

MALANCHHA

মালঞ্চা

Durga Puja
2022
Edition



The Cultural Album of Christchurch Bengali Association

MALANCHHA

CONTENTS

Art submissions

This year children submitted art and poetry on the themes: Durga puja and my planet/environment.

Cultural performances

The cultural performances showcased dances from India, poetry, instrumental, and vocal performances and a skit.

Puja food

Food is always a big part of every Indian festival. This year's food was especially yummy.



Dignitaries

This year the puja was attended by several dignitaries including Lianne Dalziel.



Puja

This year the puja was done by Premjit. He was helped by Konkona and Priyanka.

Kids' corner

Kids have the opportunity to give a good title and illustration to a story from the Panchatantra.

Learn to write your name in another language.



Memory lane

Paste your family photo here
if you take a print out of the epub.

2022

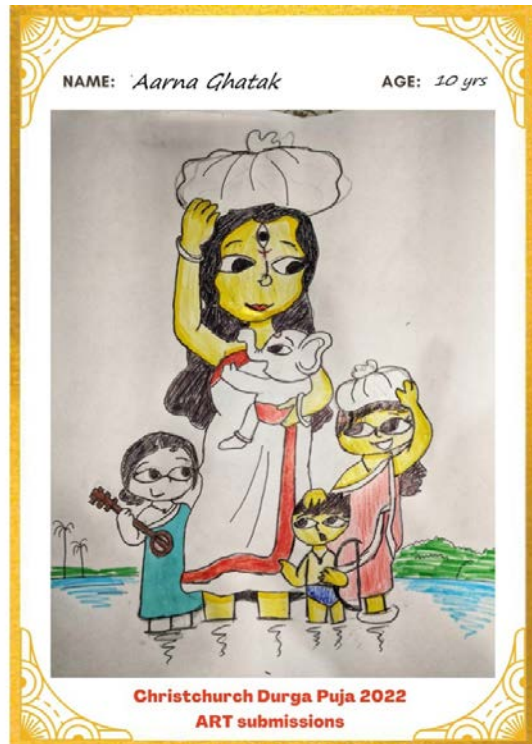
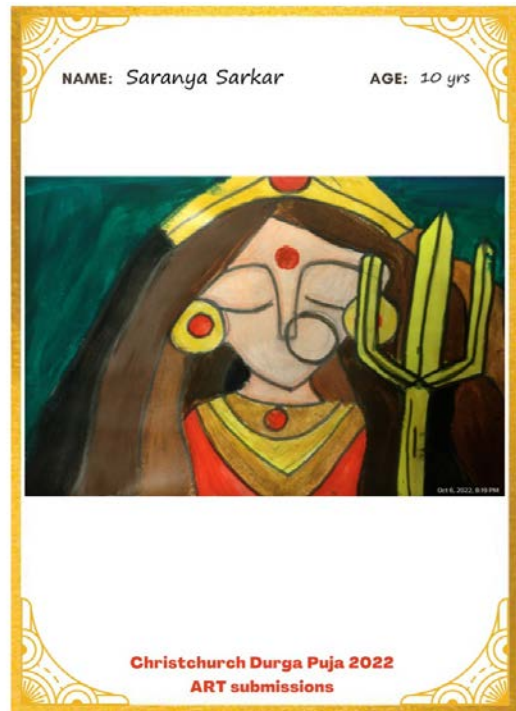


ART SUBMISSIONS

This year the Durga Pujo Cultural Committee invited children’s submissions on the following themes: (a) Durga puja; (b) Our planet/environment. We received impressive submissions from across both the themes.

Drawing and painting







a

Poetry

According to Britannica, “poetry, literature, evokes a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience or a specific emotional response through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound, and rhythm”.

Who wrote the first work of poetry? Was it the Epic of Gilgamesh? Or was it the Mahabharata and the Ramayana from the Hindu and Buddhist mythology? Or perhaps, it was the Iliad and the Odyssey based on Greek mythology.

