In the second se

Top Five : From renaissance to pure art

Durga Puja Special

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Bending mores, setting trends

A gender-bender of a celebration and another defying caste bias will remain as benchmarks for this year's Durga Puja that will be remembered for rampant pandal hopping in face of another Covid-19 wave.

Nandini Bhowmik's life had already been fictionalised in the movie 'Brahma Janen Gopon Kommoti'. This year she along with three other priestesses -- Ruma Roy, Seymanti Banerjee and Paulomi Chakraborty—conducted the five days' puja and aarti breaking into the domain of male priests. The 66 Pally Puja committee had decided to bring this change after the death of its veteran male priest. The four women are all scholars and have complete command on scriptures. Professors in their respective fields, they fitted the bill of a worshiper of the Goddess in every possible way.

They had aptly themed the Puja as Maayer Haate Maayer Abahon.

While one committee was celebrating woman empowerment of a different kind, Makhla Maniktala Sarvajaneen Durgatsav Committee, Serampore, felicitated the local garbage cleaners who had regularly cleaned and sanitized the locality during the first and second wave of Covid. Not only did they inaugurate the puja maintaining all protocols, the eight cleaners were received with mementos, sweets, along with an honorarium for their continued service.

These two pujas spread the word of inclusivity in their own ways and set the ball rolling for the society to be more generous, open minded and committed to the Goddess.

---Snehal Chowdhury

Durga Puja is awaited with baited breath here in Bengal. Various pandals with different themes pops-up across the city. Team SNU Post picked the top five pujas in Kolkata based on two criteria: Covid protocols and Theme.

Babu Bagan: They come up with unique themes exhibiting Bengal's diversity. To mark 200 years of Bengal Renaissance, the club designed its pandal like a library showcasing prominent figures and books of Bengal. The pandal showcased the whole spectrum of Bengal's cultural identity over the years with a traditional idol adorning the premises.

Barisha Sporting Club: Barisha Sporting Club is known for its activism-based themes. This year they chose the theme "Bhager Ma" or "Division of mother", highlighting the alleged negative bias attached with the proposed NRC. In a rather unique concept, the idol of Goddess Durga here was of a mother with her four children, being taken to a detention camp in a cage. Many of the props used, were collected from the partition era.

Badamtala Ashar Sangha: Its a must see for revelers on the Gariahat-Rashbehari stretch. This time their theme was "Asha" or "Hope". It depicted how mothers are the actual Durga, bringing hope to our grim lives amidst the pandemic. It showed a mother holding a Diya with her children with a painting of Goddess Durga in the background completing the sentimental creation that touched hearts.

Tala Prattay: Tala Prattay has been able to catch the imagination of the pandal hoppers with their unique theme. This year



Four priestesses conducting puja at 66 pally Pic - Internet

the theme of Unrestricted 2021 talks about breaking free from the chains self-imposed lockdowns and social isolation induced by Covid 19 raging through the world. It talks of renewed freedom through an open all-encompassing structure with deity in its cusp.

Arjunpur Amra Sobai Club : This puja caught the eyes of pandal hoppers with its

theme "Somorpon". Renowned instalation artist Bhabatosh Sutar was the maker. The theme acted as a message of respect from the Gods to humans, for our resilience and valor against all odds. Various mini clay idols depicting 33 crore Hindu Gods and Goddesses adorned the pandal compound making it a spacious visual spectacle.

--Sayan Guin

New normal norms in times of pandemic

Even with Covid-19 on the loose, Kolkatans engaged in the puja revelry casting a blind eye towards the virus that has held the world to ransom for over a year and half.

This despite the West Bengal government extending the Covid-19 restrictions till 30th October, albeit with certain relaxations relating to the movement of people and vehicles between 11pm and 5am till October 20. Emboldened, the people thronged the streets like swarming populace of ants, pouring out of every nook and cranny, cramming pandals throwing caution to the wind.

