

#CULTURE

Delhi Delights in Darshanam

A Pichwai mostly showcases *bal swaroop* of a 7-year-old Krishna. Krishna and his *raas* with the *gopis* are also a favourite subject of many a Pichwai.



Sadhana Garg
Journalist &
Social Entrepreneur

"I'm completely blown over" said artist Sahaya Sharma, known for her Drape cape Solo exhibitions in the NCR. Sharma was deeply moved on viewing the 'Darshanam', a Pichwai collection currently being hosted by Bikaner House as Venue Partner.

Thirty Pichwai artists of Darshanam Arts are participating in a group show under the aegis of Raghukul Trust.

Founded by 'yours truly', it promotes living traditions, be it textiles, performing or fine arts.

Also, for the uninitiated, Pichwa is a traditional art form, that originated in the 17th century in the temple town of Nathdwara in Rajasthan.

Pichwa, then, is the outpouring of an artist's devotion and a bond between the deity, *Srinathji*, and his devotee. Hinduism signifies abundance and *Srinathji's Gurus*. "An artist's licence knows no limits," said Abhinav Bansal, the promoter of Darshanam Arts, "a conglomerate of artists, that is less economic in nature but more of a canvas, where all come together as devotees and express themselves with paint. So, I have some rare *pichwas* of *Shiva* and *Hari Har autaar*."

Pichwanam is supported by Rajasthan Tourism. "We could never have put this together without the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan's support," said Sadhana Garg. "The free *pichwai* takeaway workshops wherein all guests, school and college students painted a Pichwai with natural stone course, and took it complimentary." "I know it for the fact that if our heritage has to survive, we must catch them young. We could never have put this together without the Department of Tourism Government of Rajasthan's support. Darshanam was best," was summed up by Vivek Ahluwalia, a one-time longest serving admin in the American Embassy School as he gushed to say. "This is surreal. I have never seen such an awesome collection."

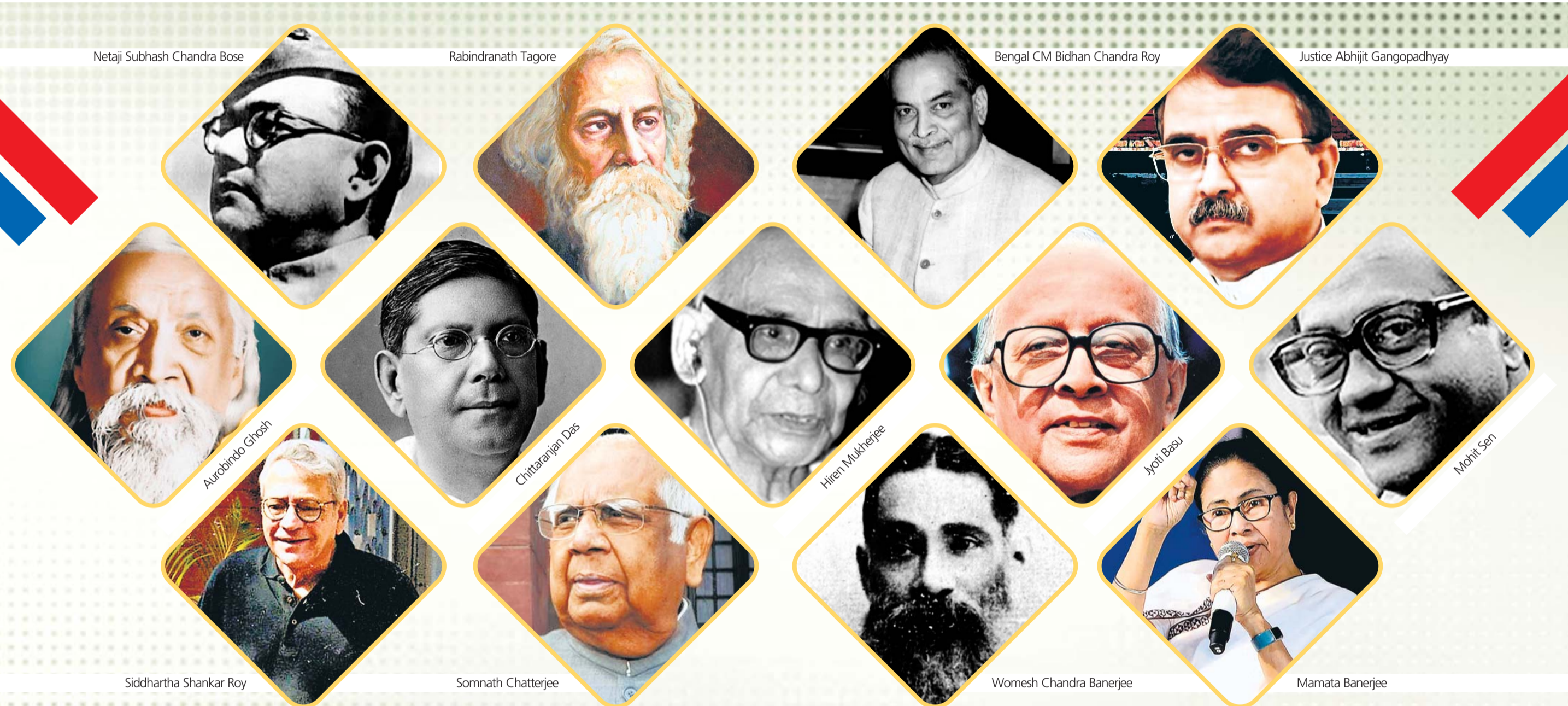
Each element in a Pichwai represents a deep symbolism.

