

tabla **inc** NEWSLETTER

SADHNA

VOL. 3





Bonnya Bose

Founder Director - Tabla.Inc
Editor- Sadhna

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

“Every experience, no matter how good or bad it seems, holds within it a blessing of some kind, the goal is to find it.” quoted by the great Buddha.

A warm welcome to this 3rd edition of Sadhna! We are glad to present this edition which is both lively and unique. We made the statement, so now the onus is on us to explain how this edition is so special.

This period has been a festive season to our intellectual side. Distinguished musicians and artistes joined our initiatives. Their performances and lectures were motivational, inspiring and gave new insights to the cultural world. We have some articles capturing these memorable experiences.

We also have an article on Rang and Kolkata Carnival. Needless to mention the events were sparkling, energetic and euphoric. It was fulfilling to see good management and healthy participation from our students and associates. Dancing, singing, hosting, acting; we saw Musical and Artistic individuals giving their best. Bravos all the participants! You all were amazing.

You all will be surprised to know that our District Level activities have become self-sustainable and we are marching towards the production of a big yearly event to take place in Kolkata early next year. Thereafter we go Pan India and then so on and so forth.

We also request all of you to come forward to support our cause for propagation and preservation of Music, Art and Dance and participate in our activities in whichever way possible.

I firmly believe together we can, together we shall.

Special thanks to the writers. Thank you all the readers. We wish you happy reading. Without you readers and writers, this newsletter would not exist. So keep reading and writing.

Bonnya Bose

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"A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence."

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Rang at Moram, Shantiniketan

Celebration of Holi in a way is to let the colors touch the soul, besides the 'abir khela' and 'ful dol' was the thought behind "Rang 2023" which was a two-days' event organised at Moram by Tabla.inc and Art Illuminates Mankind on 1st and 2nd March, 2023.

On the first day, it began with a Baul Akhra by music maestro Pt Tanmoy Bose, Sadhan Das Bairagi, Maki Kajumi, alongwith their fellow students and other musicians. This session, accompanied by thandai, was followed by a classical music session by the students of Viswabharati University. Shalini Mitra presented Raag Kaushik Dhvani and the famous Dadra (Rang Sari Gulabi), accompanied by Shiladitya Chatteraj (student of Pt. Tanmoy Bose) on Tabla. Naresh Bagewadi played Raag Kaafi on Sitar alongwith Biswajit on Tabla. When the entire Moram was filled with such music, another pleasant performance was of Tagore's song & dance and Esraj by students of Vishwabharati and Shri Sudripta Tagore, Principal of Shantiniketan Shishu Tirtha School respectively. Finally, the day ended with mesmerizing Baul songs by Kartik Das Baul, Sadhan Das Bairagi, Maki Kajumi, Radheshyam baul, Akkash Fakir and Krishna Das Bairaggya.



The second day started with the prayer through Hari Nam Sankirtan followed by the customary Prabhat Pheri through the 'red soil road'- Laterite earth of Debanandapur. Touch of Abir and the Fallen palash flowers- grounded depetioled parrot flowers on the roads made the morning vibrant and colourful. Villagers happily joined the walk and played with abir. Rang gave an experience of pottery to the participants by giving hands-on experience to the interested ones. It was a matter of great excitement and satisfaction to them in shaping the lump clay by the potter's wheel. It's spring, and, thus, the sunny days are still not that hot in Birbhum, so post lunch, the bandmates of Paridhi and the Bauls enjoyed an impromptu jamming session where folk songs and semi-classical songs got fused. When the air was full of rhythm and the festive spree, the evening session started with an amazing segment of Manipuri dance, performed by the students of Sangeet Bhavana (Vishwabharati) under the guidance and supervision of their respected teacher, Prof. Dr. Sumit Basu. The segment consisted nine dance performances and a special performance of Chitrangada by Tuhin Garai and Ankita Das. Following that, the Bangla Band Paridhi, gave an outstanding performance that included their own compositions as well as some folk songs of Lalon Fakir. Krishna Das Bairaggya joined the band, on request to sing a folk song of his own composition, based on Jhumur.