The Calcutta High Court gave a set of directives which were mostly a repeat of last year, making it mandatory for the organisers to stop people from entering the pandals and keeping a generous supply of masks and sanitizers handy. With vaccination drive on, the court though permitted Pushpanjali and Sindoor-Khela only for the fully inoculated. However, it underlined that only 45-60 people would be allowed for the rituals in the big pandals and 10-15 for the smaller ones. The court also made it mandatory to put up barricades outside the marquees and also asked the committee members to keep out gathering. But the roads of Kolkata were a frightening sight of lakhs of people walking shoulder to shoulder,



Revellers at Sreebhumi Pic - Internet jostling and merry-making in an apparent game of self-destruction.

of self-destruction. So much so, that Sreebhumi that had created a replica of the Burj Khalifa had to close doors to the visitors, while many others saw a neverending beeline even in the dead of the night. The Union Health Ministry had already warned of the Covid third wave threats, if protocols were not properly followed during the festive season. However, the general public was in no mood to show any restrain. The virus responsible for the disease had been mutating and the third wave of the pandemic could come any moment, the health department warned.

"It's advisable for the elderly people, children and pregnant women to stay indoors and celebrate the puja online. If anyone has cold and fever, the person should go on isolation," the department advisory had said. It also advised puja organisers to engage people, preferably fully vaccinated ones, as volunteers. But if anything the weeklong festivity showed utter disregard for the rules and a strange apathy towards masks and anything remotely associated with social distancing.

The Met department's forecast of rains from Maha Ashtami was the only hope to keep the people indoors. But that too snuffed out in the autumn sun and clear skies. Bengal was torn in a war between caution and celebration. And in most cases the latter won. -- Alex Arghya Adhikari

Campus News



Sister Nivedita University celebrated the arrival of Maa Durga with a cultural afternoon "Durga Durgatinashini".

On this occasion three books-Bangaranga Bidhayani Durga, Banger Nayanabhirami and Agamoni Gaaner Kromodhara--- the first two of which were co-authored by HOD English Department SNU Prabal Roy Chowdhury and Joydeep Saha and the third penned by the latter, were ceremonially inaugurated by respected Chancellor of SNU Satyam Roychowdhury and Chobbis Ghonta Deputy Editor Moupia Nandy. The books have been published by Sabarna Sangrahashala, a museum about the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family developed by the Sabarna Roy Choudhury Paribar Parishad. The next presentation was the highlight of the day. Durga Durgatinashini-a cultural mesh of readings, recitations, chanting, songs and dance-was presented by the teachers and students of SNU. What made the performance even more special were readings by our Honourable Chancellor Satyam Roychowdhury and Vice-Chancellor Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay. Bengal's leading heroine Rituparna Sengupta, who graced the occasion, later sang a couple of lines of the new song she sung to the tune of renowned music director Bappi Lahiri.

The nine ragas of Maa Dashabhuja

 \mathbf{F} or those who carry a tune in their hearts, they would for sure carry raga Durga this festive season.

It has been made immortal by a series of iconic composers from Ustad Baba Allauddin Khan and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi to Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Mother Goddess is also synonymous with raga Bhairavi remembered for its mellifluous acceptance all year. Even today most classical concerts end with a Bhairavi as if it's a musical homage to the divine mother. Think of this raga and you just can't forget Rabindranath Tagore's songs "Amar raat pohalo sharodo prate" or "Tomar naam jaani ne sur jaani" or "Tomar mohon rupe". It is believed that Goddess Durga appeared in nine avatars while defeating demon king Mahisashur. During Navratri Maa Durga is revered in all nine forms. Interestingly, each form has an accompanying raga.

On day one of Navaratri, she is worshiped as Sailaputri associated with raga Todi. On Dwitiya, when the goddess is worshiped as Brahmcharini, in her Sati form, it's raga Kalyani; on Tritiya she is Chandraghanta, a name derived from the crescent of the moon on Parvati's forehead, and aligned with raga Khambhoji.