We are not going to discuss the early examples of poetry here. Instead we will look at contemporary poetry written by budding poets from our community and by world famous poets from India.

NAME: Saranya Sarkar AGE: 10 yrs

5 days of celebration.
 Full to the brim with dance and song,
 A feast of sweets and savouries.

People worship her grace.
 With blossoming flowers,
 And prayers all day long.
 May the goddess bless us.


Everyone is ecstatic.
 Mothers and Fathers
 Girls and Boys.

For today's the day.
 She comes down from the heavens.
 To bestow her grace upon us
 An intangible heritage of good on top of evil. *Sarkar?*

Says Saranya...To Mother, we know, we bow
 and pray - Her presence not just an image of clay.

Jai Maa Durga.

**Christchurch Durga Puja 2022
 ART submissions**



NAME: Swarnika Bose AGE: 8 yrs

Butterfly in me

There's a butterfly in me..
 It flutters and soars in my belly, when I'm nervous.
 It soars out the soles in my feet, when I lift a foot to take a step.
 It flies around in my brain when I think about it.
 I wish it could come out all the time
 So that it can flutter and fly through the sky.
 When I watch it.
 It never makes me bored.

**Christchurch Durga Puja 2022
 ART submissions**

NAME: Uttaran Sarkar AGE: 6 yrs

Maa Durga's Ride

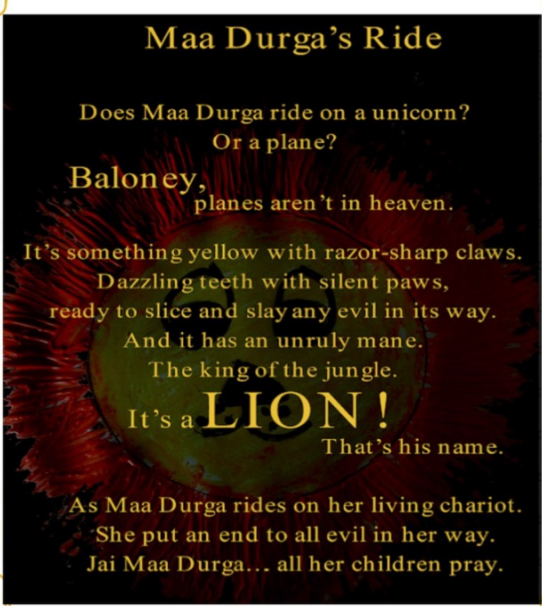
Does Maa Durga ride on a unicorn?
 Or a plane?

