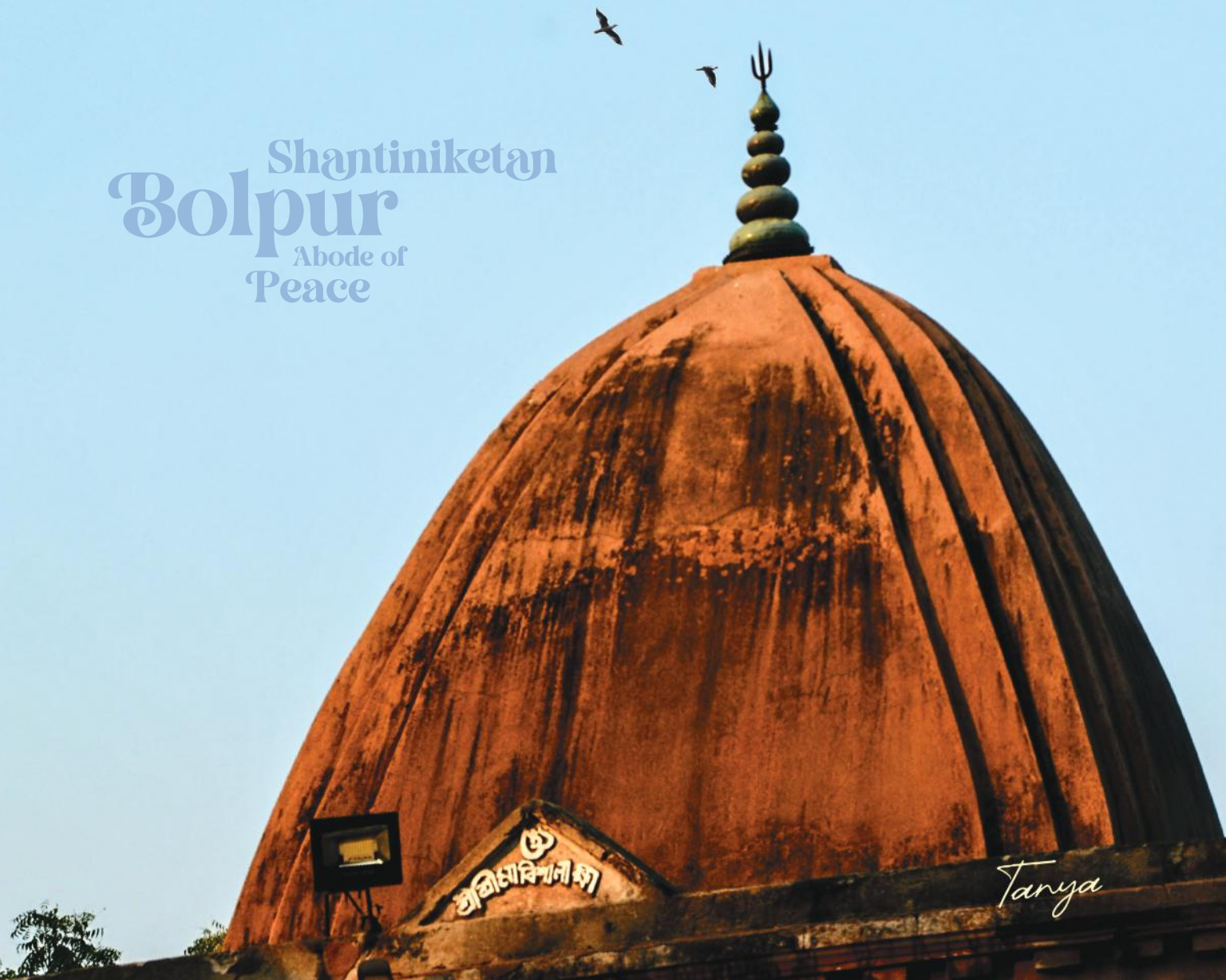


TRAVEL LOGUE

Shantiniketan
Bolpur
Abode of
Peace



Nanoor



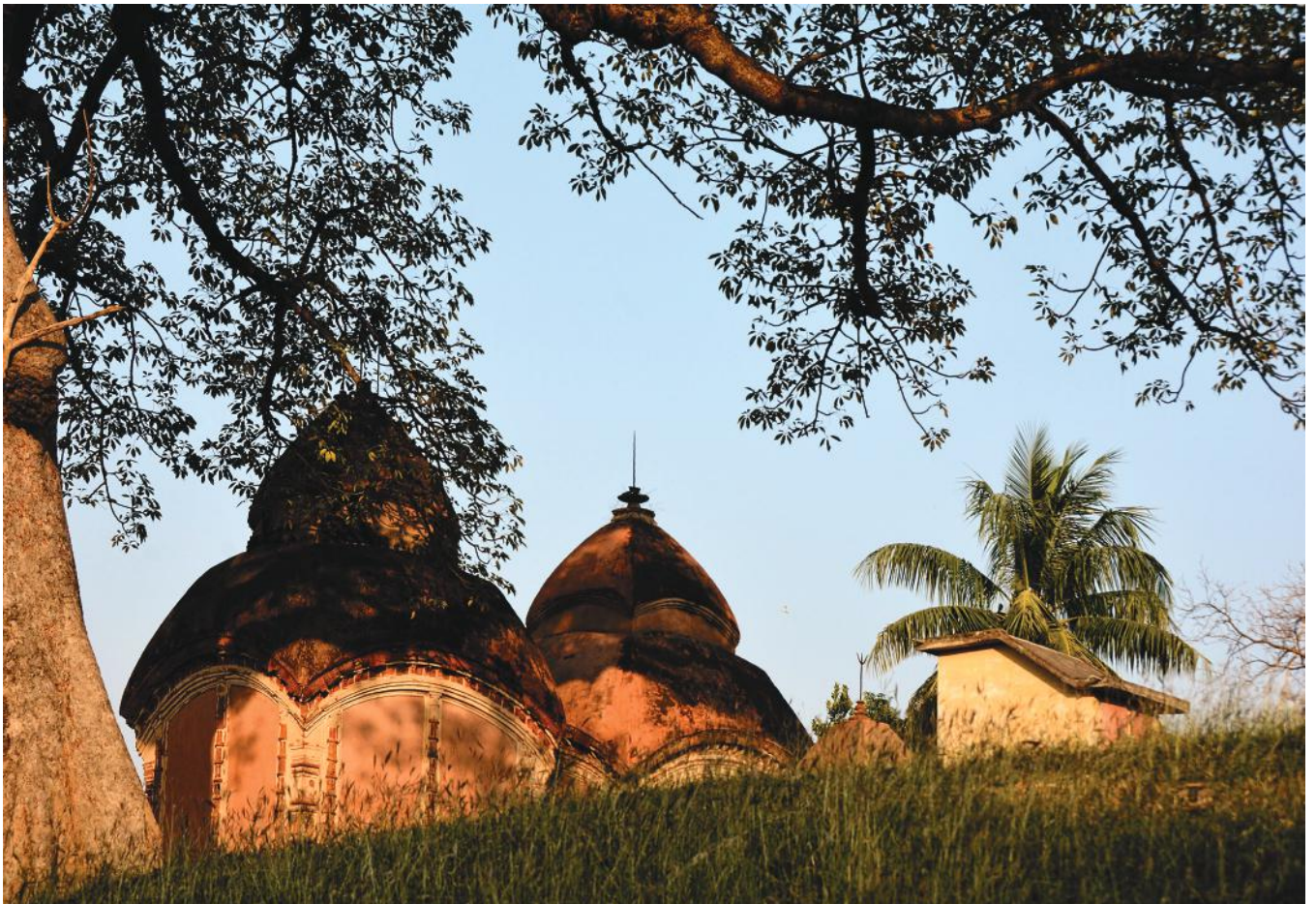


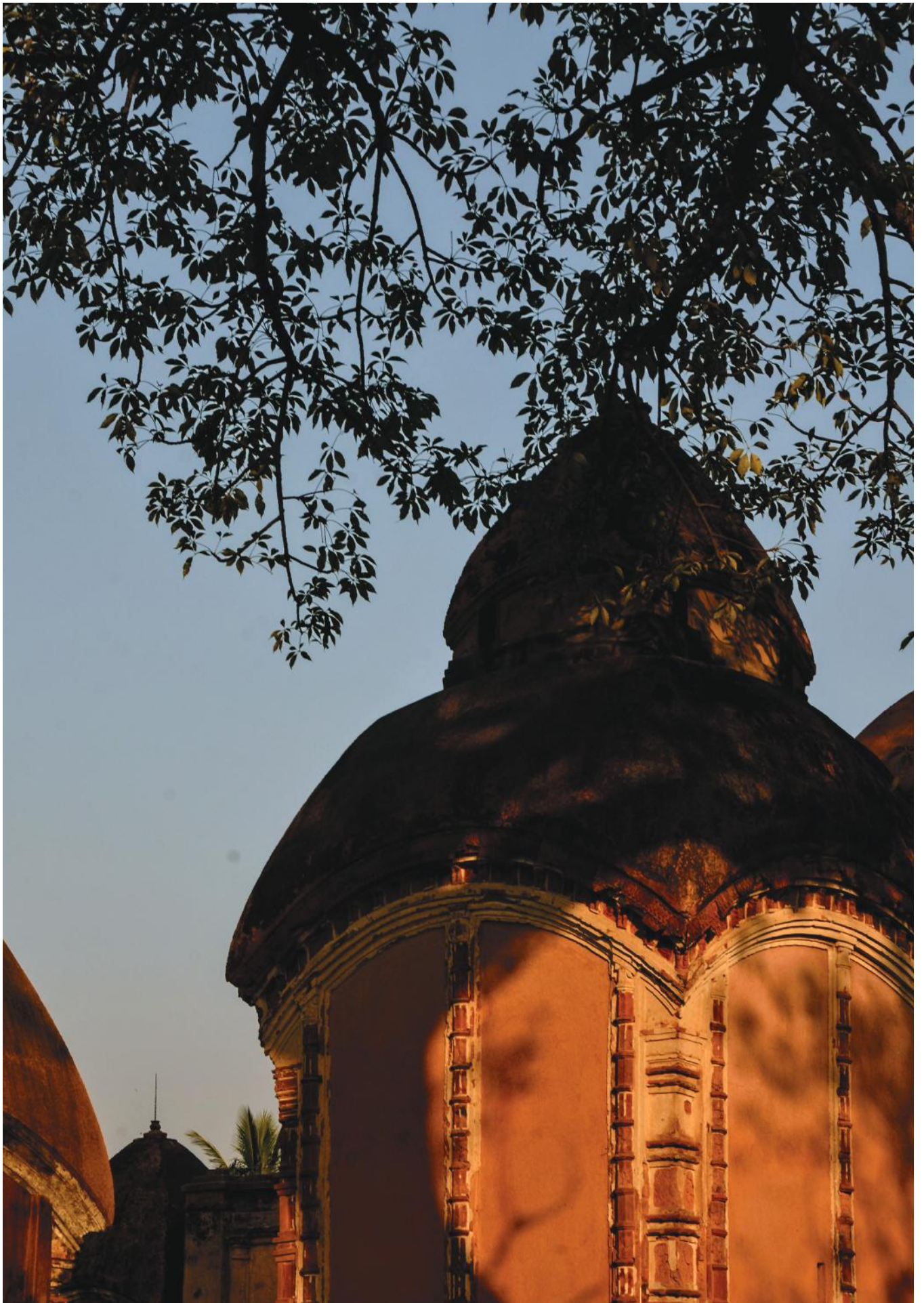
Nanur, also known as Nanoor, was the hometown of the famous 14th century poet Boru Chandidas. Although three other Chandidas have been mentioned in history, the name associated with Nanoor is the most famous. A police station in Nanoor is also named Chandidas Nanoor, which is also the headquarters of the 24 village Community Development Block of Nanoor. Chandidas Nanoor has terracotta temples, and some of these villages have age old brick temples too. Uchkaran is one of these village.

