



DURGA PUJA

Glasgow 2018

38th Year

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SRI SRI DURGA PUJA PROGRAMME 2018

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MAHALAYA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 577 4861)

SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2018

Shri Chandi Paath & Ananda Bhoj: 6.30pm - 10.00pm

SARBOJANIN DURGOTSAV

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA (Tel: 0141 637 2157)

MONDAY, 15th OCTOBER - FRIDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2018

MAHA SASTHI

MONDAY, 15th OCTOBER 2018

Kalparambha, Bodhan, Amontran, Adhibas, Arati: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA SAPTAMI

TUESDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2018

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA ASTHAMI

WEDNESDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2018

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad: 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Sandhi Puja: 8.00 pm, Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 11.00pm

MAHA NAVAMI

THURSDAY, 18th OCTOBER 2018

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA DASAMI

FRIDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2018

Puja, Bisorjan, Santijal, Prasad: 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA LAKSHMI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE

WEDNESDAY, 24th OCTOBER 2018

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA KALI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE

WEDNESDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2018

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA SARASWATI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 577 4861)

SUNDAY, 10th FEBRUARY 2019

Puja, Puspanjali, Arati, Prasad: 6pm - 8pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8pm - 10pm



কলকাতায় প্রথম পূজা কবে আর কোথায় এই সঠিক তথ্যটি বোধকরি জানা নেই. লর্ড ক্লাইভ ১৭৫৭ সালে রাজা নবকৃষ্ণ দেবের বাড়িতে পূজা- প্রার্থনায় আমন্ত্রিত হন. সেই থেকে এই বাড়ির পূজা "কোম্পানির পূজা" নামে প্রসিদ্ধি পায়. সেই সময় কলকাতায় চার্চ এর সংখ্যা খুব বেশী ছিলনা. লর্ড ক্লাইভ সম্ভবত যুদ্ধ জয়ের পরে চার্চ এ প্রার্থনা করার ইচ্ছে প্রকাশ করেন. পূজা এসে গেলো.. সর্বমঙ্গলদায়িনী সর্বভূতের রক্ষাকর্তী মা এর আবির্ভাব নিকট-আসন্ন. এই বার্তা যেন আমাদের মনে প্রানে এক পরম আনন্দের অনুভূতি জাগায়. ক্লান্তি ও দুর্বলতা নাশ করে. আমরা মহাশক্তির কৃপায় জাগরুক হয়ে জগতের আনন্দযজ্ঞে নিবেদিত. ত্রিলোকের শক্তি দেহ মনে আন্দোলিত হয়. ত্রিভুবনের সাথে একাত্ম বোধ করি. আসুন এই বিশেষ মুহূর্তে যেন মনের সমস্ত গ্লানি ও বিষাদ কাটিয়ে উঠতে পারি. আসুরিক তমসা নাশ করে জাগিয়ে তুলি মৈত্রী আর শ্রীতি. সর্বজনের কল্যাণ কামনায় দেবীর আরাধনায় এই মহাযজ্ঞে যেন সমর্পিত হতে পারি.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Durga Puja Committee wishes to express their gratitude and thanks to the following for their kind support and contributions:

Haradhan & Shakuntala Datta

Sheela Mukherjee & Family

Bishnu & Rashmi Routray

Sukhdeo Bachoo

Haraprasad Kushari

Anupam & Sindhuja Sinha

Josh & Ruby Sarkar

Bank of India

Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council

People's Palace, Glasgow Green

All the Staff at the Couper Institute & Clarkston Hall

The management and staff of Printing Glasgow for their
co-operation and assistance in printing this souvenir

**We are very grateful to the businesses and individuals who have
helped our event become a success through their sponsorship.**

**We also wish to thank the members of our community, too numerous to mention, who
have given countless hours of service in helping to make our Puja a continued success.**



EDITORIAL

**Namo namo Durge sukh karani
Namo namo Ambe dukh harani**

*Chant the name of Goddess Durga, the bestower of happiness
Chant the name of Goddess Ambe, who ends all miseries.*

We have once again come together to celebrate Durga Puja for the thirty-eighth year running, and its message of good over evil, peace and unity amongst mankind.

These celebrations enrich all our lives, both young and old, and serve to maintain and further our Bengali religious and cultural heritage.

Our appreciation and thanks go to the numerous public dignitaries who endorse our Puja through their messages of support.

Our thanks also go to Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council for their continuous help and support. Our thanks go to Glasgow City Council for their help in providing a safe place to store our images.

As always, the Puja would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the members of the community.

This souvenir helps us to raise funds for celebrating the Durga Puja. We are therefore grateful to all our advertisers and other patrons who have contributed financially.

We hope you all enjoy this year's celebrations.

Durga Puja Committee, Glasgow

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Greetings to
Durga Puja
Glasgow 2018

Dr N. Bagaria & Family (Edinburgh)



Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad (BSP), Glasgow

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www.bspglasgow.com

With the onset of autumn, the day breaks with freshness in the air – dew drops on leaves and the changing colours of the foliage – there is an uncanny joyous feeling in the hearts of every Bengali worldwide as the countdown begins for Durga Puja.

It starts with Mahalaya, the day of invocation, when Devi Paksha starts, and we wait for Goddess Durga to come down to earth amongst us to ward off evils. After which, we have five days of pure joy and merriment, fun and frolic for young and old alike.