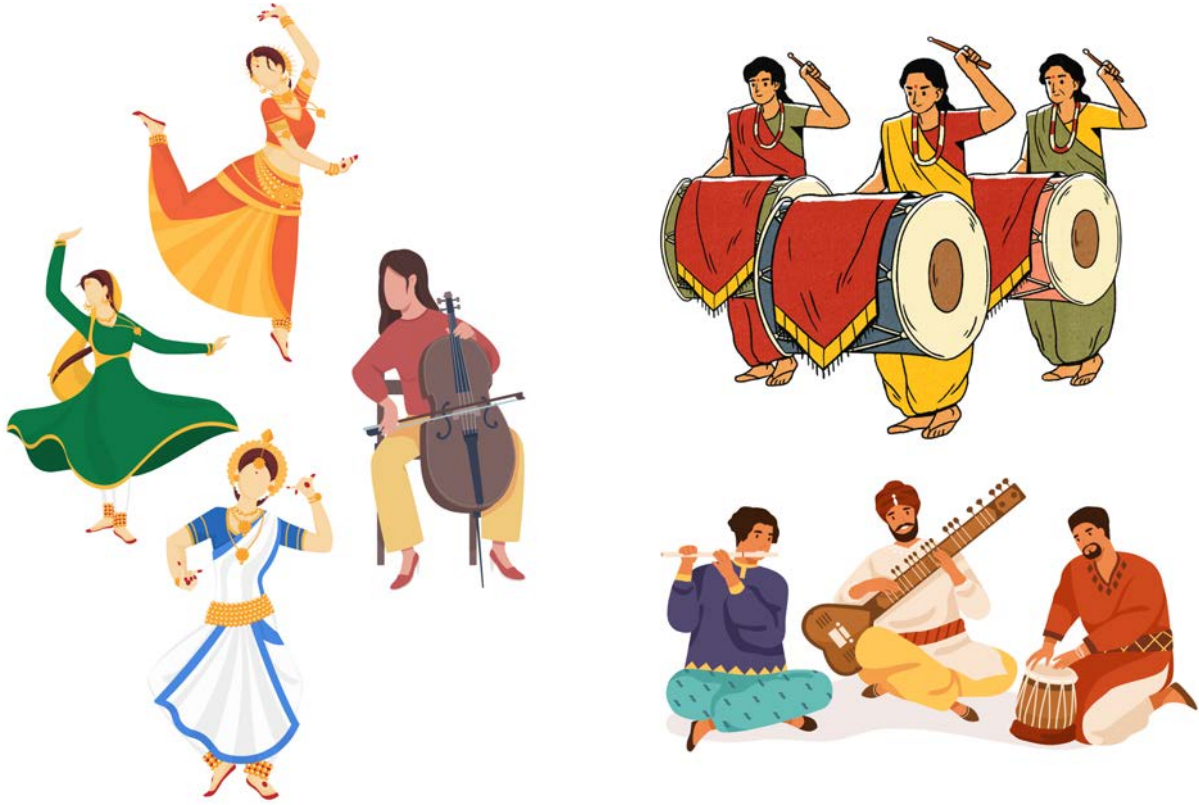
Baloney,
 planes aren't in heaven.

It's something yellow with razor-sharp claws.
 Dazzling teeth with silent paws,
 ready to slice and slay any evil in its way.
 And it has an unruly mane.
 The king of the jungle.
 It's a **LION!**
 That's his name.

As Maa Durga rides on her living chariot.
 She put an end to all evil in her way.
 Jai Maa Durga... all her children pray.

**Christchurch Durga Puja 2022
 ART submissions**





Cultural Performances

Dances of India

Bharatanatyam



Bharatanatyam is an ancient classical dance style that originated in South India. The name 'Bharatanatyam' is derived from three basic concepts of Bhava, Raga and Thaala. Bhava is expression; raga is music; thaala is rhythm; and natyam is dance.

The dancer wears a lot of ornaments of shining stones on neck, ears, hands, and head, flowers in the hair and foot trinklet with small bells.

Swarnika Bose did a Bharatanatyam performance, where she paid tribute to lord Ganesh, the god of wisdom, knowledge and removal of obstacles.



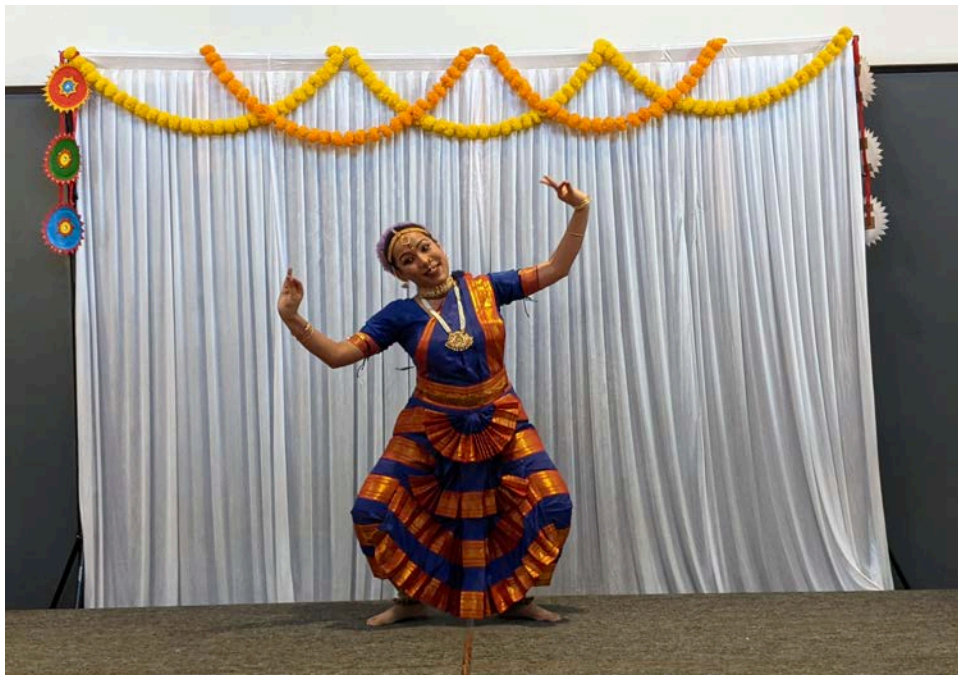
Sahi and Samara presented another Bharatanatyam recital.

