

Bauls and Fakirs of Nadia have begun a new journey. 233 Bauls and Fakirs have formed 27 self help groups (SHGs) at Krishnagar, Karimpur, Nakashipara, Chapra, Nabadwip, Hanskhali and Chakda areas of Nadia. Preserving tradition is important, but innovation and responding to change are critical for sustainability of art. Months of comprehensive training and skill development were thus held under the aegis of leading Baul and Fakiri Gurus.

The minstrels are using lapels, recording songs in studios and participating in video productions which are being showcased in YouTube Songs passed down orally through generation after generation have been compiled into an invaluable collection of 740 Baul songs - *Sahajgeeti*. Audio CD - *Gaiche Baul Gaiche Fakir* - first time recording of these rural singers has been highly acclaimed.



Sahajgeeti- A collection of Baul songs



Gaiche Baul Gaiche Fakir-An audio CD

Enliven your next programme – at school, college, office, club or in your locality with a Baul or Fakiri song. Make your campaign more powerful by using folk media to motivate and mobilize change. Simply listen to their song or watch their video in a quiet moment. Cherish their philosophy of love and simplicity.



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BAUL-FAKIRI

*Rediscovering inner
and outer space*

BAUL-FAKIRI

Rediscovering inner and outer space

Baul and Fakiri music is a rich, vibrant and living folk heritage of Bengal. These wandering minstrels sing about love and devotion. Their philosophy emerged in the seventeenth century. In a society stifled with superstitions, caste divisions, religious intolerance and malpractices, Bauls and Fakirs sang about humanism and brotherhood, celebration of life and nature. Centuries later, in today's conflict ridden society, their songs and philosophy remain relevant and inspiring.



BAUL-FAKIRI

Rediscovering inner and outer space

*“Jodi manush dekhe korcho hela, tobe kichui hobe na –
Manush ache sob adhare chinte paro na.”*

That spirituality goes above every race and religion, that the human body embodies the soul and that the soul is the essence of humanity - this quintessential message has universal appeal.



BAUL-FAKIRI

Rediscovering inner and outer space

Folk art forms are imbibed in the ways of life of rural and tribal people—in their rituals and practices. Folk songs and dance are threatened with obliteration in a world strongly influenced by western culture and urban lifestyle. The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has taken up a unique and ambitious initiative of reviving and revitalizing performing folk art forms as means of sustainable livelihood. The Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development and Information and Cultural Affairs of the Government of West Bengal are also partners in this initiative.