On Chaturthi, her Kushmanda incarnation is associated with raga Bhairavi. Skandamata, on Panchami, is related to Raga Panthuvarali or Pratap Varali. On Shasthi, she is the Katyayani embodiment of Maa Durga and is in sync with raga Neelambari. Raga Bilahari is dedicated to her fiercest personification—Kalratri-- on Saptami. On Astami, Durga becomes Maha Gauri. Raga Gauri and its various variants are associated with this avatar.

Finally on Maha Navami, she is worshipped as Devi Siddhidatri to the sad yet celebratory tune of raga Basant. Durga Puja was originally performed during the spring as "Basanti Puja" and hence the association with this raga.

It was only after Lord Rama worshipped her for her blessings to defeat Ravana that it became an Autumnal festival.

---Joydeep Mukherjee

The programme concluded with Dhunuchi dance to signal the arrival of the Goddess.

Parikrama 2

Beautiful New Town



This year most of the Durga Puja around **I** Newtown were a low-key affair, but there were no cutting corners when it came to worshipping the goddess.

Three blocks stood out when it came to making the Puja special. ALAKAI and CE Blocks and Balaka Abasan stood out among the rest.

Balaka Abasan's Durga puja has a soft spot in the hearts of local people in Newtown. In this pandemic, all covid guidelines were followed and maintained by the organizers of Balaka Abasan starting from the installation of a sanitization channel and supplying of masks.

The theme was a replica of Mount Kailash and a massive sculpture of Lord Shiva. An in the sanctum sanctorum stood the idol of Devi Durga amid rhythmic chanting "Om Namah Shivay". The idol looked blissful with the designed foliage behind it.

The pandal was spacious and decorated with idols of bulls and tridents, giving it the feel of a Shivalay. The New Town AE Block Puja was traditional with an Ek Chala Maa Durga adorning the marquee. While community lunch was a strict no-no this year, bhog was parcelled off to the members' houses.

The other blocks like New Town ALAKAI Block Association (comprising AL, AK and AI blocks) and CC Block engaged in a host of social welfare activities bringing smile to a lot of faces.

Elita Garden Vista Cultural Association organised Chau Dance on the day of Mahalaya. The depiction of slaying of Mahisashur by Maa Durga brought out the collective hurrah and set off the tone for the forth coming pujas which was indeed a traditional affair.

--Swapnil Haldar



Ranchi

Air has the essence of Shiuli in it. The delicate blossom of white and orange flower wafts through the autumn breeze. But so was the presence of the virus. This year also, empty Pandals and virtual celebrations happened during Durga Puja in Ranchi.

For Bengalis, Durga puja is an emotion. They wait all year just for these 10 days. Nevertheless, this year's pandemic and its resultant lockdown meant a muted Durga puja. The huge Pandals got canceled, major formations of Durga Maa were not allowed. The puja happened with a moderate budget, but there was no dearth in enjoyment.

Committee members created websites for slot bookings-each 20-minute slot allowing 50 devotees in each slot in presence of volunteers, security and sanitization.

The pujas went live on Facebook and Instagram, maintaining all the rules and regulations of COVID-19 making the puja safe, clean and shielded from Corona Virus. Durga Puja went off very well and left so many memories and emotions for everyone until next year!

--Devanshi Priya

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued guidelines for Durga Puja and Navratri celebrations in Mumbai. The height of Durga idols and gratitude in our hearts.

were restricted to two feet for home and four feet for public Mandals. Only five people were allowed at Mandals.

Mandals needed to take prior permission. Flowers and sweets were banned for devotees. The civic body further directed the Mandals to carry out proper sanitisation. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, online darshan was encouraged. However, physical darshan was allowed following new normal protocols.

Notably, only five people could take part in immersion of household idols. Meanwhile, 10 devotees could take part in immersion of idols of Mandals installed by community groups.

--Jayashree Chatterjee

Guwahati

Goddess Durga has been worshipped from time immemorial, but in different forms and avatars like Kamakshya and Dirgheshwari in Assam. But her worship in the present form has gained popularity only from the later part of the Ahom rule.