Anisha's Dance

Anisha Roy performed a dance on the Rabindra sangeet, Phule Phule Dhole Dhole



Namami Brahmaputra!



Bonya Borah presented ode to the mighty Brahmaputra river through her mesmerizing dance.

Traditional Jhumur

Saranya Sarkar and Swarnika Bose did a traditional jhumur dance on the folk song, Kalo jole kuchla tol.

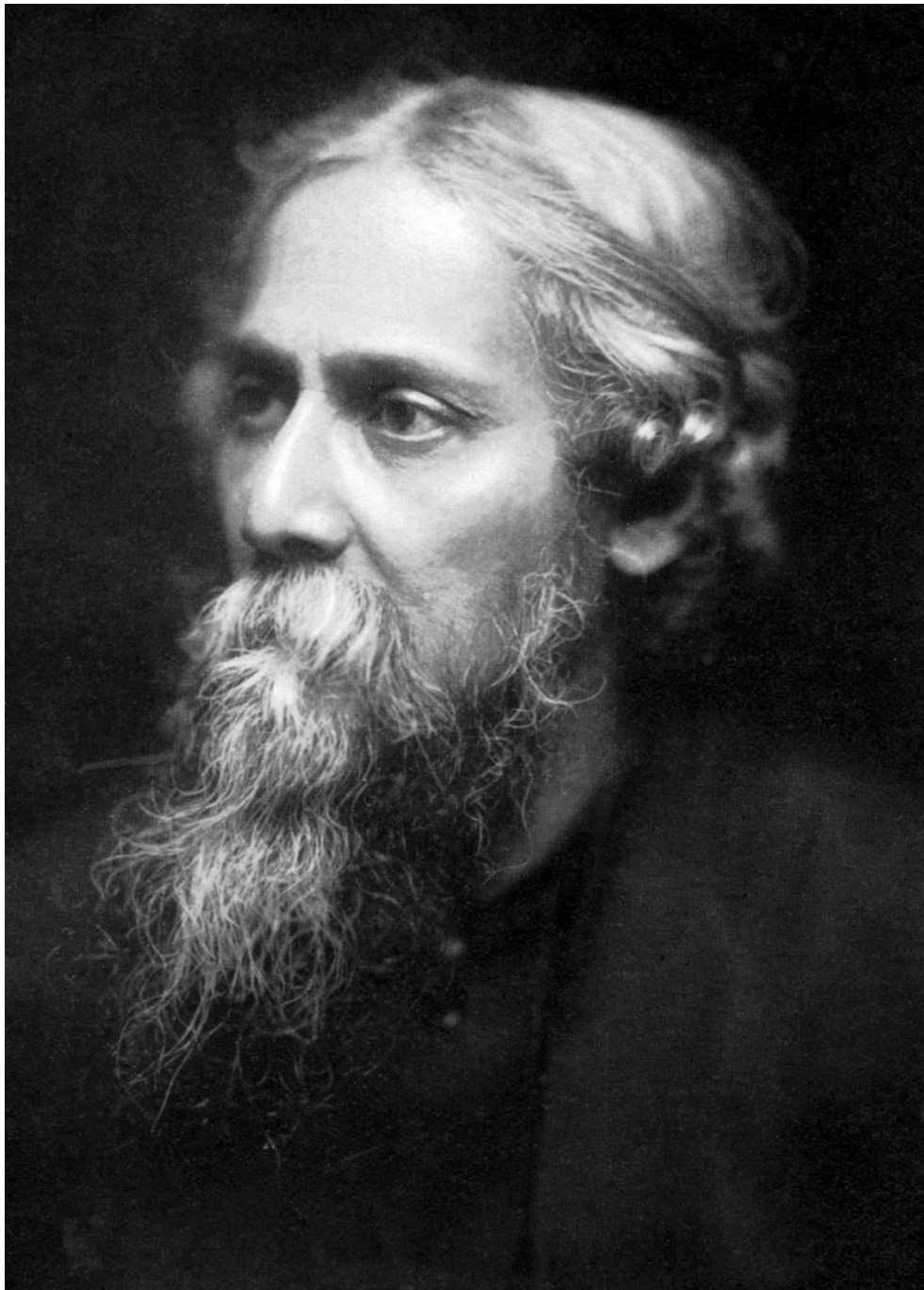


Tapa Tini- folk dance



Bhaswati Sarkar performed *Tapa Tini*. *Tapa Tini* celebrates family, love and relationships.

Rabindranath Tagore



Many of our cultural performances were based on Rabindranath Tagore's poetry and songs. Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913. Here is a brief biography on Rabindranath Tagore taken verbatim from [Nobel Prize.org](https://www.nobelprize.org)

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was the youngest son of Debendranath Tagore, a leader of the Brahma Samaj, which was a new religious sect in nineteenth-century Bengal and which attempted a revival of the ultimate monistic basis of Hinduism as laid down in the *Upanishads*. He was educated at home; and although at seventeen he was sent to England for formal schooling, he did not finish his studies there. In his mature years, in addition to his many-sided literary activities, he managed the family estates, a project which brought him into close touch with common humanity and increased his interest in social reforms. He also started an experimental school at Shantiniketan where he tried his Upanishadic ideals of education. From time to time he participated in the Indian nationalist movement, though in his own non-sentimental and visionary way; and Gandhi, the political father of modern India, was his devoted friend. Tagore was knighted by the ruling British Government in 1915, but within a few years he resigned the honour as a protest against British policies in India.