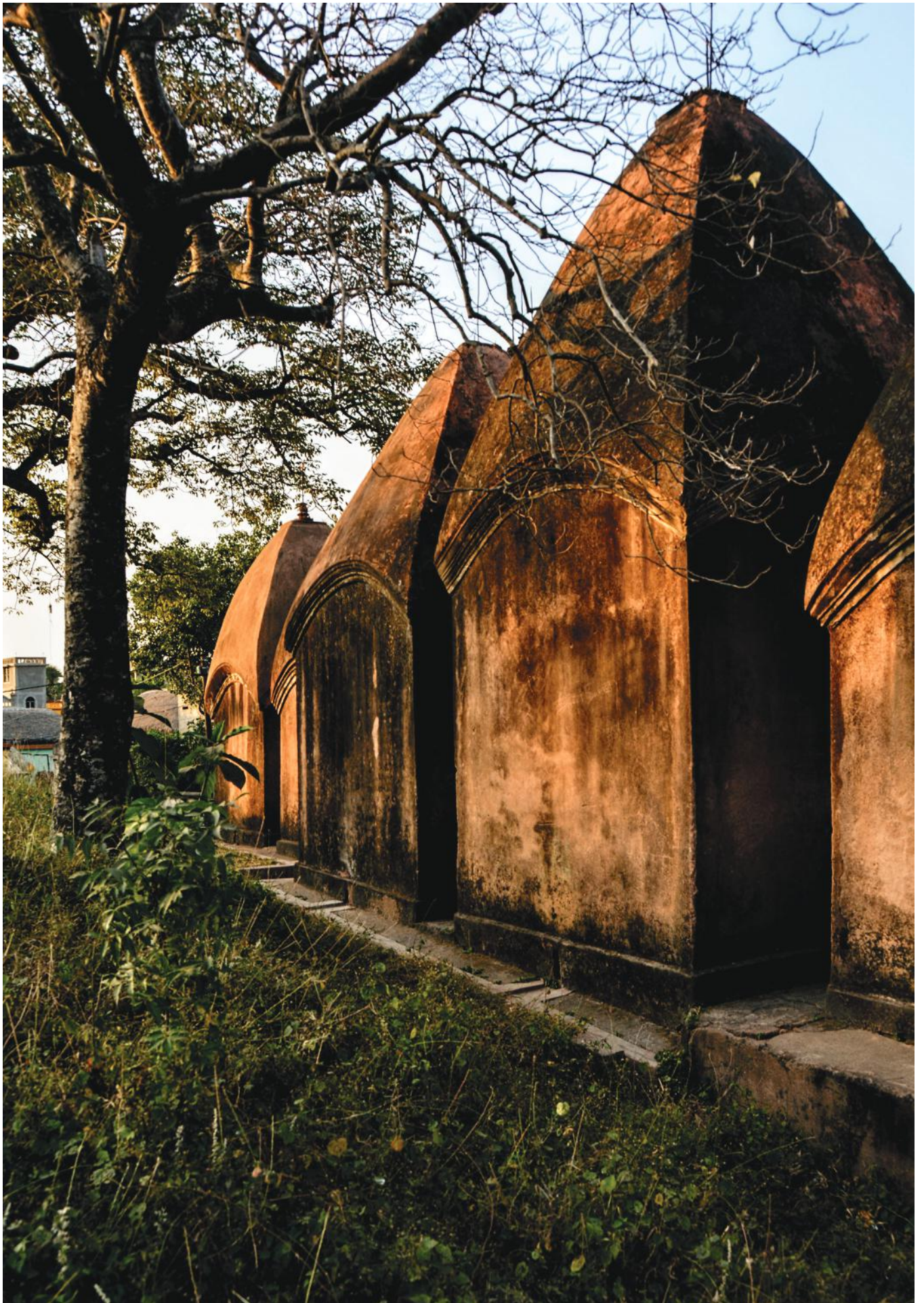
The Cluster of temples surrounding The Bishalakshmi temple, Nanoor