At first, the Durga Puja was celebrated only during the Spring. As such, it was known as the Basantee Puja. But from the time of Shri Ramchandra's Akal Bodhan, worship of the goddess began in Autumn. At present, this has practically become the only puja of the goddess while the Basantee Puja can be seen rather rarely.

The Durga Puja practically starts from the evening of the sixth moon in the month of Ahin (Asheen), known as Sasthi, when the goddess is ceremonially placed on the altar. Durga Puja is a festival of pomp and joy. It is an occasion for a gettogether and reunion. People enjoy themselves fully as, during this time, the weather becomes a joyous occasion pleasant and the sky clear.

Durga is the goddess of strength. Those who worship her, pray to her for giving them the With the Covid virus still rampant, the strength to conquer evil. With Covid Rules in place, this year it was a low key affair, though there was no stopping the feeling of celebration

--Prayash Goswami

Durga Puja across Bengal in its various forms

Mumbai



Bardhhaman

With the commencement of Autumn season, the sky becomes clear, Kash sways in wanton abundance. Bardhhaman welcomed the Goddess with open arms, while keeping the pandemic protocols in

This year though the story has been quite different. Due to lack of funds and sponsors, the small pujas in Hooghly have suffered a lot.

The Puja in my locality was one such puja. Our puja set in a quaint lane of Serampore faced tough time. Due to covid, neither sponsors were ready to splurge nor workers ready to put up the pandals or make the idols for a smaller budget. And this spread an atmosphere of gloom amongst the neighbours. The puja had to be organized and so we did it, but with a bare minimum budget and minimal decorations. A priest could not be hired due to lack of funds and thus a brahmin from the neighbourhood had to take up the responsibility of all the rituals. The organisers used tarp and pandal cloth for decoration. Bhog was cancelled as well. But we made sure that the rituals were completed with all sanctity as we prayed for better days next year.

become the only puja in the village. The puja was performed in the name of the King of Kashipur to settle their own rural disputes. At present, it was performed in the name of Maheswari, the only daughter of that dynasty.

According to the rituals, the 5-day long puja is performed by Ojha family only. Every morning, Maa Durga was awakened to the lilting tunes of 'Provati'. On Saptami morning, 'Kolabou' was bathed and the puja began with Maa Durga's 'Chokkhudan'. Aarti was performed every evening and different types of 'Bhog' were served there twice a day. 'Sandhipujo' in Astami and 'Balidan' in Navami were performed. 'Doi-Chire' is served after 'Shantijal' on Dashami morning. Durga puja culminated in the Ojha family puja with traditional 'Sindoor Khela' followed by 'Bisarjan' in the evening. This puja is one of the is a bread earner. And for both, this town is a wonderful place during Durga Puja. Durgapur celebrates Durga Puja with themes and traditional fervour going hand in hand. People comes from various places and they love to see such unique pandals at favourite spots like Marconi, Agrani, Cement Park, Urvashi, Fuljhore and Chaturanga. On these days, Bengal is a riot of colours, sound and fragrance and Durgapur is no exception. Only Covid played spoil sport this year with new normal protocols keeping some of the festivities at bay.

---Nisha Majhi



mind.

People were allowed to enter the pandals only with their masks on and it was made sure that devotees were properly sanitized. The reason we call Durga Puja, the biggest festival of India, is because along with worshiping the divine Goddess, we put special effort in showcasing our rich culture and creativity through beautiful pandals resplendent in myriad themes showcasing various issues.

Marquees in Bardhhaman were also set up in an open manner having colourful lights as their main attraction, so that people could see the pandals from outside and without gathering at one spot. Overall the Druga Puja in Bardhhaman was celebrated in a grand manner after the frustrations of staying indoors last year. This time we all prayed to Maa Durga that may we clear all the negativity around and next time when she comes , she comes in a clear world free from all the pandemic.

