



PANCHAKOT MAHAVIDYALAYA

Sarbari, Neturia, Purulia, West Bengal
Accredited by NAAC (Cycle-II) Grade-2.62 (B+)
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Report on the Celebration of Raksha Bandhan Utsav

1. Event Overview

Title	Celebration of Raksha Bandhan Utsav
Date	31st August 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Venue	Panchakot Mahavidyalaya Auditorium (later shifted near the Swami Vivekananda statue)
Organized by	Panchakot Mahavidyalaya, Sarbari, Neturia, Purulia
Chief Guest	Srimati Mamoni Bauri, MLA, Raghunathpur
Coordinator	Dr Biplab Kahar, Bursar, Panchakot Mahavidyalaya
Number of Participants	80

2. History of Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan, literally meaning “the bond of protection,” is one of the oldest festivals of the Indian subcontinent, with roots that extend into ancient Vedic and epic traditions. The rite of tying a protective thread, historically referred to as Rakshasutra or Raksha Sutra, was originally a ritual invoked at moments of danger, war, or new beginnings, performed by priests, kings, and family members alike, and was not confined to the specific brother-sister relationship it primarily signifies today.

Several legends and historical episodes are associated with the evolution of the festival. In the Bhavishya Purana, it is recounted that Indra, the king of gods, was losing a war against demons; his wife Sachi tied a sacred thread on his wrist for protection, following which he was said to have triumphed, giving the ritual its earliest association with protection and victory. The Mahabharata contains an oft-cited episode in which Draupadi tore a strip from her sari to bind Krishna's wounded wrist, and Krishna is said to have vowed to protect her in return, a moment later invoked to explain Krishna's intervention during Draupadi's disrobing in the Kaurava court.

Historically, the festival also carries important political and social memory in the eastern Indian and Rajputana contexts. Rajput queens are recorded to have sent rakhis to rulers of other kingdoms or faiths seeking alliance and protection; the episode most frequently cited is that of Rani Karnavati of Mewar sending a rakhi to the Mughal emperor Humayun in the sixteenth century, appealing for assistance against Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. In Bengal, the festival acquired a distinct political meaning in 1905, when Rabindranath Tagore, protesting the colonial Partition of Bengal along communal lines, urged Hindus and Muslims to tie rakhis on one another as a public demonstration of unity and shared belonging, transforming a domestic ritual into an instrument of anti-colonial and communal solidarity.

Over time, the observance settled into its most widely recognised form: a festival celebrated on the full moon day (Purnima) of the Hindu lunar month of Shravana, in which sisters tie a rakhi, a sacred thread or ornamental bracelet, on the wrists of their brothers, praying for their well-being, while brothers in turn pledge lifelong protection and often present gifts. The festival is observed with variations across regions of India and Nepal, and comparable thread-tying protective rituals are found in other South Asian religious and folk traditions.

3. Importance of the Event

The celebration of Raksha Bandhan within an educational institution such as Panchakot Mahavidyalaya carries significance well beyond the domestic and familial character the festival usually holds. Several dimensions of its importance may be identified:

- **Cultural continuity:** The event allows the college to actively transmit a living cultural and religious tradition to students, situating classroom learning about Indian society and history within lived, participatory practice.
- **Institutional bonding:** By having the Principal, faculty, and students tie rakhis to the Chief Guest, and students exchanging rakhis among themselves, the event reinforced bonds of collegiality and care that extend the idiom of “protection” from family to institutional community.
- **Civic and political engagement:** The presence of an elected representative, Srimati Mamoni Bauri, MLA, Raghunathpur, as Chief Guest, situated the college event within the wider public and civic life of the region, echoing the historical use of Raksha Bandhan as a gesture of alliance and goodwill between different spheres of authority.
- **Gender solidarity and respect:** The symbolic act of faculty and students tying rakhis to a woman public representative underscored themes of mutual respect and protection that transcend the strictly familial framing of the festival, in keeping with its historically flexible and expansive use as noted above.