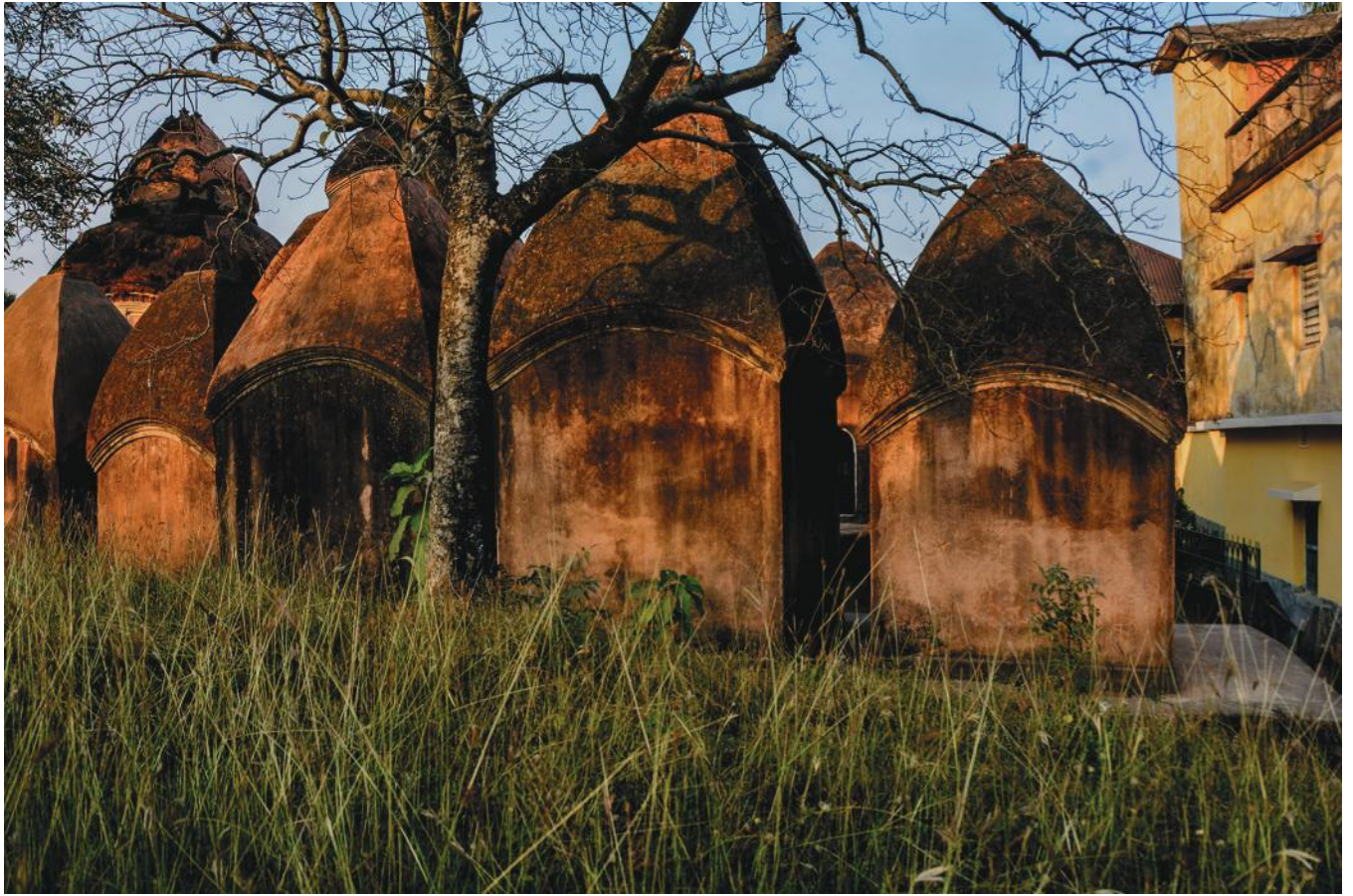
The most famous temple standing on the mound is the Bishalakshmi temple which is locally known as Basuli temple. There is a modern gate in front of the narrow lane which leads to mound of Boru Chandidas. On the top of the gate that epic line by Chandidas is mentioned "*Kahe Chandidas Sunoho Manush Bhai , Sabar Upore Manush Satya Tahar upore Nai*" (Says Chandidas to his fellow humans that nothing other humanity is above all).