---Akash Sarkar

Hooghly

urga Puja is a special time for every Bengali. From the pomp and show of big pandals to the simplicity of the home pujas, the excitement is unfathomable.

---Dipita Saha



Purulia

utumn had come already. Scattered $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$ catkins informed us about the arrival of 'Uma'. Purulia, a district of rough soil, had turned white in this season. Durga puja had a long tradition in the village Hutmura in this red soil district.

This puja, which had been going on for 150 years, still has the touches of old-days rituals. This puja was started by the Ojhas and since then it had oldest festivals in the district and people here were more comfortable with the old run of things than modernization.

--Sayani Ojha

Durgapur

Durga Puja has always been an emotion and never a festival for me. It is one of the biggest and largest festival known of India, adorned with the blue autumnal skies with freckles of white clouds and sweet smell of Shiuli.

Originally called Gopinathpur, this land between rivers Ajoy and Damodar was named Durgapur after the landlord of the area Durgacharan Chattopadhyay. But it was under the supervision of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, that Durgapur truly started to flourish. He wanted it to be the Ruhr of India, with a series of industries flanked by rivers on either side. Dr. Roy established a Steel plant in Durgapur in 1954. As time went other industries sprang up, including a PSU, named Durgapur Project Limited and it constructed the Durgapur Barrage.

Built around industries, it is a town of original settlers and fly-by workers for whom this town

Darjeeling

North Bengal have a lot more to offer than just beautiful sceneries and the majestic Kanchenjunga during this festive month of the year. During this festive season, the residents of Darjeeling celebrated Durga puja and Navaratri in all its glory. Just opposite Chalet Hotel, the Chowrasta Durga Puja is one of the most popular Durga puja celebrations in this hilly hamlet.

This year their theme was "Healthy Hills; Drugfree Hills". They also set up booths for free counselling and check-ups. The Chowrasta Durga puja was inaugurated virtually by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The Chowrasta Durga puja saw a giant congregation of Bengalis, like every year, but maitaining all protocols of ew normal. ---Parnita Kundu

Parikrama 3

-Stir the mixture well till the water gets dried up

-Turn off the over and close the lid and keep it for

-Basanti pulao is ready to serve with your choice

Main Course: MUTTON KOSHA

INGREDIENTS:

-2 tbsp garlic paste -1 tbsp ginger paste -3 tbsp red chilli powder

-1 tbsp turmeric powder

-1 tbsp coriander powder

-Mix the mutton well with all the 4 spices, sliced

onion, ginger garlic paste, 2 tbsp mustard oil and

-Heat the oil in pan and add ½ tsp jeera and bay

-Add the marination in the pan and stir till the

-Keep adding hot water when ever the mixture

-Lastly before turning of the heat, add 1 tsp ghee

-1 tbsp jeera powder -500g sliced onion

-2tbsp yoghurt

yoghurt and keep it for 4-6 hours

gets dry and also add salt as per taste

and ½ tsp garam masala powder

-Serve it hot with Basanti Pulao.

leaves till light brown

meat is tender

Recipe:

-Salt as required

-8 tbsp mustard oil

-1kg Mutton

and rice gets properly cooked

10mins

of side dish.

Editorial Woman Empowerment

s a fresher into journalism, I was a Acause for ceaseless worry for my folks. Educated, liberal, yet something bothered them. When I could no longer ignore their silent pleas, I confronted them. It was my safety, which came with the advice of taking a government job.

According to them, I will never be strong enough to protect myself against the perils lurking in the urban jungle. I was somehow able to allay their fears. But not many are so lucky.

Unfortunately, for many women are still fragile. The gender stereotypes are deep rooted in our customs and mores. But it's time the adults revisit certain conventions and walk the talk about women empowerment. Everyone can sense the pervading urgency of this movement and yet society identifies women as ones seeking protection and merely vacillating. But when it comes to the opium of the mainstream-religionwomen embody 'shakti'; in some other forms 'samriddhi' and others 'sristi'. Hinduism bears testimony to the undying valour and grit of women. Devi Durga is both heroic and compassionate. Her femininity is never an obstacle for the terror she unleashes upon Mahisashur. So why should femininity be an issue in the present time? Did not her femininity empower all?