Lastly, the Rang 2023 came to an end with Baul songs of Radheshyam Baul and Krishna Das and a joyous Abir khela, where the participants and hosts and all present there enjoyed thoroughly and had that touch of the colours in their heart.

Bonnya Bose, the director of Tabla.inc mentioned, "We are looking forward to organizing such an event every year, hopefully in a larger scale." The founders of Moram, Mr. Gopal Poddar and Mrs. Sonali Chakraborty, being happy with such a response has already started to plan the one for the next year, only a year to go before they give us another such experience in the lap of nature in association with Tabla.inc.



Kolkata Carnival 2023

Tabla.Inc & AIM presented Kolkata Carnival 2023-an Art & Cultural Festival at the Triangular Park, Gariahat, Kolkata from 10th to 16th March.

The Festival brought local and Pan Indian artisans and artistes on a common platform to showcase their artistry.

There were cultural performances of folk and tribal artistes from various parts of India showcasing their performances such as Tribal Dance, Dhamsa, Baul, Ronpa alongwith Sufil dance and Elocution. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and West Bengal SC ST & OBC Development and Finance Corporation also participated with their beneficiaries.

“We wish to bring back the glory of Kolkata showcasing Art & Culture, Handicrafts and Food in a single venue and proudly be a part of the great sustainability movement that is being held in a big away all over the nation” quoted Bonnya Bose, Creative Director, Tabla.Inc.



Alongwith the live performances there were rural artisans working on their regional handicrafts such as Bengal Patachitra, Pottery, Wood work; popular in the urban household today. Kantha Stitch , Bandhej, Glass, Mosaic, Bamboo work items were also on display .



Swar Darbar Music Festival

Swar Darbar, founded by Shri Sandip Bhattacharjee and Shrimati Susmita Chakraborty curated/organised an evening of classical music on 2nd April 2023 at GD Birla Sabhaghar. The evening was named 'Basant Ki Bahar' to celebrate the spirit of spring. There were an array of performances of Sarod, Santoor, Tabla, Kathak and Indian Classical Vocal. The Tabla section was played by four of our Tabla.Inc boys- Archishman Sinha Roy, Iraban Jha, Anchit Majhi and Arka Ghosh, accompanied by Shri Sajal Das on Harmonium.

It was to be presented on the stage where the talented young musicians were presented alongside the eminent seniors of the fraternity. The most highlighted matter of motivation and pride for our Tabla.Inc students laid in the fact that Guruji Pandit Tanmoy Bose himself was a prominent part of that evening.

Pandit Tanmoy Bose accompanied the penultimate performance of Indian Classical Vocal with Shri Sandip Bhattacharjee himself. Enriching the performance were, Shri Gourab Chatterjee on Harmonium and Janab Sarwar Hussain on Sarangi. The first performance of this Illuminating team was based on Raag Rageshri, supported by Vilambit Ektaal and Drut Teentaal. The final performance was based on Raag Basant, supported by Drut Teentaal and Drut Ektaal.

On the other hand, our boys presented a Tabla Lahara based on Teentaal. They started with the signature Shuruyaat of Farrukhabad Gharana, followed by few Kaidas and relas in Vilambit laya and ended with a flamboyant Drut section adorned with some remarkable Gatt, Tukra and Chakradars.



Shuruyaat Season 2

Music paves the way for learning, increased focus and better orientation. Young minds that can immerse themselves in music can see its effect throughout in their journey. The Shuruyaat series was conceptualized by Pt. Tanmoy Bose and Mrs. Bonnya Bose to encourage the budding musicians and to align them towards the musical journey ahead. After the successful completion of the first series, Tabla.inc is now on with the Session-2 which is streamed in the social media handles of Tabla.inc and presented on the sm handles of Pt.Tanmoy Bose as well

The ones that have already been aired, feature eighteen years old Raunak Dasgupta and eleven years old Ayush Ghosh, both of whom have played a Tisrajati kaida, Dha terekete Tak terekete, composed by Amir Hussain Khan sahab. It is interesting to note how music can be comprehended differently by different musicians with their own approach towards it. Twenty years old Debjit Dey played a Tirkit kaida of Punjab Gharana, composed by Ustaad Allarakha Khan sahab. All of them tried their hands at Teentaal compositions.