There is a debate on whether the poet's residence was actually in Nanoor or at Chaatna, but the popular belief is that of Nanoor. Nothing is visible of the house of Chandidas, except the mound on which the temples stands. Although the mound is said to be of 14th century, the temples are of 17th to 18th century. Two excavations have taken place in the mound, one in 1945-46 by Calcutta University and the other in 1964 by ASI (Eastern Circle).









Five Char Chala temples with hardly any decoration, Nanoor

On this mound there are fourteen other temples with Shivalingam and a small Durga dalan on its premises. Except for one flat roofed structure and one Charchala temple, all other 13 temples and the Durga dalan stand in front of the Bishalakshmi temple. I am not sure if that flat roofed structure is a temple, as the ASI board says there are only 14 temples apart from the Basuli Temple on the mound. The temples all house Shiva Lingams and were built in the same period of the Bishalakshmi temple.

After the demise of Chandidas, the temple succumbed beneath the earth with the deity. Later a Tilli family and a Bhattacharya Family of Nanoor recovered the Bishalakshmi idol from the mound. The 10" four handed figurine was made of brass and bronze. On two hands she held a Veena and on other hands a book and an Akshamala (garland of beads). Experts had identified it has a Saraswati Idol as per description in Agni Purana. One gentleman named Umacharan Bhattacharyea was in charge of its worship and a local Zaminder built up this temple in the 17th century.

Five Char Chala Temples

A flight of stairs from the road takes the visitor to the premises. The main temple at Chandinas Nanoor is the Bishalakshmi temple. The south facing temple is a flat roofed structure with a tower. The tower has five brass made kalash (jars) and a thrishul placed upon it. Constructed on a platform it has an open verandah and a triple arched entrance to a covered verandah. Once this temple had enough ornamental work on it, but years of renovation had robbed it eventually.









**Only The Jora Shiva Aatchala
Temples are adorned with Terracotta
motif at Nanoor**

Out of these only the twin Shiva Aatchala temples have terracotta motifs on its wall. These two structures stand just opposite to the Bishalakshmi temple. On the left side of The twin shiva temple stands four Char Chala Temples having intricate stucco work on them. On the right side of the twin temple lies two Charchala temples on the either side of a Durgadalan. On the back side of the Twin Temples are five Charchala Temples. These five temples are plain too, except for two stucco lotus and a stucco Ganesh above the entrance of two temples. The flat roofed structure and the Aatchala Temple stands away from the cluster of the temples near the entrance of the premises.

Central Arch Panel of the Aatchala temple to the right side of the viewer, Nanoor. One can see clustered miniature Shiva temples, Lotus and Mangal Ghot here.



Stucco Floral Designs and Stucco Pillars on arch panels of one of the four Char Chala temples at Nanoor.



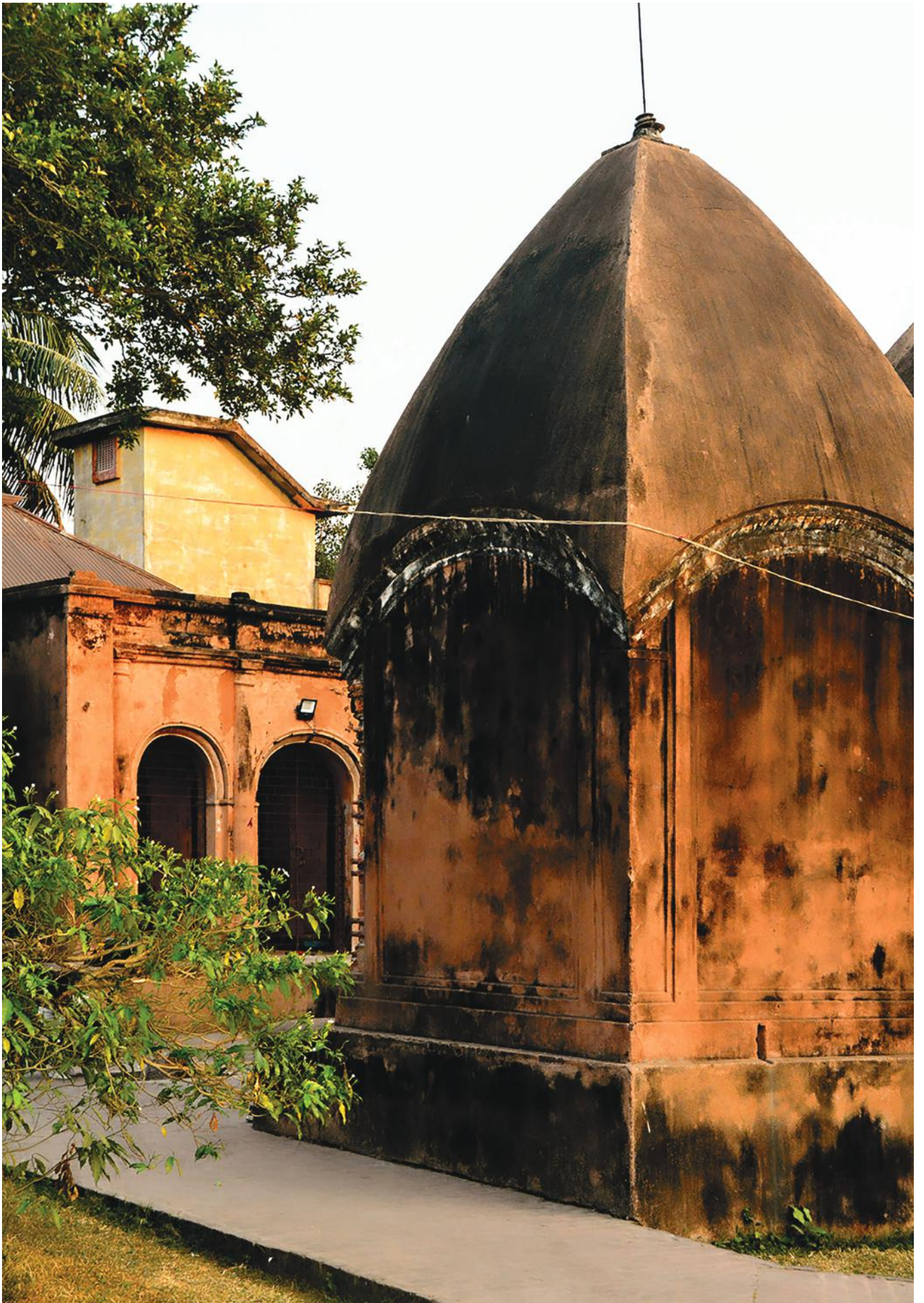
Central Arch Panel of the Aatchala Temple to the left of the viewer at Nanoor. The Miniature Shiva temples are positioned with enough space here and can easily be identifiable.