Tagore had early success as a writer in his native Bengal. With his translations of some of his poems he became rapidly known in the West. In fact his fame attained a luminous height, taking him across continents on lecture tours and tours of friendship. For the world he became the voice of India's spiritual heritage; and for India, especially for Bengal, he became a great living institution.

Although Tagore wrote successfully in all literary genres, he was first of all a poet. Among his fifty and odd volumes of poetry are *Manasi* (1890) [The Ideal One], *Sonar Tari* (1894) [The Golden Boat], *Gitanjali* (1910) [Song Offerings], *Gitimalya* (1914) [Wreath of Songs], and *Balaka* (1916) [The Flight of Cranes]. The English renderings of his poetry, which include *The Gardener* (1913), *Fruit-Gathering* (1916), and *The Fugitive* (1921), do not generally correspond to particular volumes in the original Bengali; and in spite of its title, *Gitanjali: Song Offerings* (1912), the most acclaimed of them, contains poems from other works besides its namesake. Tagore's major plays are *Raja* (1910) [*The King of the Dark Chamber*], *Dakghar* (1912) [*The Post Office*], *Achalayatan* (1912) [The Immovable], *Muktadhara* (1922) [The Waterfall], and *Raktakaravi* (1926) [*Red Oleanders*]. He is the author of several volumes of short stories and a number of novels, among them *Gora* (1910), *Ghare-Baire* (1916) [*The Home and the World*], and *Yogayog* (1929) [Crosscurrents]. Besides these, he wrote musical dramas, dance dramas, essays of all types, travel diaries, and two autobiographies, one in his middle years and the other shortly before his death in 1941. Tagore also left numerous drawings and paintings, and songs for which he wrote the music himself.

