVES INTO KEY EVENTS AND CHARACTERS, FROM THE BIRTH OF THE PANDAVAS TO THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE OF KURUKSHETRA. THE AUTHOR'S LUCID AND ENGAGING NARRATIVE STYLE MAKES THE COMPLEX STORY ACCESSIBLE, WHILE HIS NUANCED DEPICTION OF CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS ADDS DEPTH AND AUTHENTICITY.

THE BOOK EXPLORES CENTRAL THEMES OF THE MAHABHARATA, SUCH AS DUTY, HONOR, AND SACRIFICE, OFFERING READERS FRESH, THOUGHT-PROVOKING INSIGHTS INTO THEIR RELEVANCE TODAY. ASHOKAMITRAN MASTERFULLY BALANCES ACTION, DRAMA, AND PHILOSOPHY, BRINGING THE EPIC'S TIMELESS APPEAL TO LIFE. HIS METICULOUS RESEARCH AND ATTENTION TO HISTORICAL ACCURACY FURTHER ENRICH THE STORYTELLING, PROVIDING A VIVID AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE.

WITH ITS BLEND OF AUTHENTICITY AND INNOVATION, MAHAGATHA BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO THE MAHABHARATA, MAKING IT BOTH CONTEMPORARY AND DEEPLY MEANINGFUL. IT IS A MUST-READ FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN MYTHOLOGY, LITERATURE, OR INDIAN CULTURE, AND STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING POWER AND RELEVANCE OF THIS EDIC TALE.

SRIJAN PAL XIIB



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KOLKATA FROM ROOTS TO WINGS

KOLKATA, THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF INDIA, HAS A RICH AND DIVERSE HERITAGE THAT SPANS CENTURIES. TO SHOWCASE THE CITY'S TRANSFORMATION, JYOTIRMOY PUBLIC SCHOOL ORGANIZED ITS 21ST ANNUAL DAY WITH THE THEME, KOLKATA: FROM ROOTS TO WINGS. THE PROGRAMME WAS DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL SEGMENTS, EACH DEPICTING A DIFFERENT ERA OF KOLKATA'S HISTORY. THE EVENT BEGAN WITH AN INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE THAT DESCRIBED THE JOURNEY THROUGH KOLKATA'S COLONIAL PAST. A VOCAL PERFORMANCE FOLLOWED, TAKING THE AUDIENCE ON A MUSICAL TRIP THROUGH THE CITY'S HISTORY. THE PERFORMANCE DEPICTED THE DEMOLITION OF BRITISH BUILDINGS, KOLKATA'S TRANSFORMATION INTO A SPORTS HUB, AND ITS EVENTUAL GROWTH INTO A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE. A RECITATION PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTED THE LIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FAMOUS PERSONALITIES FROM KOLKATA, INCLUDING RABINDRANATH TAGORE, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, AND SATYAJIT RAY. A DANCE PERFORMANCE ON POEMS BY SUKUMAR ROY SHOWCASED KOLKATA'S RICH LEGACY OF LITERATURE. THE PERFORMANCE ALSO DEPICTED THE TRADITION OF STORYTELLING IN KOLKATA, HIGHLIGHTING THE BOND BETWEEN GRANDPARENTS AND CHILDREN AS THEY SHARED STORIES OF THE CITY'S PAST. THE PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDED A DANCE-CUM-DRAMA PERFORMANCE THAT SHOWCASED KOLKATA'S FAMOUS STREET FOOD SCENE, ICONIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. A CLASSICAL DANCE PERFORMANCE DEPICTED THE CITY'S LOVE FOR TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND ART FORMS LIKE RABINDRA SANGEET AND NAZRULGEETI. A DANCE PERFORMANCE ON DURGA PUJA CARNIVAL PORTRAYED THE MYTHOLOGICAL STORY OF THE GODDESS DURGA AND HER TRIUMPH OVER THE BUFFALO-DEMON MAHISHASURA. THE PROGRAMME CONCLUDED WITH A FLASH MOB THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE CITY'S UNIQUE SPIRIT OF COMMUNAL HARMONY. THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME "KOLKATA: FROM ROOTS TO WINGS" WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, SHOWCASING THE CITY'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ITS EVOLUTION OVER THE YEARS.







JYOTIRMOY PYBLIC SCHOOL 2nd international trip to BHUTAN

RUDRA NARAYAN MONDAL XI



"BHUTAN BECKONS A JOURNEY OF WONDER

AS I SIT DOWN TO PEN THIS TRAVELOGUE, MEMORIES OF OUR SCHOOL'S SECOND INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO BHUTAN COME FLOODING BACK. THE 22 OF US WHO EMBARKED ON THIS ADVENTURE WILL CHERISH THE EXPERIENCE FOREVER.

DAY 1: THE JOURNEY BEGINS: OUR EXCITEMENT WAS PALPABLE AS WE BOARDED THE TRAIN AT SEALDAH STATION, BOUND FOR HASIMARA. THE 14-HOUR JOURNEY WAS A TEST OF ENDURANCE, BUT WE MADE THE MOST OF IT. GAMES, LAUGHTER, AND CAMARADERIE FILLED THE HOURS, MAKING THE TIME FLY BY. AS THE TRAIN CHUGGED ALONG, WE CAUGHT GLIMPSES OF THE BENGAL COUNTRYSIDE, WITH ITS LUSH GREEN FIELDS AND QUAINT VILLAGES.

DAY 2: CROSSING INTO THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON: AS WE REACHED HASIMARA, THE AIR WAS ELECTRIC WITH ANTICIPATION. WE CROSSED THE BHUTAN BORDER, AND THE SCENERY SHIFTED DRAMATICALLY. THE ROADS WOUND THEIR WAY UP TO PARO, A VALLEY TOWN STEEPED IN HISTORY AND CULTURE, WHICH LIES AT AN ALTITUDE OF 2,300 FEET. THE TEMPERATURE WAS CRISP, AND WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE WARMTH OF OUR HOTEL. WE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY ACCLIMATIZING TO THE THIN AIR AND MARVELING AT THE BREATHTAKING VIEWS.



DAY 3: DISCOVERING PARO'S HIDDEN GEMS: OUR THIRD DAY IN BHUTAN WAS A TREASURE TROVE OF EXPERIENCES. WE BEGAN WITH A VISIT TO THE MAGNIFICENT PARO TAKTSANG (TIGER'S NEST MONASTERY), PERCHED PRECARIOUSLY ON A CLIFF. THE HIKE UP WAS EXHILARATING, AND THE VIEWS FROM THE TOP WERE SIMPLY BREATHTAKING. THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT EXPLORING THE PARO MUSEUM, WHICH HOUSED A TREASURE TROVE OF ARTIFACTS AND OFFERED A GLIMPSE INTO BHUTAN'S RICH HERITAGE.



DAY 4: THIMPHU'S DELIGHTS: WE BID FAREWELL TO PARO AND MADE OUR WAY TO THIMPHU, THE CAPITAL CITY. OUR FIRST STOP WAS THE MAJESTIC TASHICHHO DZONG, A FORTRESS-MONASTERY THAT SEEMED TO TOUCH THE SKY. WE SPENT THE AFTERNOON EXPLORING THE CITY'S SIGHTS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL CHORTEN AND THE BUDDHA POINT. AS DUSK FELL, WE MADE OUR WAY TO THE THIMPHU MARKET, WHERE WE HAGGLED FOR SOUVENIRS AND SAMPLED LOCAL DELICACIES.



DAY 5: HOMEWARD BOUND: THE FINAL LEG OF OUR JOURNEY TOOK US BACK TO INDIA, WHERE WE BOARDED THE TRAIN BACK TO KOLKATA. AS WE SETTLED INTO OUR SEATS, WEARY BUT EXHILARATED, WE COULDN'T HELP BUT REMINISCE ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES WE'D SHARED. THE RUGGED BEAUTY OF BHUTAN, THE WARMTH OF ITS PEOPLE, AND THE SENSE OF ADVENTURE THAT HAD DEFINED OUR JOURNEY WITH US FORCED AND INCREDE

AS I REFLECT ON OUR TRIP, I'M REMINDED OF THE POWER OF TRAVEL TO TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE. BHUTAN, WITH ITS PRISTINE LANDSCAPES, RICH CULTURE, AND GENTLE PEOPLE, HAD LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON OUR HEARTS. WE RETURNED HOME WITH MEMORIES TO CHERISH, LESSONS TO LEARN, AND A RENEWED APPRECIATION FOR THE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY OF OUR WORLD.

SRIJAN PAL XII



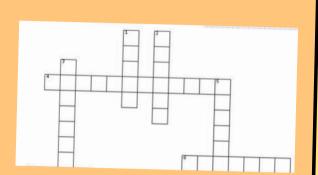


Crossword puzzle

"CHALLENGE YOUR MIND AND UNLEASH YOUR INNER WORD WIZARD! DOING CROSSWORD PUZZLES IS A GREAT WAY TO EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN, IMPROVE YOUR VOCABULARY, AND HAVE FUN WHILE DOING IT. IT'S A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY, ONE CLUE AT A TIME. SO, GRAB A PEN AND PUZZLE, AND GET READY TO UNLOCK YOUR FULL POTENTIAL. HAPPY PUZZLING!"

ACROSS

- The river flowing through Kolkata
- Famous Kolkata sweet made from Chana Historic college founded in 1817
- Iconic cricket stadium in Kolkata DOWN
- 1. Kolkata's famous flower market. ... The festival of lights celebrated in Kolkata 3.Oldest transportation system started by the Britishers in Kolkata
- 4. Renowned Bengali poet and Nobel Laureate



QUIZ!

- 1. WHICH RIVER FLOWS THROUGH THE CITY OF KOLKATA?
- 2. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FAMOUS FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN KOLKATA?
- 3. WHICH MONUMENT IN KOLKATA WAS BUILT IN MEMORY OF **QUEEN VICTORIA?**
- 4. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FAMOUS SWEET DISH ORIGINATING FROM KOLKATA?
- 5. WHICH BRIDGE CONNECTS KOLKATA TO HOWRAH?
- 6. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FAMOUS MARKET IN KOLKATA?
- 7. WHICH DANCE FORM IS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH KOLKATA?
- 8. WHO IS THE FAMOUS BENGALI POET AND NOBEL LAUREATE FROM KOLKATA?
- 9. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FAMOUS STREET FOOD IN KOLKATA?
- 10. WHICH TEMPLE IN KOLKATA IS DEDICATED TO THE GODDESS KALI?

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

ACROSS:

EASTER, MUSLIM, RAMADAN, MEXICO, CHRISTIANITY, INDIA.

DOWNWARD: SEDER PLATE, FASTING. JUDAISM, CHRISTMAS, PASSOVER, DIWALI, HINDUISM.

Answers of previous edition



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