Bishalakshmi alias Basuli Temple







The flat roofed structure besides the solitary Charchala Temple

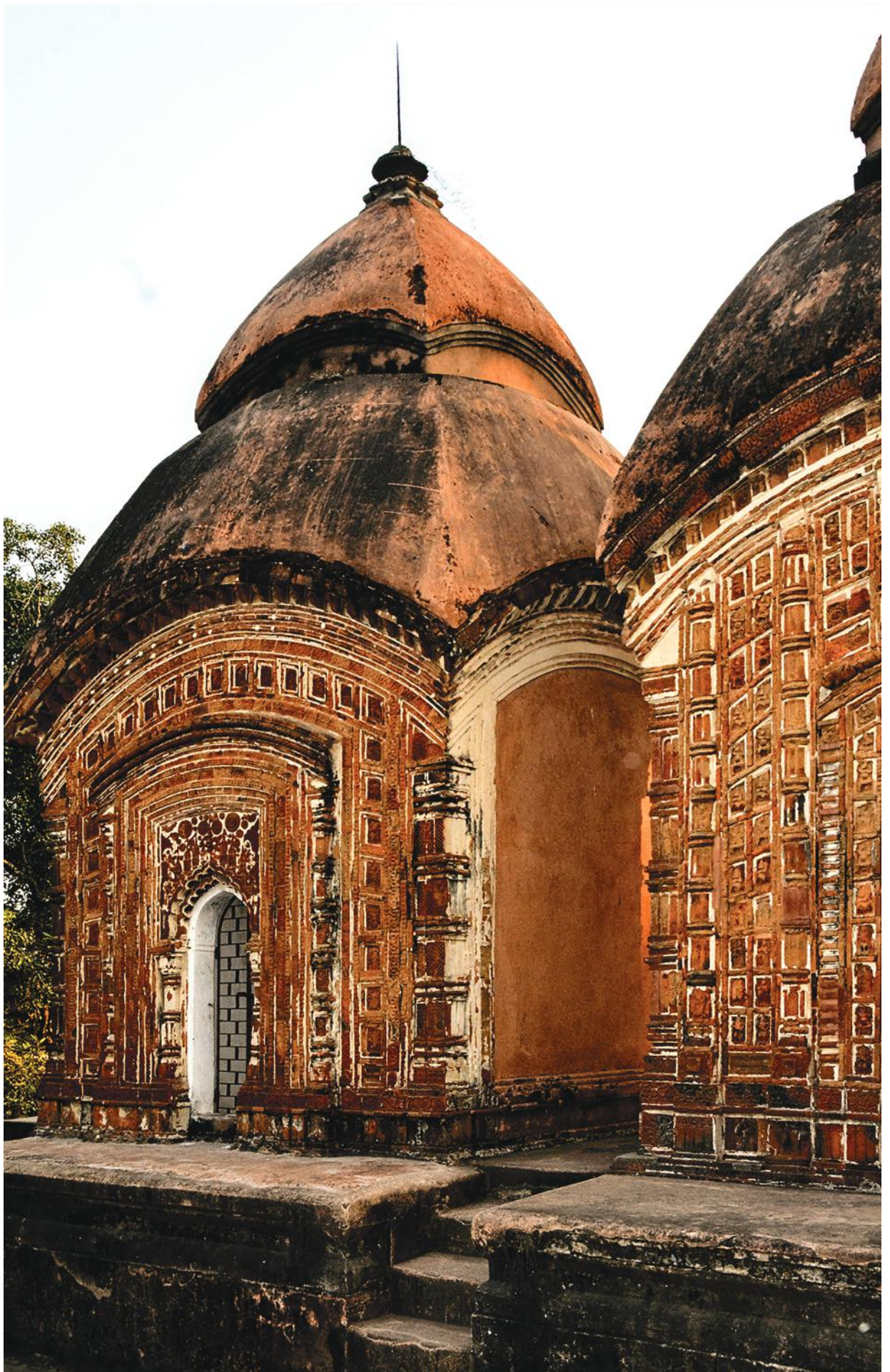
Out of the North Facing twin temples at Nanoor, the one to the right of the viewer has most of its terracotta panels in a damaged state. The arch panel above the entrance showcases several small terracotta shiva temples with shiva lingams in somewhat clustered manner. There are two giant lotus and an extremely decorative Mangal Ghot. In terracotta temples Mangal Ghots representing metal or earthen vases are often used as a sign of good omen. There are numerous small terracotta figurines in this temples, which are sadly beyond recognition by the vagaries of time. Just above the arch panel there is a curved arch showing faces of Makar on its each end. Apart from these there are several floral motifs on the walls of the temple.