Wishing success to all our boys and girls in the their journey ahead.



tabla.inc
Tanmoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts
presents
Shuruyaat
(season-II)

Tabla Lahara - Teentaal
Episode: 01
Raunak Dasgupta



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Tanmoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts
presents
Shuruyaat
(season-II)

Tabla Lahara - Teentaal
Episode: 02
Ayush Chosh



tabla.inc
Tanmoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts
presents
Shuruyaat
(season-II)

Tabla Lahara - Teentaal
Episode: 03
Debjit Dey



“Where words leave off, music begins.”

HEINRICH HEINE

GERMAN POET, WRITER AND LITERARY CRITIC

Jalsa Season 2 at Malda

Tabla.Inc in association with Rotary Club of Silk City Malda has organized "Jalsa", a classical concert at the Durga Kinkar auditorium of the Malda college. Tabla and world percussion maestro Pt. Tanmoy Bose was the chief guest of the event and the programme was inaugurated with lighting the lamp by him and other dignitaries of Rotary club, Malda, followed by his introductory speech.

The concert started with a Tabla Lahara by Anchit Majhi, Iraban Jha, Archishman Sinha Roy and Arka Ghosh, who are the students of Pt. Bose. Jyotirmoy Banerjee accompanied with nagma in raga charukeshi on harmonium.

Next was a Sitar-Sarod duet by Ayan Sengupta and Indrayudh Majumdar, respectively, alongwith Bivash Sanghai on Tabla. They played Aalap, Jod and Jhala on Miyan Malhar and Raag Desh (Madhyalaya Jhaaptal and Drut Teental).

The last performance was classical vocal by Subhamita Banerjee. After a long time, she was heard performing Khayal, Kajri and a Bhajan, on public request. Soumyadeep Das and Jyotirmoy Banerjee accompanied her on Tabla and Harmonium respectively.

The full house audience of Malda, that too of mixed age group proved once again, there is a huge audience for good music to appreciate and acknowledge. Long live classical music.



Jalsa Season 2 at Khardah

Tabla.inc in association with Sriniketan has organised "Jalsa" at Khardah Rabindra Bhavan on 3rd September, 2023. The concert was inaugurated by the respected guest of honour, tabla maestro and the founder of Tabla.inc, Pandit Tanmoy Bose and the SP of Barasat Police circle Mr Bhaskar Mukherjee. In the inaugural speech, Pt. Bose mentioned the objectives and importance of ideation and organising the Jalsa series on Indian classical music in this time. Jalsa at Khardah started with Tabla lahara by four the students (Archishman, Arka, Anchit and Iraban) of Pt Bose. The compositions played by them were based on teentaal and the lahara was beautifully accompanied by Jotirmoy Banerjee on harmonium. Next was a Sarod-Tabla jugalbandi by Indrayuddh Majumdar and Sandip Ghosh respectively. Final performance of the evening was of classical songs by the eminent singer of banaras gharana and one of the most renowned playback singers of this time Piu Mukherjee. She was accompanied on Tabla by Emon Sarkar, on harmonium by Jotirmoy Banerjee and by her students on Tanpura. Director of Tabla.inc, Mrs Bonya Bose aptly mentioned that the full house audience yet proved again that there is always a supportive audience for good music. She has also mentioned that the Jalsa series will continue and they will be presenting and giving platform to many more talented as well as upcoming artists of this time. Long live classical music.



Students Achievements

Medhansh Jain, disciple of Pt. Tanmoy Bose and a student of Tabla.inc has recently won the 1st prize in a Talent Hunt Competition at the Star Mission Academy.

Medhansh Jain is a 16 years old bright kid studying in class 3.