- **The Lotus:** Purity and Divinity. The different stages of its blooming is symbolic of a human soul's journey from darkness to light.
- **Peacock:** Selfless Love. A dancing peacock stands for bliss, surrender to the Lord.
- **Cow:** The most sacred animal in Hinduism signifies abundance.
- **Flute:** It has music, one that is in sync with the cosmic world. A music that resonates in the purest of hearts.

- Colors, too, tell a very eloquent story.
- **Blue:** Divinity and Royalty.



From Barristocracy to Kleptocracy, Bengal has walked down a Long Stairway



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
Rabindranath Tagore
Bengal CM Bidhan Chandra Roy
Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay
Aurobindo Ghosh
Chittaranjan Das
Hiren Mukherjee
Jyoti Basu
Mamata Banerjee
Siddhartha Shankar Roy
Somnath Chatterjee
Womesh Chandra Banerjee
Anjan Roy

Bengal's transition from Barristocracy to Kleptocracy, the *Bhadralok* now strikes back. Bengal just had a veritable socio-political revolution. Essentially, the 'Bhadralok' struck back. Bengal's political scene has abruptly changed after a sitting judge of the Calcutta High Court, Abhijit Gangopadhyay, resigned from his post and announced that he would join politics. In announcing his decision to resign and join politics, Justice Ganguly made an interesting observation, "We have read about the Mauryan Empire in ancient history. Now, we are witnessing a Chauryan Empire (Empire of Thieves)."

The announcement has starkly hurled Bengal back into the what it used to be in the 1950s. Bengal politics used to be what was known as 'Barristocracy' since the freedom movement showed its earliest sprouts. That was an age when the elites from the landed class, the educated or the leading luminaries in the legal field, the Barristers-at-Law from England, participated in the political process.

All the big names of politics, until the advent of the Communists on the scene, were from elitist social background and from well-established families. It was a sort of 'old school ties' affair and every one knew everyone else and their families.

The catalogue would be stellar: Womesh Chandra Banerjee, Romesh Chunder Dutt, Chittaranjan Das, Aurobindo Ghosh, even Rabindranath Tagore, at times, Bipin Chandra Pal, and later, Subash Chandra Bose to name just a few. It was therefore almost a natural selection that independent Bengal's first Chief Minister was the legendary practising doctor, Bidhan Chandra Roy. Even the top brass of the Communist movement were of the same ilk, where scions of rich

families, otherwise established in legal professions or other land-holding families, were at the forefront. Mention the big names of Bengal Left movement, they were from these elitist families.

They were mostly educated in England, where they picked up their ideology from the likes of Harold Laski or Rajani Palme Dutt. Hiren Mukherjee, educated in Cambridge, Somnath Chatterjee, Mohit Sen, Indrajeet Gupta, Snehanshu Acharya (Barrister), to name a few. One outstanding member was Manabendranath Roy, who had won significant recognition in the global Communist movements of his time.

If a single person had epitomised this class of gentlemen-politician from an affluent, educated, successful professional strata, it was Siddhartha Shankar Roy, the last Congress Chief Minister of West Bengal. He began with leftist sympathies and then drifted towards mainstream politics of Congress. He was grandson of C. R. Das, one of the most successful lawyers of Calcutta High Court of

the 1920s, and had sent one cabinet colleague to jail on allegations of corruption.

Left came to power, while the top had a leaven of the elites. But the lower ranks in the political hierarchy came from more mundane backgrounds. Many were downright poor and did not have much of financial cushion.

That did not really mean that people from less advantageous background were downright corrupt. No. Even some of the less privileged politicians and leaders showed exemplary private conduct and could not be faulted on financial malpractices.

It was the old idea, now looks so old-fashioned and outmoded, that went to the extreme of glorifying poverty. One used to hear phrases like 'plain living, high thinking', which would possibly be mocked at in today's atmosphere. Admittedly, much later in the leftist rule, some rumours started floating about private gratification by some party elements, at the very top in the salad

her purpose and using the police force to ram through the electoral system.