Rabindranath Tagore died on August 7, 1941.

Source: Taken verbatim from Rabindranath Tagore – Biographical. NobelPrize.org. Nobel Prize Outreach AB 2022. Fri. 30 Dec 2022.
<<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1913/tagore/biographical>>

A poem written and recited by Krishanu Das

Poetry

The Story Of Maa Durga
A couple thousand years ago
A demon prayed for long and so

Brahma granted him a boon

Under a dim, half-lit moon.

“I wish no man or god can kill me”

The arrogant asura did plea.

Brahma thought and thought and thought. But,
because of the way he was taught, He granted
Mahishasura the wish.

And under his feet, the world was squished! He
took over lands and made gods flee. All the way
up to the three,

Most powerful gods ever conceived. Brahma,
Shiva, & Vishnu,

The gods begged them to solve the issue. So the
three formed a jury

To end the buffalo demon’s fury.

The lesser gods all joined in.

To make someone to save all of them. And who
did they decide to create?

Maa Durga of course! There’s no debate. Riding
on a lion’s back,

Maa Durga was on the attack

Using Shiva’s mighty trishul,

She speared the demon, it was official. Dead as
a dodo was the mighty asura Maa Durga had
killed Mahishasura!



Chuti

Anisha Roy recited a song written by Rabindranath Tagore



ছুটি

রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর

মেঘের কোলে রোদ হেসেছে,
বাদল গেছে টুটি,
আজ আমাদের ছুটি, ও ভাই,
আজ আমাদের ছুটি।
কী করি আজ ভেবে না পাই,
পথ হারিয়ে কোন্ বনে যাই,
কোন্ মাঠে যে ছুটে বেড়াই,
সকল ছেলে জুটি।।
কেয়াপাতায় নৌকো গড়ে
সাজিয়ে দেব ফুলে,
তালদিঘিতে ভাসিয়ে দেবো,
চলবে দুলে দুলে।
রাখাল ছেলের সঙ্গে ধেনু
চরাব আজ বাজিয়ে বেণু,
মাখব গায়ে ফুলের রেণু
চাঁপার বনে লুটি।
আজ আমাদের ছুটি, ও ভাই,
আজ আমাদের ছুটি।।

Kumor parar gorur gari

Syona Betal recited the poem
Kumor parar gorur gari, written
by Rabindra Nath Tagore

হাট

কুমোর-পাড়ার গোরুর গাড়ি-
বোঝাই করা কলসি হাঁড়ি।
গাড়ি চালায় বংশীবদন,
সঙ্গে যে যায় ভাগ্নে মদন।

হাট বসেছে শুক্রবারে
বক্শিগঞ্জে পদ্মাপারে।
জিনিস-পত্র জুটিয়ে এনে
গ্রামের মানুষ বেচে কেনে।

উচ্ছে বেগুন পটল মুলো,
বেতের বোনা ধামা কুলো,
সর্ষে ছোলা ময়দা আটা,
শীতের র্যাপার নকশা-কাটা।

ঝাঁঝরি কড়া বেড়ি হাতা,
শহর থেকে সস্তা ছাতা।
কলসি-ভরা এখো গুড়ে
মাছি যত বেড়ায় উড়ে।



Instrumental and vocal performances

Violin

Aarna Ghatak played the Rabindra sangeet *Boro asha kore esechi* on violin accompanied by Joshua D'vanbu on the tabla and dad, Sudeep Ghatak, on the guitar.



Keyboard

Saranya Sarkar played the Rabindra sangeet Puranor shei diner kotha on the keyboard.



Alto saxophone

Aadarsh Roy



Aadarsh played 'Take 5', which is a jazz standard on the alto saxophone.

Takumi Canterbury Japanese Drumming Group

Taiko is a traditional Japanese form of percussion performance using large drums, or wadaiko. Each player drums in formation with big and little drums in synchronised actions.- **from Stuff**

Did you know?