Medhansh has never let the challenges in life beat him down. He was born with many complications like Heart Disease and has been through multiple intricate surgeries since he was 6 months old.



At present he studies in class 3 in Star Mission. He has been to inclusive school with other regular children, but his parents took a major decision of putting him in a school with slow learners and Medhansh has adjusted very well there too.

Medhansh has been learning tabla from Guruji Pandit Tanmoy Bose since the age of 6, and his parents have always acknowledged that this association with Guruji and music has brought many positive changes in Medhansh. They have noticed improved verbal and motor skills in him ever since Medhansh has started practicing music regularly. Medhansh is multi-talented and has been part of acting, modelling and sports on a regular basis, however, the family feels music is at the core of his heart and Medhansh will pursue music in the long run. We wish him well in his journey.



Avraneel participates at an Exhibition

The exhibition was held at Altamira Art Gallery between 4th and 8th August. The exhibition theme was "Monsoon Mood 2023". There were many artists who exhibited their work, of which Avraneel was one of the artists.

Rishik Bhattacharya was selected in the Special Talent Category contest in BGT 1.0 (BNI's Got Talent) for solo Tabla performance finals.

The finals took place in Westside Pavillion and showcased different talents of some of the most creative and talented participants in various fields from across the city. Rishik is working hard to refine his skills under the mentorship of Guruji, Pandit Tanmoy Bose. During the finals, Rishik impressed the judges and audience alike with his exceptional skills. Congratulations to Rishik on this incredible achievement!



Meds & Muse

Tabla.inc celebrated the Doctors' day with 11 women and that too at the 11th year of the city's favourite oriental cuisine destination, Wasabee. The programme, named 'Meds and Muse', was a panel discussion to acknowledge the contribution our saviours- the doctors and the musical fraternity, who are always there to keep our health and mind well. Bonnya Bose, director of Tabla.inc and the convenor of the event said, "Meds and Muse is to bring a correlation between the medical professionals and the musicians of the society. These two aspects are indeed very necessary and important for our well being. It was my pleasure to welcome my dear friends and sisters, who are the brightest examples of the empowered women who are constantly serving the society for its well being."

Dr Rupali Basu, Somlata Acharyya Chowdhury, Sutopa Talukdar, Dr Rima Mukherjee, Dr Varsha Majumder, Sohini Roychowdhury, Dr Laila Baig, Ujjaini Mukherjee, Dolly Basu and Jeena Mitra Banik were present at the event.

Some talked about the physical and mental challenges that people faced and how they overcame it. Whereas others talked about how different form of performing arts and music helped the society to be in rhythm. Besides discussion, songs sung by Somlata and Ujjainee filled the ambience with melody.

MEDS & MUSE

tabla.inc
Tanmoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts

An evening of deliberation at a 'TABLE OF GOOD LIVING' featuring a galaxy of women achievers from medical & performing arts professions.

Ms DOLLY BASU Assistant Director Personality	Dr RUPALI BASU Managing Director & CEO, Woodlands Hospital
Ms SOMLATA Celebrated Singer & Lecturer of Psychology	Dr LAILA BAIG Surgeon, Bala Vihar Clinic & Founder of Digestive Surgery Clinic
Ms SOHINI ROYCHOWDHURY Assistant Musicalian/Instrumentalist	Dr VARSHA MAJUMDAR Neurologist, Professor, AMRI Hospitals
Ms UJJAINI MUKHERJEE Violinist Singer	Dr RIMA MUKHERJEE Founder of modern day Mental Health Care
Ms SUTOPA TALUKDAR Registered Odious Dancer & Sangeeta Natak Academy Awardee	

The event will be moderated by the former Editor, Columnist @ Fashion Impresario, Ms JEENA MITRA BANIK

The panel will be presided over by the Corporate Comm. Expert, Cultural Activist & Entrepreneur, Ms BONNYA BOSE

Venue : WASABEE (Desapriya Park)
175/A, Model Nethru Rd, Manasajpukur, Kolkata-700079