- **Reaffirmation of shared heritage:** Following the precedent set by Tagore's 1905 Rakhi Utsav in Bengal, campus-level celebrations of this kind continue to carry an implicit message of unity, harmony, and shared belonging among the college community.
- **Student engagement and wellbeing:** The informal and festive elements of the programme, including the distribution of laddoos and students celebrating the festival among themselves, contributed to a warm and inclusive campus atmosphere outside of formal academic activity.

4. Proceedings of the Event

The programme was scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM at the Panchakot Mahavidyalaya Auditorium; the venue was subsequently shifted to the area near the Swami Vivekananda statue on campus. The proceedings unfolded in the following sequence:

- Srimati Mamoni Bauri, MLA, Raghunathpur, the Chief Guest of the programme, offered her prayers to the Swami Vivekananda statue, marking the formal commencement of the event.
- Following this, the Principal of Panchakot Mahavidyalaya tied a Rakhi to Srimati Mamoni Bauri, extending a formal welcome and mark of respect.
- Faculty members and students of the college subsequently tied Rakhis to the Chief Guest, in keeping with the spirit of the occasion.
- Students of the college celebrated Raksha Bandhan among themselves, exchanging rakhis and greetings.
- The programme concluded with the distribution of laddoos among the students present.

The event was coordinated by Dr Biplab Kahar, Bursar, Panchakot Mahavidyalaya, and was organized under the aegis of Panchakot Mahavidyalaya, Sarbari, Neturia, Purulia.

5. Conclusion

The Raksha Bandhan Utsav celebrated at Panchakot Mahavidyalaya on 31st August 2026 successfully combined ritual observance with institutional and civic engagement. By bringing together the Principal, faculty, students, and an elected public representative in a shared celebration, the event reaffirmed the college's commitment to fostering cultural awareness, community bonding, and inclusive campus life, while situating a time-honoured festival within the contemporary life of the institution.



Poster for the Event



Felicitation of the Chief Guest



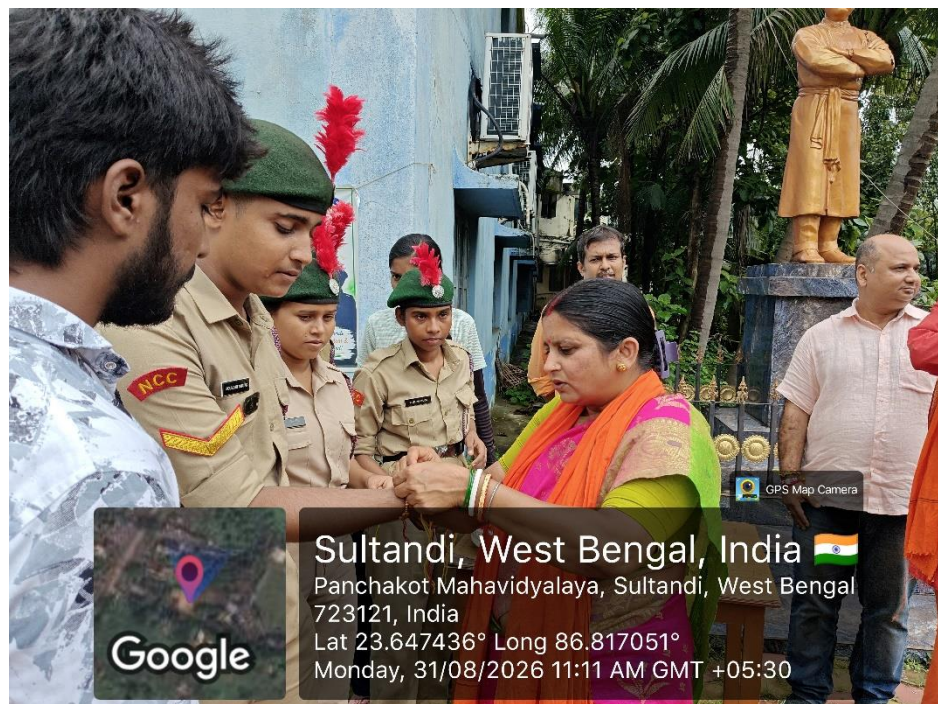
The Principal is tying a Rakhi to the Chief Guest