The culmination of this process was witnessed in the latest bits of revelations in the involvement of senior ministers and party functionaries in humongous thievery and, even worse, in criminally assaulted people at the grassroots. She is powerless to intervene as she depends abjectly on these elements to survive electorally.

The last straw that broke the camel's back of Tapas Roy was the Sandeshkhali incident. This has given rise to a revolt even among Trinamool hardcore supporters, like Tapas Roy, who has openly referred to revulsive details of intimidation and assault. Tapas Roy was associated with Trinamool from its earliest days.

It is now that Justice Ganguly had called for rising up to the threats of criminal politics and outright thievery. He has raised a siren call to the return of the educated middle class in state politics and taking control. It could be like before, when ordinary people would still look up to the ministers and politicians.

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#THE DOWNFALL

Left front to the outright thievery of the next generation of politicians was a short transition.

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#GAMING

Outdoor Games That Are Outrageously Entertaining

Bringing back old outdoor games for kids will positively affect their health

In India's long history and diverse culture, games and sports have played a significant role. Outdoor games in India encourage physical activity in children and aid in improving their strength and endurance. However, kids now face a wide range of health problems as a result of the decline in physical exercise and outdoor games for kids. Thus, bringing back traditional games from the long list of outdoor games will have several positive effects on health. So, here is a list of a few outdoor games, that is fun to indulge in.

Kho-Kho

- **About the game:** One of the earliest outdoor games in India, *kho-kho* is a traditional Indian game that dates back to prehistoric India. A vertical wooden post is located at each end of the 29 by 16-meter rectangle that serves as the *kho-kho* playing area.
- **How to play:** Beginning at the pole, the chaser must attempt to tag a defender on their side of the field. When a defender crosses the line to the opposing side, the chaser taps a teammate who is seated facing the other way and shouts, "Kho!" The teammate will next attempt to tag the defender as the next move.
- **Played by:** It is played by 12 players in each team.

Football

- **About the game:** *Football* is a game in which two teams of 11 players try to pass the ball into the goal of their rivals.
- **How to play:** In a 90-minute game, the purpose of football is to score more goals than your opponent. A ball is placed in the centre of the field and when the referee blows the whistle, a player from the team, that lost the coin toss, takes the kick-off, and the ball advances.
- **Played by:** It is played in two teams of 11 players each.

Volleyball

- **About the game:** In the game of *volleyball*, two teams compete against one another by batting a ball back and forth over a high net in an effort to get it to land inside their opponents' playing area.
- **How to play:** The volleyball

game involves players hitting a ball back and forth over a high net with their hands. Before reaching the opponent's playing area, they attempt to make the ball touch the court.

- **Played by:** Volleyball is played by two teams of six players each.

Kabaddi

- **About the game:** *Kabaddi*, a South Asian sport, is also referred to as *hu-tu-tu* in Western India. It is a sport that is played between two teams on opposing halves of a field or court.
- **How to play:** While continually saying "kabaddi, kabaddi," players take turns to cross over to the opposing team's side. To earn points, a player must tag as many opponents as they can without being caught or pause to catch their breath before returning to their home zone.
- **Played by:** It is played by two teams of seven players each.