Date : 11-July-'23 | Time : 05:00 pm
[Entry by invitation only]

tabla.inc
Tanmoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts

extends heartfelt thanks to

AMANI
SOUMI'S CAN

for their cordial support to
MEDS & MUSE
at
WASABEE

www.tabla.inc



World Music Day Celebrated by Tabla.Inc

World Music Day was celebrated on the 21st June with much pomp and grandeur by Tabla.Inc at the Wasabee, South City Connector. One of the founders of Wasabee and the internationally acclaimed music virtuoso Pt. Tanmoy Bose had a wonderful musical session and adda with some of his fellow members of his musical brainchild, Taaltantra with a selected audience at the outlet. While Souptik Mazumdar and Hiten Mukherjee filled the ambience with the tunes of violin and guitar, Tamoghna Mukherjee popularly known as Bihu and Shiladitya Bose, popularly known as Arcane, made others nod with their grooves on their Thumba (latin percussion) and Drum Machine (electronic drums). No wonder, the guests present at the session were delighted by the Kolkata's best oriental cuisines and the music, that too led by Pt. Tanmoy Bose.



Women's Day at Deshaj

Tabla.Inc in association with Arts Illuminates Mankind (AIM) celebrated Women's Day 2023 through a panel discussion on "Digital Trap and Women" at Deshaj on 6th Mar, 2023. The celebrated panel included Gouri Basu (Consultant, Ministry of Culture, Government of India), Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri and Sangeeta Bandhopadhyay (eminent Authors), Sohini Sengupta (the celebrated Thespian), Smita Ray Chaudhuri (ace Journalist), Nandita Palchoudhuri (Cultural Entrepreneur), Prarthana Palchoudhuri (Corporate Professional), Bonnya Bose (Director, Tabla.inc) and Sonali Chakraborty (Co-founder, Deshaj & AIM).



Media Says

8 GOODLIFE
FOOD



THE TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2023

MELODY ON A MENU? WASABEE KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT WORLD MUSIC DAY AND FOOD

Music can certainly mediate and drink more responsibly. You know what we're talking about — a **WORLD MUSIC DAY**. An Ed Sheeran ballad and our new one track on Taylor Swift's end of the bow way of looking at the world of agriculture can't beat that just. **WASABEE** at South City Connector — **May 16th 6th 11th World Music Day.**



Pooja Tannoy Bose and her musical team at Wasabee. Pictures: Wasabee



Wasabee special ice cream bar. Homemade preparation from fresh cream infused with homemade special 'Wasabee' jam.



A burger delicacy. **Wasabee** is a delicious choice, served with an assorted beverage. **Chicken** is also served with Wasabee's signature, steamed rice and a choice of dessert. It's a good fit for two.



Dish Goli in a Wasabee appetizer. Pan-fried chicken breast topped with soy chili sauce, sprinkled with white sesame seeds for a perfect finishing touch.



A Wasabee special, the new menu item. **Spiced** chicken breast topped with Wasabee's signature, steamed rice and a choice of dessert. It's a good fit for two.



Wasabee's special, the new menu item. **Spiced** chicken breast topped with Wasabee's signature, steamed rice and a choice of dessert. It's a good fit for two.



Wasabee's special, the new menu item. **Spiced** chicken breast topped with Wasabee's signature, steamed rice and a choice of dessert. It's a good fit for two.

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WHAT'S UP



THE TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2023

MEDS AND MUSE BY TABLA INC DISCUSSED THE THERAPEUTIC POWER OF MUSIC

Tannoy and Bonnya Liberal Arts or Tabla Inc brought medical practitioners and performing artists under one roof to discuss the therapeutic values of music. **Meds and Muse**, held at Wasabee restaurant saw theatre veteran **Dr Rupali Basu**, singer and lecturer of psychology **Somlata Acharyya Chowdhury**, Bharatanatyam exponent **Sohini Roychowdhury**, **Satapa Talukdar**, Odissi danseuse, and singer **Ujjaini Mukherjee** join medical practitioners like **Dr Rupali Basu**, managing director and CEO Woodlands Hospital; **Dr Lalita Baig**, surgeon Belle Vue Clinic and founder of Digestive Surgery Clinic; **Dr Varsha Majumdar**, nephrologist physician, AMRI Hospital and **Dr Rima Mukherjee**, mental health expert. The session was moderated by **Jeena Mitra Banik**. Starting off, **Dr Rima** shared her vision for transforming



Front left (anti-clockwise): **Satapa Talukdar**, **Dolly Basu**, **Dr Rima Mukherjee**, **Dr Rupali Basu**, **Dr Lalita Baig**, **Dr Varsha Majumdar**, **Jeena Mitra Banik**, **Sohini Roychowdhury**, **Bonnya Bose**, **Somlata Acharyya Chowdhury** and **Ujjaini Mukherjee**

mental healthcare. She said: "I founded **Crystal Minds** with the goal of revolutionizing mental healthcare and introducing a holistic approach to well-being." Taking over, **Dr Varsha** emphasised the importance of medical professionals in maintaining balance. She said: "Doctors play a vital role in providing physical and mental balance during difficult times or in sustaining overall wellness." Making the discussion more dynamic was **Sohini Roychowdhury**. The internationally acclaimed **Bharatanatyam** dancer, **Choreographer** and author, and founder of **SohiniMimiksha World Dance & Communications** said: "I have witnessed the power of music in uplifting spirits. Even in the most challenging circumstances, playing my late father's favourite music brings a smile to my mother's face, acting like an adrenaline rush."

Emphasising on the importance of holistic medicine **Dr Rupali Basu** said: "In the era of complex lifestyles, it is important to focus on prevention. Aside from business and family obligations, having me time allows engagement in creative and calming arts that boost the secretion of happy hormones, making us happier." She also spoke fondly of her early days of learning music and waking up to her mother's melodies. Taking over from **Dr Rupali** was veteran dancer **Satapa Talukdar** who spoke about the transformative impact of dance. She also narrated a moment when she overcame a pre-show obstacle by dancing. "Those who engage in dance and music often excel, sometimes even leading fulfilling

lives without relying heavily on medication," she said. **Singer Ujjaini Mukherjee** spoke about her experiences and the rehabilitative value of music during the lockdown period. She also sang a few songs that touched the panelists and everyone present at the venue. **Mukherjee's** contemporary, **Somlata**, a powerful singer and instructor in psychology at **Asutosh College**, shared how music gave her strength at trying times. She shared the instance when while on the way to a concert, she received the devastating news that her father had passed away, but she decided to go on with the performance since she thought that was what her father would have wanted. **Bonnya Bose**, founder and director of **Tabla Inc**, expressed her gratitude to medical experts and musicians emphasising the tremendous impact they have on society. She said: "Meds and Muse was organised to establish a connection between medical professionals and performing artists in our city. These two vocations are crucial in reducing the stress of everyday life. It was a pleasure to welcome my beloved friends, who are great models of strong women who are always supporting society's well-being."

Zainab Khanan (2 intern) Pictures: **Rashbehari Das**



THE TELEGRAPH THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023

6 GOODLIFE
WHAT'S UP

KOLKATA CARNIVAL 2023 IS SHOWCASING INDIAN FOLK AND TRIBAL HERITAGE THROUGH ITS ART AND CRAFT



Kolkata Carnival 2023, an art and culture festival that intends to celebrate indigenous art forms and craftsmanship, got its colorful start on March 16 at Tripartite Park in Gariahat. The week-long event, which will continue till March 19, is open to visitors between 10am and 6pm and is being organised by **AIM (Art Initiatives Movement)** and **Tabla Inc**. Featuring a wide range of exquisitely designed handmade and handcrafted works, it brings together artists from all over the country on a common platform to showcase their creations. Visitors can witness magnificent displays of folk and tribal dance forms on each day of the carnival, including **Ukhausa**, **Raut** and **Kanga** along with

classical dance and music performances. **Raut** and **Fakra** songs are also an integral part of the festival. Rural artists at the carnival can be seen presenting live demonstrations of their skills as they work on art and craft forms like **Bengal pottery**, wood, bamboo, glass works and many more, while they create products that can adorn the homes of buyers.