--Minal Pareek

Editorial Team: Department of Journalism & Mass Coumunnication Under Graduate Semester V (News Production Specialization)

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Quote for the issue

"News is something somebody doesn't want printed; all else is advertising." William Randolph Hearst "

A palate to remember...

Starter: Chiken Cheese Fingers



INGREDIENTS: 300 GM's minced chicken Salt ½ tsp pepper½ tsp red chilli powder¼ tsp red chilli flakes ¹/₂ tsp mixed herd seasoning 2 tsp ginger/garlic paste or crushed 1 small onion finely chopped 4tbsp grated cheese Fresh Coriander ½ cup flour/maida 1 egg 1cup breadcrumbs Oil for frying

MAKING THE DOUGH:

Take the minced chicken and add in some salt,pepper,red chilli powder and some red chilli flakes for some extra spicyness. Next put in spme mixed Hearn seasonings, ginger garlic paste or crushed, finely chopped onions and most importantly some grated cheese. Next goes in some freshly chopped Coriander.

Give everything a good mix and combine everything with the help of your hands until it forms a nice, thick dough like consistency. The mixture in ready.Let it sit in the refrigerator for 10-15 mins.

Sweet: CHANAR PAYESH

INGREDIENTS: -1/2 litre full cream milk -250g cottage cheese 2piece cardamom 4 tsp sugar

Trending Today: Comfort clothing

The pandemic has been a curse in more ways than one. However, staying at home owing to the pandemic has been a blessing when it comes to being comfortably dressed. As humans emerged from their self-imposed cages



been

post-

Wraps,

and lacy

demand.

people

friendly

the outside world for festivities, realized that pajama comfort new essence of fashion in this current pandemic stricken world. designer this season and Schiffli among other lightweight fabrics have running the fashion block

for a particular occasion," said Monalisa. "Oversized baggy fits paired with fitted shorts have been the consistent Gen-Z favourite for some time now. However, during pujas people have mostly ousted western clothing to widely The owner of Boson store, Monalisa Kayal revealed to us that comfort has been key this puja. Boson launched in August this year has been satisfying the fashion taste buds of clients with their comfortable clothing. Bright colours have been the preference in breathable cotton fabric. Ikkat, Ajrakh, Hakoba,

FORMING THE ROLLS: After 15mins take out the dough and start

rolling small amounts of the dough into uplong cylindrical shapes.After all the rolls are formed put them in the all-purpose flour and cover it properly in the flour. Coat it well. Next put in the beaten egg and remove the excess and then coat it with the bread crumbs.Prepare all the other rolls —Trisha Ghosh in the same way.

Main Course: BASANTI PULAO



INGREDIENTS: -500g Dehradun rice -50g Ghee -50g refined oil -Dry fruits (Cashew and raisins) -A pinch of yellow food colouring -2 bay leaves -Whole garam masala -50g sugar -Salt as required

Recipe:

-Soak the rice in water for 30mins

-Rinse the water and dry it by spreading them on a paper

-Heat ghee and oil together, then add whole garam masala, 2 bay leaves, cashews and fry them till light brown on medium to high flame

-Add raisins and the dried soaked rice on the pan and fry for 5 mins

-Add 11 boiling water or double amount of the rice -After 2 mins, add sugar, salt, food coloring and garam masala powder

Recipe:

-Add half little milk in pan, add 2 cardamom and a pinch of saffron, boil it for 3-4 mins, turn off the oven and let it cool for 5 mins

-Heat a pan and add 1/2 tsp ghee, then add the cottage cheese and stir it till the lumps get broken down

-Add the cottage cheese in the milk which was kept aside and then turn on the oven and keep it on low

to medium flame

-Stir it continuously for 10mins till the consistency becomes thick and creamy -Add 4 tsp sugar and cook it for 3-4mins more -Ta da...! Your mouth watering authentic

Bengali Chanar Payesh is ready to serve with a dash of pistachio, almond or any dry fruits of your choice.