Terracotta adorned Aatchala Temple showcasing clustered miniature Shiva temples, Lotus and Mangal Ghot

The terracotta panels of the second Aatchala temple on the left side to the viewer are in a relatively better shape. Like the other temple the central arch panel also showcases several shiva temples with shiva lingams, but not in a clustered manner. The miniature temples have been positioned on the wall with enough space between them. There are several Lotus in the arch panel too. Like the other temple, there is presence of curved arch just above the arch panel. However there are two curved arches here instead of one. The Wall Panels above it shows several figurines in terracotta in a good state.

The Central wall panels showcases Durga as Mahishashurmardini posture with Laksmi, Saraswati, Kartick and Ganesh. Apart from some damage to the Durga figurine, other five terracotta figures look good. Similar to what I have seen in Balidewanganj, Lakhsmi and are in dancing posture here and not on their Vahanas. Kartick and Ganesh are on their Vahanas – Peacock and Mouse respectively. Other panels displayed several scenes from Krishna Lila, Vishnu on Garura, Soldier on Horseback and many others. There are beautiful floral motifs too with scenes from Krishnalila in the base panels of this temple.







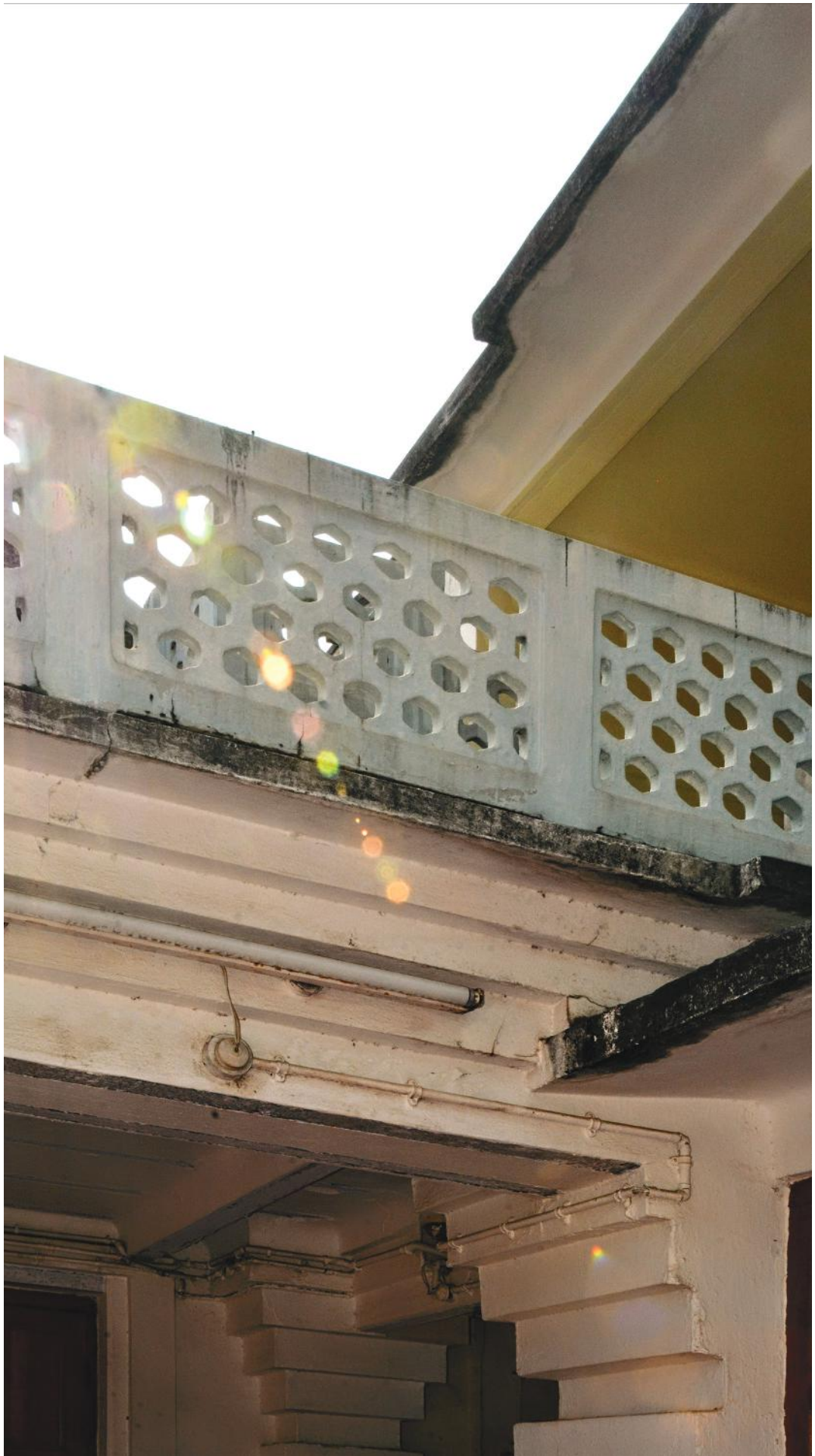
Rabindra Bhavan

Rabindra Bhavan, Visva Bharti University

Founded in July 1942, just a year after the Poet's death, Rabindra-Bhavana is an important component of Visva-Bharati. It is, in fact, the focal point of the University. This Bhavana includes among its treasures a very major part of Tagore's manuscripts, correspondences, paintings and sketches. The poet's personal library is here and various objects used by him, his voice-recordings and thousands of photograph taken of him at different times and places and the many gifts, honours and addresses which he received from different parts of the world have enriched the Bhavana's archival holdings.

The sprawling Vishwa Bharati University campus is amidst verdant green. School students in orange uniforms can be seen studying under the cool shade of trees, formal classes are held outdoors, just as Tagore had intended it to be. India's first Nobel Laureate, Tagore had dropped out from school, as he felt claustrophobic within the four walls of the classroom. He felt that students should be close to nature. Tagore was not a mere dreamer, he was a visionary with the will power to translate them to reality. Vishwa Bharati University is proof of that. back and many others. There are beautiful floral motifs too with scenes from Krishnalila in the base panels of this temple.





The museum housed in the Bhavana, comprising of a permanent display section and the five homes lived in by Tagore, collectively referred to as the Uttarayan Complex, attracts thousands of visitors. The architecture of the houses, the interior decoration, the pieces of furniture strewn about the rooms bring to life the persona of Tagore.