The festival was inaugurated by noted film maker **Anurodha Roy Chowdhury** (right), **Tannoy Bose** of **Tabla Inc** (left) delivered the inaugural address in which he drew attention to the rich diversity of Indian art and culture. He also highlighted the importance of appreciating, promoting and popularising traditional art and craft forms that are almost forgotten.



Hand-crafted on wood, these beautiful figures of goddess **Durga** with her broom, village eugles and more, are fine display of the display shelves.



Artisanal-designed home decor products like wall hangings, coasters, photo frames, flower vases and pencil stands, made with eco-friendly materials like coconut shell, jute and bamboo are also on display.



A group of tribal performers enthralled visitors with the energetic, festive and traditional beats of the **Ukhausa**, a special type of tribal dance unique to the **Adhai** belts of **Bengal**, **Odisha** and **Jharkhand**.

Text: **Piyu Roy** Pictures: **Bhargavi Kundu**

Legendary folk artistes usher in Doljatra 2023 with soulful music



WHEN THE LEGENDS TOOK TO STAGE



THE EVENT DREW TO A CLOSE WITH SONGS OF RADHESHYAM BAUL AND KRISHNA DAS BAUL AND ABIR KHILA



I used to book during my early years. Today, it feels amazing to perform at such an event. Such musical events can help preserve the dying art forms of folk artists. —Radheshyam Das Baul

Music maestros light up folk festival in Santiniketan



Students, smeared in colour, pose for a selfie



Music, dance and festivities — a two-day folk music event at Santiniketan ushered in Doljatra with fervour on Wednesday and Thursday. It kicked off with a baul akhra by Pt Tammo Bose, Sadhan Das Bairagi, Maki Kazumi and their students, followed by a classical music session.

CONTINUED ON FLAP



Sadhan Das Bairagi and Maki Kazumi



Students of Sangheet Bhavan put up a performance

MUSIC

A CELEBRATION OF SPRING THROUGH ART, COLOUR, MUSIC AND DANCE

Tabla Inc and Arts Illuminates Mankind jointly organised Rang 2023, a celebration of folk music with colours, flowers, dance and music. Held on March 1 and 2 near Santiniketan, it was an experience that provided unlimited enjoyment and at the same time appealed to the soul.

The first day's programme commenced with a Baul Akhra featuring Pandit Tammo Bose, Sadhan Das Bairagi and Maki Kazumi, along with their students and other musicians. This was followed by a classical music session by the students of Vinnabharati University, Principal of Santiniketan Shishu Tirtha School, Sudipta Tagore presented a solo Kajari recital and students of Vinnabharati performed dances accompanied by Tagore songs. The day ended with mesmerising Baul songs presented by Kartick Das Baul, Sadhan Das Bairagi, Maki Kazumi, Radheshyam Baul, Anshu Fakir and Krishna Das Bhargava.

The second day started with Hari Naam Sanhitaran (devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna), followed by a *grabhat ghori* (early morning walk) through the road-side mode of Debanandapur, the village surrounding Santiniketan, in which villagers joined in and played with color. Participants also had the opportunity to sign the potter's wheel and witness the magic of seeing a long day transforming into an evening sunset. Poul Santh, members of the Bengali band Paridhi and Baul singers engaged an impressive jamming session that led to a fusion of folk and semi-classical songs. This evening started with a Manipuri dance performance by the students of Sangheet Bhavana of Vinnabharati under the guidance and supervision of their teacher, Prof. Sumit Basu.

The segment comprised dance performances and a special performance by Pt. Tammo Bose. The evening concluded with a Baul performance by Tabha Inc and Anshu Fakir. The event also included their own compositions as well as semi-folk songs of Lalton Fakir. Rang 2023 came to an end with Baul songs by Radheshyam Baul and Krishna Das and a *ghosha* (a form of folk music) in which participants, boys and audience members each with colours and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.



