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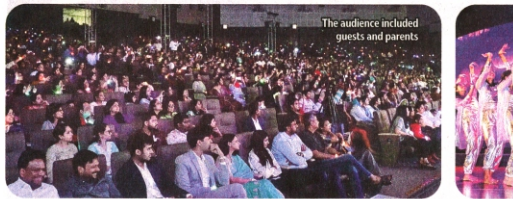
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VARIETY

A sky full of stars: A city school's musical tribute to Coldplay

The school's students take a bow after the show



Torna Chakraborty

The Newtown School, Kolkata lit up the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre on November 18 evening with its spectacular annual concert for classes VI-XII, built around the Coldplay-inspired theme *A Sky Full of Stars*. More than 1,000 students came together to create a vibrant showcase of music, light and storytelling, presenting a performance that stood as a heartfelt tribute to Coldplay. Staged as a musical play, the concert carried a profound message that imagination, empathy and love have the power to transform any world. From the opening cue to the final note, the auditorium radiated with creativity and infectious energy. As familiar tracks like *Yellow*, *Paradise*, *The Scientist* and *Something Just Like This* filled the air, the audience waved their hands in sync with colourful LED bands, turning the venue into a stadium-like spectacle. Founder-director Sunil Agarwal described the evening as a milestone moment for the institution. "The concert was not just a performance—it was a movement. *A Sky Full of Stars*

reflected the values that guide us, empowering young minds to dream boldly and express freely. Our students didn't just perform; they echoed the timeless optimism that Coldplay stands for."

Principal Satabdi Bhattacharjee added that the production aimed to feel contemporary while delivering a message rooted in humanity. "The theme imagines a world where machines begin to dominate, but a few individuals choose to resist and revive the human spirit. Through



Satabdi Bhattacharjee, principal (also below) during the inaugural lamp lighting

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— Sunil Agarwal, founder-director

Coldplay's music, which is modern yet meaningful, we wanted to show how empathy and humanity ultimately triumph."

The vision behind the concert was steered by Aditya Agarwal, the architect of the evening, who weaved every musical, visual and emotional thread together with the conviction that the experience should be nothing short of magical. He shared that he wanted the audience, especially students, to embark on a journey where performance transcends entertainment and becomes a catalyst for thought. According to him, the show was crafted not only to evoke wonder, but also to provoke reflection on the world we live in, inspiring society to look inward, rediscover compassion and rethink the role of technology in shaping the future.

For performers, the impact was deeply personal. One of the lead actors, Shrinini Chakraborty of Class XI Humanities, said the

musical became a turning point in her artistic journey, giving her a platform bigger than anything she had imagined. The play, she shared, helped her dive deeper into emotions, inhabit her character fearlessly and understand the power of storytelling beyond memorised lines. She described the stage as "an unforgettable sky full of stars" where she discovered her own voice and confidence.

Head Boy Avighna Purohit and Head Girl Raika Agarwal echoed this emotional spirit, noting that the school has always dared to think beyond norms and conventions. Creativity at the school, they said, is nurtured as an essential part of learning, shaping students into thinkers, collaborators and changemakers. Parents said the concert taught children far more than performance, deepening discipline, teamwork, empathy and confidence while strengthening resilience and emotional maturity.