--Nandini Datta

Time to laze around and read

t is that time of the ∎year when you can stretch your legs and do nothing for a good five days if you do not want to be swarmed about by the puja revellers thronging the pandals. And what better to keep

aging. With three different timelines 1662, 1998 and 2021, it's an ambitious yet wonderfully compelling novel for just Rs 523 (kindle edition) and a tad pricy Rs 928 for paperback. The book is sold online on Amazon.

Bestselling Indian author Chetan Bhagat has just released a new book this October! Chetan's novel '400 Days' is the third book

one pinch saffron(optional) Almond/pistachio (optional)

pandemic. minimal hand block prints white dresses have been hot in Keeping in mind comfort, have been opting for skincotton fabrics that are perfect

embrace traditional attires. Sarees and sherwanis are usually spotted in large numbers this time," she said.

for tackling the humidity and discomfort of pandal

hopping. "This season, people have not only been

wisely choosing suitable fabrics but they have also

been paying attention to the kind of fit they want

Medium fits and fitted silhouettes are the cuts that people opted for this season. According to Monalisa, while adorning a saree, the most popular fashion choice this year, it has to be matched with a deep back tie-up or a backless blouse. "Customized tie-up blouses from small businesses like Boson have been more preferred to backless ones as donning them appears to be relatively simpler. Wrap dresses have gained popularity this season for the very same reason," she added.

Fashion has been progressively transforming over time. However, Metrosexual men have always steered clear of experimenting with fashion and this puja was no different. There is room for accessorizing, opting for bolder prints or fits, and embracing makeup when it comes to making a fashion statement. There is still room for gender fluidity when it comes to fashion this season and any season, she concluded.

-Shivangi Mukherjee

you company than a set

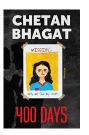
of good books.

Nesting author CJ Cooke returns with a dreamy combination of gothic horror mystery and thriller 'The Lighthouse Witches'. Liv, a single mother of three daughters, Sapphire, Luna and Clover, is struggling financially. So when she's tasked with painting a mural in a 100-year-old disused lighthouse on a remote Scottish island, she doesn't hesitate.

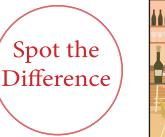
When two of her daughters go missing, Liv can no longer ignore the folklore associated with the lighthouse and what follows is a haunting yet utterly compelling story. Twenty years later, one is found but she is still the same age as when she had disappeared and it seems that the secrets of witches had managed to transcend time and

in the Keshav-Saurabh series, after 'The Girl in Room 105' and 'One Arranged Murder'. Revolving around a kidnapping and a

forbidden love story, '400 Days' is a riveting read filled with mystery and romance unlike no other. The book presents an unputdownable tale of suspense, human relationships, love, friendship, the crazy world we live in and, above all,



a mother's determination to never give up. This book is also available on Amazon for Rs 129 (Kindle edition) and Rs 156 (Paperback). --Snigdha Chakraborty







Parikrama 4

Flim Reviews



No Time to Die: All said and done, you're in no way missing this Hollywood super sleuth released this festive season, if you're a Daniel Craig fan.

Even if you aren't, watch it, it's worth the time. Starting with Madeleine Swan's flashback

sequence portraying the villain's existence and jumping back to retired bond chilling in Jamaica with an epic task awaiting him. The battlefield is all set with Safin's avenge for his childhood scars creating a bioweapon, and Bond's requite to get back at him. The story to salute Bond builds a monumental trap for the audiences with a maniac plot and intriguing performances. A fine finale for Craig, before the new 007 takes over.

Performances to remember from Rami Malek, Christoph Ralph, Ralph Fiennes and Naomie Harris makes the rocking journey even more memorable. Director Cary Joji Fukunaga carried the proverbial albatross of having to direct the finale of this Daniel Craig-Bond series. And he passes with flying colours one must admit. If you are looking for some thrills top gasp over, this is your poison.



Thalaivi: The multilingualbiopic on Tamil Nadu'smostcharismaticpolitician,JayalalithaJayaramstarringKanganaRanautwith anengagingengagingplotandcommendable

begins with the days of Jaya being an actress and focusses on her relationship with MGR.

The second half proceeds with focus on her political steps. The cinematic journey with the conspiring plot, the portrayal of the character of a film actress transforming into a powerful political leader rising through the ruthless masculinity which tried to suppress, humiliate and obliterate her by all means, is nearly hair raising at times and thoroughly entertaining.

If for a few hours you indulge in forgetting her tweets, then Kangana is one of the finest actors. And with Arvind Swami, Madhoo, Nasser M and Bhagyasree, who makes a comeback after ages, setting her up, the movie is a treat. While Vijayendra Prasad's story is layered, its been aptly presented by director A L Vijay.



Golondaaj: Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhikari is often hailed as the father of Indian football. But even in this football crazy city, his life and time is largely unknown. This is where director Dhrubo Banerjee and lead Dev clinches the act. Sarbadhikari hailed from a reformist family

and dreamt of beating the British in their own game – football.

This at a time and age when merely touching the ball called for generous whipping. The biopic shows his grit, anguishes and revivification. And this journey is, more often than not, thrilling and engaging. Indrasis Roy, Agnijit Sen, Ujan Chatterjee and Alexx-o-Neil put up commendable performances and aptly supported Dev, who perhaps portrayed his best act ever. Anirban Bhattacharya as comical villain is brilliant.

Dhrubo Banerjee after giving us two editions Indian Jones-esque Abir Chatterjee starrers, has done a creditable job with this biopic.

--- Snigdha Chakraborty

Campus Beat

Journalism and Mass Communication Department had organized a cultural afternoon 'Esho Maa Durga' to signal the arrival of the autumnal festival. The the programme, and fusion dance by Oindrilla Chatterjee and Shreya Poddar lighted up the environs.

This was followed by an audio-drama— Bodhon—written and enacted by Journalism Department faculty Saikat Majumdar and her student Oindrilla. What followed was the



Chancellor SNU Satyam Roychowdhury posing with guests, teachers and students. Pic-- JMC Dep

programme began with a teacher-student duet from Performing Arts faculty Anubha Sen and her ward Soham Roy Chowdhury. Next renowned artist Subhaprassana ceremonially inaugurated the programme along with Vice-Chancellor Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay and Registrar Suman Chatterjee. This was followed by a dance recital—Mahishasurmardini-- by Shreya Poddar and Hridita Chatterjee. Recitation by Shounak Sarkar, who was also the emcee for

star attraction. A dance performance by the celebrated dance-duo Deeptangshu-Gargi. They mesmerized the audience with their craft. As the programme drew to a close with a gameshow between the teachers and students, Chancellor SNU Satyam Roychowdhury arrived and wished everyone a very happy festive season. He clicked pictures with the students in the selfie-booth and froze the moment in a happy frame of teachers and students to the beats of the dhaks in the background.

Three-way treat for sport lovers

This festive season just got bigger with three back to back mega sporting events beginning with the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup.

The ICC event is hosted by BCCI in the Middle East. India are favourites though England, Australia or Pakistan could turn the tables any day.

Back home, Indian Super League will get going from November 19 with the regular suspects eying for the top spot. The current fixtures are for 11 rounds of league matches.

ATK Mohun Bagan, SC East Bengal, Bengaluru

FC and Mumbai City FC will be major draws this season.

The 2021 FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup will begin on November 24 at Kalinga Stadium in Odisha. It looks set to be a humdinger of a tournament with hosts and the defending champions India, along with South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina fighting for the honours.

----Sreemoye Paul





The idol factory Goddess in the making First sight



The ride home

Deity and the devotee

Stay blessed

The onward journey

Ending is a new beginning