This unit of Rabindra-Bhavana has 1580 original paintings of Rabindranath and 554 by others. The photograph collection (11380), the curio collection (3855) and 52 statues. The collection of addresses and certificates also form important sections of this unit. A detailed and descriptive list of the paintings and their items in the museum unit has been serially published in the Catalogue-in-progress.



An important aspect of Bhavana activities is to mount exhibitions in "*Vichitra*". Drawing upon its own rich collection of photographs and other memorabilia, exhibitions depicting different themes from the poet's life, are held regularly throughout the year.





This complex will take you down to the memory lane of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore. One place amongst these, which is very popular is Udayan. This is the place where Rabindranath Tagore used to stay. This building is heritage. The best part about this is that the authorities have maintained it quite well. Some other places which you should visit are Shyamali or popularly named mud hut. You can also visit other places such as Punasha as well as Udichi. These places are surrounded by gardens and adding to the fun is the fact that Rabindra Bhawan Museum is nearby. Rabindranath Tagore used to live in one house or another out of these. Sculptors of Ramkinkar Baij have been moved there during this period. This is one of the most popular places to see in Bolpur.



Upasana Griha



Prayer Hall or Upasana Griha, Visva Bharti University

The Upasna Ghar or the prayer hall is situated on the Campus of Visva Bharati University. It is one of the most beautiful places to visit in Bolpur.

Upasna Ghar is made from Belgian Glass. It is such a beautiful building that will leave you awestruck with its beauty. Upasna Ghar is popularly known as Kanch Mandir because its walls are made up of glass along with marble steps built on each side making it one of the most beautiful places to visit in Bolpur. Visitors are allowed to see the building, but only from the outside every day of the week except for Wednesday. It was made by the father of Rabindranath Tagore in the year 1863. Services are offered in the evening during which candles are lit all around the prayer hall. At this period, the building is engulfed in the flickering light of the candles and the view that one gets is truly amazing. The prayer hall is surrounded by gardens from all sides. These well-maintained gardens keep blooming with colorful flowers.







Khoai-Sonajhuri-Saturday Market also known as Shanibarar Haat

Reloaded and rejuvenated we set out towards Khoai at around 2 pm. The Khoai Mela or Shanibarar Haat or 'Saturday Market' which is a temporary, open-air market where locales sell various items starting from musical instruments to dokra handicrafts to ethnic jewellery and hand-loom sari and dress materials. Apart from Tagore and Visva Bharati this market was a chief attraction for me. Set beside Khoai, the deep dry riverbed, with Sonajhuri Forest in the backdrop, this Saturday Market is the place to feel the vibe of Shantiniketan.



Thank You

Tanya Singh
Sem-3, Fashion Communication
Roll no: BD/21/2704
National Institute of Fashion Technology,
Kolkata