Sudipta Tagore presented a solo Kajari recital.



(L-R) Maki Kazumi, Sadhan Bairagi and Krishna Das Baul perform folk and Baul songs.



Shakti Mitra presented Baul songs, Kartick Das Baul and the famous Dabra *ghosha* (folk), accompanied by Shalabha Chatterjee on the tabla.



Girls from the village near Moran presented an innovative semi-classical choreographic piece on the popular Tagore song *Prey ghoshali*.



A Baul performance on the first evening of the festival transported the audience to a spiritual realm.



Bhangra band Paridhi entertained the audience with their original compositions. They also presented a few well-known folk songs of Lalton Fakir.



A *grabhat ghori* (walk at dawn) around the village surrounding Moran was a colourful and musical affair. A large group of people played with color and fervently sang folk songs. As they walked along a path strewn with crimson *pushpa* flowers, they were joined by enthusiastic villagers.



Moran co-founder Sonali Chakraborty (left) with Tabla Inc director Bonnya Bose. "We are looking forward to organising such an event every year, hopefully on a larger scale," said the latter.



Women smeared color on Tabha Inc director Bonnya Bose (second from left) as they took part in *abir abhis* on the second day of the celebration.



Narshu Bhargava played Raga Kanti on the sitar.



Tabla Inc founder Pandit Tammo Bose welcomed guests and participants before inaugurating the two-day cultural festival to celebrate the festival of colours.



Kartick Das Baul's passionate and soulful rendition of Baul songs captivated the hearts of the audience.



Radheshyam Baul's songs were poignant reflections of devotion, love and loss.

Compiled by: Piya Roy

16 GOODLIFE WHATSUP



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN IN A DIGITAL WORLD



A moment from the informal panel discussion on the hazards for women in a digital space



After the panel discussion, the participants celebrated Women's Day by applying *abir tikkas*, symbolising woman power, on one another's foreheads.

Tabla Inc in association with Arts Illuminates Mankind (AIM) celebrated Women's Day at Deshaj on March 6 with a panel discussion on Digital Trap and Women. Panelists included consultant in the ministry of culture Gouri Basu, authors Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri and Sangeta Bandhopadhyay, theatre actor Sohini Sengupta, cultural entrepreneur Nandita Pakchoudhuri, corporate professional Prarthana Pakchoudhuri, Tabla Inc director Bonnya Bose and co-

founder of Deshaj and AIM Sonali Chakraborty. Sonali opened the session with the tragic story of a promising young woman footballer who was driven to suicide from shame and humiliation after her objectionable pictures were leaked on the Internet. Similar stories of trolling and misbehaviour that had disastrous consequences for women victims, were shared by Yashodhara and Sangeta. The positive aspects of digital platforms were also adequately highlighted as part of the discussion. Nandita spoke on how digital tools helped

us go about our daily lives during the lockdown. Individuals and groups learnt new digital applications that enabled them to continue their education, sustain their businesses or procure goods and services without leaving the safety of their homes. Gouri enumerated how online workshops and seminars helped indigenous performers earn a living during the pandemic years. Sohini emphasised the importance of digital platforms in providing home entertainment such as watching movies from around the world or reading

books. Prarthana explained how entire organisations spread across continents could function seamlessly with the help of digital tools and applications during the pandemic and how women entrepreneurs can expand their businesses with the help of digital platforms. The session concluded with an enlightening segment on artificial intelligence by Bonnya Bose, who spoke on its impact in all spheres of human life in the years to come. The panel discussion ended with the collective thought that women must use digital media

intelligently and be mindful of its many hazards. They should be well-informed about digital platforms and their rules and usages before they make their virtual presence accessible to others. Effective use of digital tools and applications can make women achieve greater visibility and growth in their chosen areas of work. Digital tools have the power to greatly improve the quality of life for women, provided they take reasonable safeguards to prevent the information they let out into the virtual domain from being used for the wrong reasons.

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