Badminton

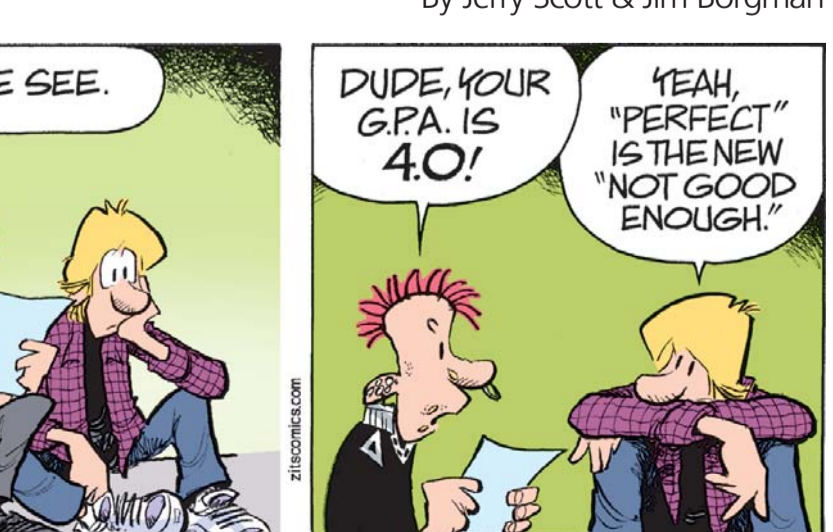
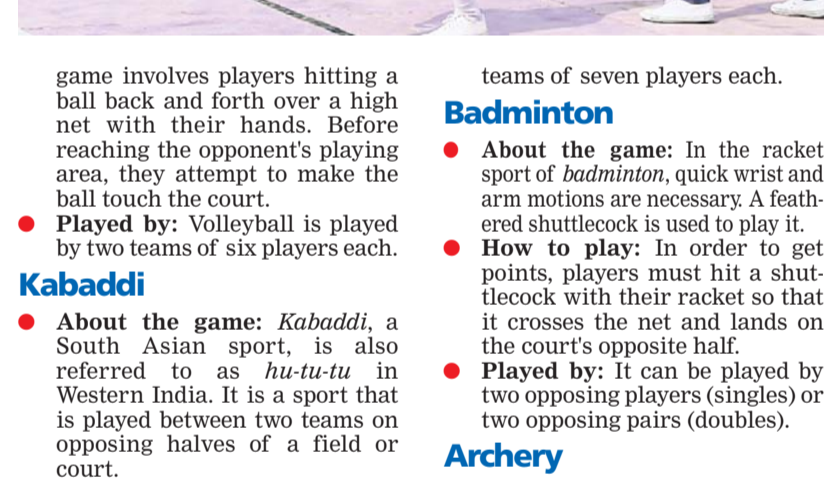
- **About the game:** In the racket sport of *badminton*, quick wrist and arm motions are necessary. A feathered shuttlecock is used to play it.
- **How to play:** In order to get points, players must hit a shuttlecock with their racket so that it crosses the net and lands on the court's opposite half.
- **Played by:** It can be played by two opposing players (singles) or two opposing pairs (doubles).

Archery

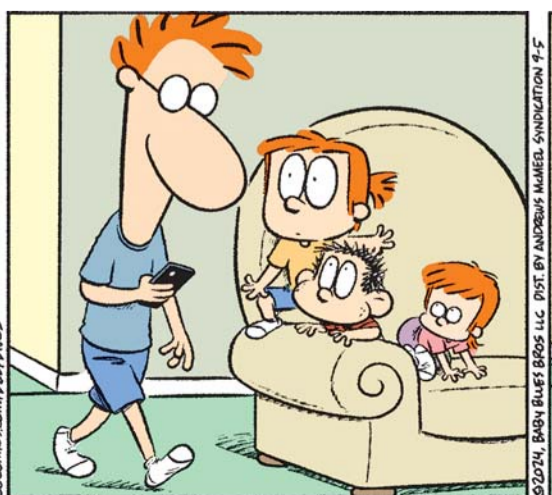
- **About the game:** Using a bow to shoot arrows is known as *archery*, one of the oldest sports still being played today.
- **How to play:** It entails firing arrows at a stationary target while using a bow. On the disc used as the target, there are ten concentric circles, each of which represents a separate tract. The region of the circle where the arrow lands determines the scores.
- **Played by:** It is played by a team of 4 players.

Hockey

- **About the game:** *Hockey* is a ball and sticks outdoor game in which players use curved sticks to strike a small, hard ball into the goal of their opponent.
- **How to play:** The game is played by kicking a ball into a goal with a stick. A point is given to that team each time the ball enters the goal. After the match, the team with the most goals is declared the winner.
- **Played by:** It is played by two opposing teams of 11 players each.



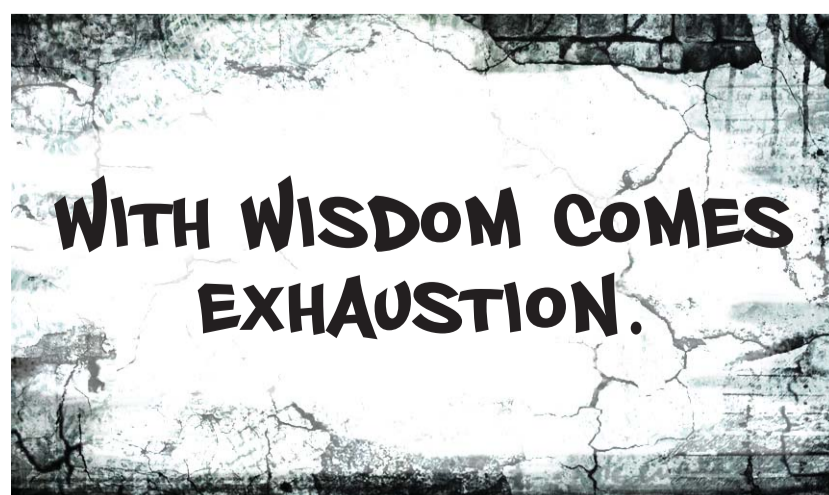
BABY BLUES



ZITS



THE WALL



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman