The Initiative

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The Spotlight

As the monsoon clouds recede to unveil the luminous azure of early autumn skies, an unmistakable hum begins to stir across Bengal. The seasonal arrival of Sharodotsav is never merely a visual spectacle of swaying kash flowers and fragrant shiuli; it is, fundamentally, an awakening of sound. Long before the grand decorative arches rise or the rhythmic thunder of the dhaak commands the festive courtyards, the spirit of the season breathes through its music. In this transformative prelude, Bengal's musical landscape turns its spotlight toward the rustic, unvarnished soul of its folk traditions, harmonizing age-old agrarian melodies with modern artistic impulses.

This union creates a soundscape that honors traditional oral roots while speaking intimately to younger, urban ears. Lyrically, these compositions celebrate the essence of Sharodotsav: the poignant spiritual yearning for divine shelter, the joyful homecoming of loved ones, and the shared warmth of community resilience.

As Durga Puja evolves into an open canvas for artistic expression, its music remains its beating heart. In bridging rural folk roots with contemporary studio aesthetics, these new festive releases do more than merely provide a soundtrack for autumn pandal-hoppers. They sustain Bengal's timeless musical memory, celebrating the return of the Mother Goddess through melodies as ancient as the red soil of the countryside and as fresh as the crisp autumn breeze.



From The Director's Desk

Dear Associates,

As the monsoon clouds disperse to reveal the crisp blue skies of early autumn, Bengal prepares to welcome Sharodotsav—a season synonymous with homecoming, collective warmth, and creative renewal.

For generations, the arrival of Durga Puja has meant far more than festive gatherings; it has been the heartbeat of our cultural expression. In Bengal's artistic memory, the countdown to the festival has always been set to music. From the crackle of vintage 78 RPM shellac records that carried the very first Pujor Gaan into neighbourhood living rooms to modern streaming platforms, music remains the emotional bridge that connects our shared heritage with contemporary life.

At Hindusthan Record, this season is a moment of deep gratitude and rededication. As we look across our studios, publishing desks, and archival vaults, we are reminded that our true strength lies in our vibrant community—our visionary artists, dedicated collaborators, and loyal listeners who continue to hold our musical legacy close to their hearts. Every new release we present, whether drawing from the spiritual depths of classical tradition or the raw vitality of Bengal's rural soil, is an effort to keep that uninterrupted continuum alive.

As the dhaak begins to stir and our homes fill with the spirit of the Mother Goddess, I extend my heartfelt festive greetings to you and your families. May the coming days bring health, peace, renewed artistic inspiration, and the joy of shared celebrations.

Warm regards,

Riad Saha

Managing Director

CONTENT CLOSET

Renowned Bengali vocalist Padma Palash Halder has carved a distinct identity by popularizing traditional devotional music, particularly classical Kirtan and soulful Bhajan, on contemporary mainstream platforms. Born into a family deeply steeped in musical heritage, he honed his vocal craft through rigorous training in Indian classical music under the esteemed guidance of maestro Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty. This disciplined foundation and emotive expression are fully on display in his evocative devotional release, "Birohini Rai," presented by Hindusthan Record as a dedicated tribute for the sacred occasion of Radhashtami.

The composition pays a reverent, heartfelt homage to Radha, delving into the profound spiritual ache of her separation from Krishna. Rather than portraying mere heartbreak, the song reflects an enduring, selfless love that fearlessly transcends social boundaries and worldly expectations. Padma Palash's resonant, textured voice navigates Radha's eternal wait with poignant sensitivity, imbuing every melody with authentic spiritual surrender. The result is a masterclass in divine bhakti, transforming ancient mythological longing into an intensely moving, timeless musical experience for modern devotional music enthusiasts.



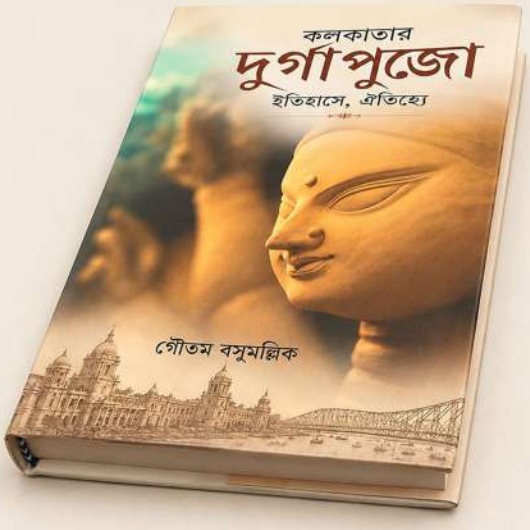
Fulfilling its 2024 commitment to support rising talent from the All Assam Bhupendra Sangeet Competition, Inreco has officially released "Ami Bisarisu" as both an audio track and a music video. Organised by the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust and Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society, the competition brought forward two exceptional winners—Deepjyoti Das (Senior Category) and Alakananda Bhuyan (Junior Category)—who now join voices in this evocative duet.

The release coincided with the prestigious Birth Centenary Celebration of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, organised alongside the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam. Penned by Manjula Hazarika, tuned by Kajal Sharma, and arranged by Bikash Baruah, the song unites celebrated stalwarts of Assamese music with its promising future.

This song is a heartfelt expression of hope, beauty, nature, music, and humanity. It paints a vivid picture of a colorful world filled with golden stars, green fields, gentle monsoon rain, and melodious music. The song gradually moves from personal dreams to a collective aspiration for a brighter world where darkness disappears and human values, love, peace, and compassion prevail.



BOOK BOUTIQUE



Tracing the evolution of Bengal's grandest festival from the aristocratic courtyards or the Bonedi Barir Pujo of North Kolkata to modern community celebrations popularly known as the Barowari pujo, this authoritative volume documents the social, architectural, and cultural dimensions of Durga Puja.

Illustrated with rare archival photographs, family trust records, and period print accounts from the 18th and 19th centuries, the book examines how the festival mirrored the rise of Calcutta's merchant elite, early nationalism, and public artistic expression. It stands as an indispensable reference for researchers and enthusiasts of Bengal's living urban heritage.

Kolkatar Durgapujo : Itihashe Oitijhye
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THE HISTORY



The Dawn of Broadcasting in Calcutta

In the late summer of 1927, a quiet technological and cultural revolution unfolded in Calcutta. The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) inaugurated its private radio transmission station, 7CA Calcutta, operating from 1 Temple Chambers before later finding its legendary home at 1 Garstin Place.

For the first time, music, dramatic dialogue, and news traveled through ether into living rooms across the city. Pioneers assembled rudimentary studios padded with heavy drapery to buffer street noise, inviting classical vocalists, sarod and sitar exponents, and theater artists to perform before early carbon microphones. This milestone not only democratized access to high art across the subcontinent but also laid the direct artistic groundwork that would later give rise to historic radio broadcasting traditions, permanently transforming the cultural fabric of modern India.

Crucially, it nurtured iconic broadcasts like the dawn oratorio Mahisasuramardini, featuring the unforgettable voice of Birendra Krishna Bhadra and music directed by Pankaj Kumar Mullick. Through rare studio logs, archival memorabilia, and technician reminiscences, this narrative resurrects an extraordinary era when early transmissions forged an acoustic identity for generations of devoted listeners.