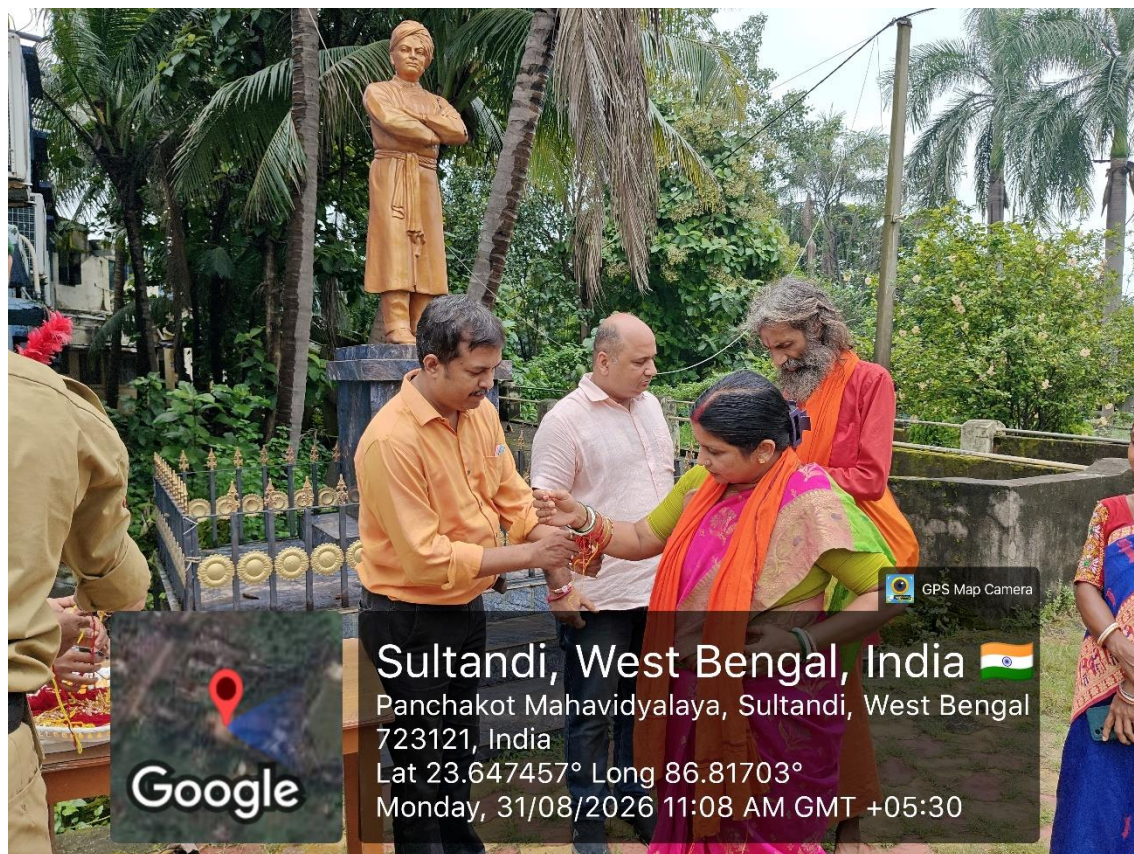
The Chief Guest is tying a Rakhi to the Principal



Students are tying a Rakhi to the Chief Guest



The Chief Guest is tying a Rakhi to the Students



The Faculty Members are tying a Rakhi to the Chief Guest



Students Present at the Event



Signature
Dr Biplab Kahar
Coordinator



Principal
PANCHAKOT MAHAVIDYALAYA
Sarbari, Neturia, Purulia

Signature
Dr Saptarshi Chakraborty
Principal