Taiko are typically made of hardwoods such as zelkova or Japanese ash, which is used to make baseball bats. The production process, which involves drying the wood and processing the leather for the skin of the drum, takes close to five years to

The Canterbury Japanese Drumming group, TAKUMI was formed in 2007. As we blossomed, we embraced the opportunity to showcase the uniqueness, power and beauty of the Japanese traditional instrument, the Wadaiko (Japanese drums), to the wider community through lively and energetic performances.



Tabla

According to Wikipedia, the word tabla comes from the Arabic word tabl, which stands for drums. The playing technique is complex and involves extensive use of the fingers and palms in various configurations to create a wide variety of different sounds and rhythms.



Joshua D'vanbu, Deep Das, Adarsh, and Hemot performed a tabla ensemble. See the photo above.

Deep Das and Joshua D'vanbu also played tabla on the popular Bollywood song, *Mohe rang do lal* from the movie Bajirao Mastani.



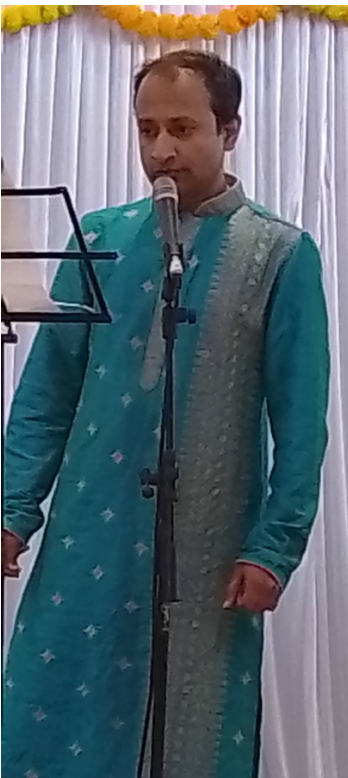
Jugalbandi

Joshua D'vanbu (Tabla), Liam Oliver (Sitar), Nelson Myers-Daly (Bansuri) and Louis Singh-Talbot (Dilruba)

Vocal performances

Maha Ganapathim

Maha Ganapathim, is a composition by Shri Muthuswami Deekshithar in ragam Nattai and Adi Talam. **Utthara** sang the Maha Ganapathim followed by Aigiri Nandini, the traditional Durga Stuti.



Tumi Robe Nirobe

Sudeep Ghatak sang the popular Rabindra sangeet ***Tumi Robe Nirobe*** accompanied by Joshua D'vanbu on the tabla.

Skit

Kong versus Kong

In this skit, two King Kongs go on a rampage until 'big brother and big sister' challenge them. Finally, King Kongs learn that cleaning is better than destroying the world.

Featuring Ayushman Das, Uttaran Sarkar, Saranya Sarkar, and Krishanu Das.

KONG VS KONG

Stop destroying

Start cleaning

STARRING

UTTARAN SARKAR, AYUSHMAN DAS,
KRISHANU DAS, SARANYA SARKAR.

ONLY IN DURGA PUJA 2022 CULTURAL
FUNCTION

Mid-day fun

For the Afternoon Programme, which was between lunch and the Cultural Programme, the Cultural Committee had organised Face Painting, Musical Chairs, Colouring and a Quiz for the children.

The winner of this year's musical chairs was Aneesha Basu!

The children looked delightful with their faces painted as fairies, princesses, Batman, Spiderman, tigers, jokers.... They had lots of fun playing musical chairs, bopping along to Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber, amongst other pop stars. Some children opted for colouring whilst others joined the two quiz teams. We had a 'Girls' Team' and a 'Boys Team'. Both teams did very well, the questions were mostly based on NZ trivia, but some were on Indian and World general. knowledge. I was most impressed, especially by the Boys' Team....who won!!

Quiz time



Colouring



Sindoor Khela

Sindoor refers to **vermillion** in many Indian languages. **Sindoor Khela** marks the end of Durga Puja. Women apply sindoor on the idol of Goddess Durga and then play Holi with sindoor. The ritual is estimated to be between 200 and 400 years old.

The photos below show women posing for a picture after sindoor khela.



Puja



This year the puja was performed by Premjit Tarafdar and his capable helpers Priyanka (in green sari beside the kids) and Konkona (first from the right in seated position).

The puja process takes over five hours during which there is very little scope to relax. Premjit, Konkona and Priyanka made sure that all rituals were performed. The picture above shows guests offering *pushpanjali* to Devi Durga.

Food

Food is an integral part of Durga puja. The photos below show people enjoying lunch, thanks to our cooking team (top right photo). Aside from lunch, there was arrangements for refreshments such as tea, jalebi and cookies.



As Christchurch bids farewell to its departing mayor, Leanne Danziel, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for her dedicated service to the city. Mayor Danziel's leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on the community, guiding Christchurch through times of adversity and towards a brighter future. Her legacy as a champion for resilience and inclusivity will be remembered and celebrated as the city continues its journey of progress. She had been involved with the Christchurch Bengali Community since her first day as Mayor, and to commemorate the anniversary, she attended the Durga Puja as her final event as Mayor.



Dignitaries

Similar to previous years, the Durga Puja was graced by the attendance of several dignitaries such as Hon Dr. Megan Woods, Shirish Paranjape, and Leanne Danziel. See photos below.

Kid's corner

Story time

Here is a story from a famous book of fables from India, the Panchatantra. Read the story and then give the story a name and add your illustration

(Put the title of the story on the dotted line & paste your drawing here.)

Once upon a time, there used to be a huge banyan tree that was home to a pair of crows. That tree was also home to a black snake, who used to live in one of the many crevices in the tree. Every time the crows had baby crows, the snake would devour the chicks. The crows were heartbroken. Finally, they went to discuss this with their friend, the jackal.

"Dear, friend, please help us. What should we do? The black snake has killed all our children. Tell me if there is a way out?", pleaded the crows.

"Do not worry. I have a solution" said the jackal. "This greedy snake cannot be killed without proper planning. In bad times, one should not abandon patience. The crows enquired, "Please tell how will we get rid of the snake"

The jackal said, "Go to the city where the king resides. When the king is not very alert, pick up his gold jewellery and drop it near the crevice where the snake lives."

The crow couple immediately flew towards the city. When they reached the city, they saw that the King was busy in water-play, leaving necklaces, gold ornaments, pearl necklaces and other garments etc near the pond. The mother-crow picked up one of the ornaments and started flying towards her tree. The King's men seeing the mother-crow taking the ornament, started following her. The mother-crow dropped the gold necklace at the mouth of the snake's crevice.

When the King's men climbed the tree, the snake came out of its crevice with its fang spread. The King's men killed the snake with sticks, and recovered the necklace. The crow couple lived happily ever after.

Learn a new language

Can you write your name in a language other than English? You could ask your mum or dad to show you how to write your name in your native language, for example Bangla, Tamil, Telugu etc.

Gratitude and Appreciation

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Christchurch City Council and our esteemed local businesses for their invaluable support and sponsorship of our recent event. Their dedication and generosity have played a significant role in making our event a resounding success. Without their contributions, this event would not have been possible. Join us as we celebrate their commitment to our community and acknowledge their outstanding support.

The financial support provided by the Christchurch City Council and local businesses was instrumental in the realization of our event. Their contributions enabled us to secure top-notch venues, procure necessary resources, and offer a memorable experience to our attendees. We are immensely grateful for their financial backing, as it played a crucial role in elevating our event to new heights.

In addition to their financial support, the Christchurch City Council and local businesses played a vital role in promoting our event. Our sincere thanks to Indian High Commission, Wellington for their support and we express our deepest gratitude for their unwavering commitment to spreading the word about our event and increasing its visibility within the community. As we conclude this special edition, we once again extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Christchurch City Council, Indian High Commission and local businesses for their invaluable support and sponsorship.



Thank You
 Christchurch Bengali Community
 greatly appreciate your ongoing support

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