



# ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE

St. Xavier's Road,  
P.O. Sripalli,  
Burdwan-713 103  
West Bengal, India.

*Date: 05.10.2023*

To

Mr. Gautam Basumullick

Retired Senior Digital Content Producer, Editorial Department (*Ei Samay* Newspaper),

Consultant (Times Internet Limited) &

Regional Historian

(Sub: Invitation for being the Speaker of the Special Lecture)

Dear Sir,

We would like to take the opportunity to let you know that the Department of Geography, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan will be organizing a special lecture on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, 12.00pm onwards (IST). You are cordially invited on this occasion and enlighten the participants on “ভারতে দুর্গামূর্তির বিবর্তন ও কলকাতার পারিবারিক দুর্গাপূজা”

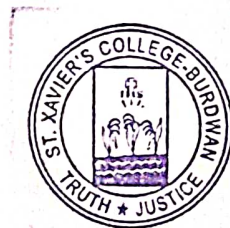
We would be greatly honoured, if you accept our humble invitation and elucidate the cultural heritage associated with this grand autumn festivity to the participants with your profound deliberations. We aspire that the knowledge shared through the lecture would be enriching. Your august presence will help our department to grow\

Warm Regards

ECI HCO

Rev. Fr. Dr. G. Paul Arockiam S.J

Principal  
St. Xavier's College  
St. Xavier's Road  
Burdwan-71310



## REPORT

Department of Geography, St. Xavier's college Burdwan organised an extension Guest Lecture on '*Evolution of Durga Idol in India and Durga Puja of Royal Families in Kolkata*' on 12th October, 2023 at Seminar Hall (Academic Building). The key note address was delivered by Sri Gautam Basu Mallick, Regional Historian & former Senior Digital Content Producer, *Ei Samay*. Rev. Fr. Dr. G.Paul Arockiam S.J., Principal St. Xavier's College inaugurated the programme by watering the plants.

An insightful lecture on the importance and impact of worshipping Durga in Bengal was delivered by Gautam Basumallick. Later Sri Basumullick described discussed the history of Durga idol in India. Throughout history, worship of the mother goddess was widespread among several ancient civilizations. In Bengal, Mother Goddess has been venerated in the form of Durga, and this religious ritual dates back to the medieval period. According to archeological evidence. These latter forms and idols have changed over time, and their development has a significant historical significance. In the Indian subcontinent, the goddess Durga is primarily represented by the two forms *Mahishasuemardini* (the goddess who slew the demon *Mahishasur*) and *Singhabahini* (the goddess who mounts a lion). Between these two types, *Mahishasuemardini* is the oldest representation of the modern Durga idol out of these two. This form first appeared, according to scholars, in the seventh century. We may see indications of Mahishasuemardini following the end of the Buddhist era in Bengal. He explained this metamorphosis up to the present time in this presentation, along with a brief history of royal families' Durgapuja in Kolkata.

During the next section of the program, the audience asked the speaker various questions about different aspects of Durga Puja in Bengal. The discussion aimed to help the audience gain a better understanding of the festival and its social and cultural significance. The event was attended by students and faculties from all departments, who actively participated in the discussion.

# GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



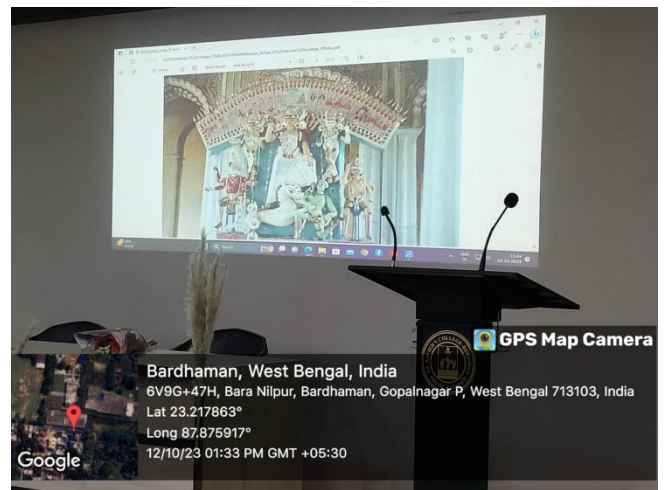
*Plate 1: Felicitation of the Speaker*



*Plate 2: Inauguration by watering the plant*



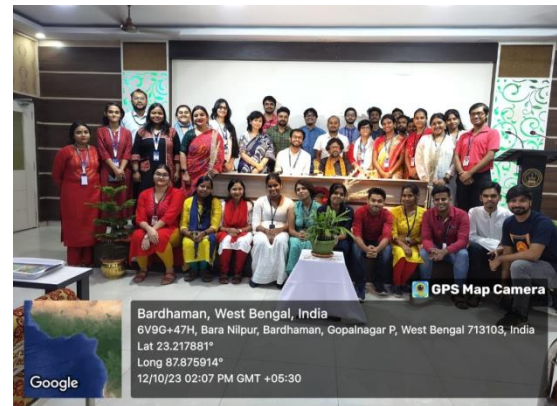
*Plate 3: Elucidation on Evolution of Durga Idol*



*Plate 4: Presentation on Evolution of Durga Idol*



*Plate 5: The Audience*



*Plate 6: In a frame with the Speaker*