Durga Puja means more to us than just a religious festival. It is a celebration of our culture, our popular customs and traditions. It is a time to remember our ancestors and pay our respect – it is a time of reunion, rejuvenation and rebirth of our spiritual selves. Last but not the least, it is the season to promote our understanding for each other, irrespective of our faith – to love, to share and to care.

Let us celebrate Durga Puja in Glasgow in our own inimitable style and bring the magic of the festival alive with respect and love for one and all.

My warm puja greetings and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous future to all of you and your families.

Sarajit Sen
President, 2018

BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019

President	Mr Sarajit Sen
General Secretary	Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya
Treasurer	Dr Sudipta Roy
Social Secretary	Mrs Rituparna Sengupta
Puja Convener.....	Dr Haradhan Datta
Co-opted member	Ms Payal Debroy
Auditor	Mrs Saroni Sil

Past Puja Memories





DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE

**Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad
Glasgow**

www.durgapujaglasgow.com



It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our thirty-eighth year of Durga Puja celebrations in Glasgow.

In 1981, a small group from our community had the vision to celebrate Durga Puja in Glasgow in order to keep our customs and traditions alive, particularly with the younger generation and also to share our beliefs with other communities in multi-cultural Scotland. The enthusiasm, emotion and pride that marked those very first celebrations continues to grow stronger with every year's festivities. More and more people from all over Scotland join us to make these celebrations a success.

Durga Puja is celebrated with fanfare on all five days of the festival and recalls the power of the female Shakti symbolised by the Goddess Durga who slays Asura to re-establish peace and sanctity on earth again.

Durga Puja symbolising the victory of good over evil, is an experience evoking a wide range of thoughts and emotions. It offers the chance for personal prayer, meditation and reflection and the offering of bhog and sindur to Ma Durga. Bengalis all over the world rejoice to their heart's content with friends and relatives.

These are certainly times that call for introspection. Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee said that he hoped that society's positive powers, as embodied by goddess Durga, would slay evil divisive forces or society's asuras. Polarisation along religious lines and intolerance towards alternative viewpoints militates against the fabric of the world we would like to see. These are demons that certainly need to be put to rest.

Our deep rooted belief is that religions can work together for a better world. Through our faith and celebrations, we endeavour to create a caring, compassionate community that engages and embraces people of all cultural, ethnic and spiritual backgrounds. It also builds social cohesion that promotes affirmation and respect of diversity, and celebration of the rich heritage of humanity.

Thanks to the enthusiastic ladies who cook and prepare snacks for sale in order to raise funds for the Puja. Thanks also go to Glasgow Life for their continuous help and support.

My thanks go to Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay and Arunava Banerjee for acting as purohits for the Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati Pujas.

I am very grateful to all our advertisers and all other patrons who have generously contributed financially.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to all volunteers, the Durga Puja Committee and Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad for volunteering their time and for their hard work and commitment for the Puja.

I hope you enjoy this year's Puja and thank you again for your support.

Sheela Mukherjee

Chair

October 2018

Past Puja Memories



Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0300 244 4000



Message of support for the 38th Festival of Durga Puja

I am sending my warmest wishes to those in the Scottish Bengali Hindu communities, and to everyone taking part in the festival of Durga Puja this year. The ceremonial worship of the Goddess Durga is of sacred importance to those of the Hindu faith, but the Durga Puja is also a wonderful opportunity for all of us in Scotland to join Hindus in celebrating reunion and rejuvenation. On behalf of the Scottish Government, I would like to pay tribute to the huge contribution which Hindu communities make to Scotland, and to recognise their compassion and openness, which is a model for us all.

NICOLA STURGEON
First Minister of Scotland



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Message from Mrs. Anju Ranjan, Consul General of India, Edinburgh

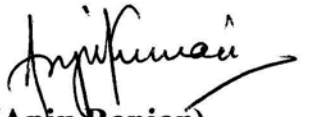


सर्वमंगलमांगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थसाधिके
शरण्ये त्र्यम्बके गौरी नारायणि नमोऽस्तु ते ।

I have the great pleasure to know that Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow is publishing a souvenir magazine on the occasion of auspicious Durga Puja. Durga Puja not only symbolises beginning of a new season but also the victory of good power on the evil and truth on the wrongful deeds. Durga Puja is the celebration of life which also brings Indian community together, outside India. I wish that Goddess Durga empowers all Bengali and Indian community with name, fame, success and joy.

May all your sorrow fade away
on this auspicious Durga Puja day!
May happiness and goodwill always stay!
May Maa Durga bless you today!

जय माँ दुर्गा ।


(Anju Ranjan)
Consul General



The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow
Councillor Eva Bolander



It's my immense pleasure, to send the city's best wishes to everyone in Glasgow celebrating Durga Puja.

This famous, and much-loved festival, honours the Goddess Durga's victory over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura.

I believe it's also the biggest and oldest celebration of its kind, held here in Scotland.

Glasgow has a long and proud reputation of multiculturalism, tolerance and diversity. So, it's always a pleasure to witness the energy, colour and excitement events like yours, generate.

Your celebration of the Mother Goddess is a moral tale of good overcoming evil. A universal message we can all embrace.

Durga Puja is also a deeply religious occasion that allows Hindus to contemplate their faith.

As Glasgow's First Citizen, I'm honoured to be given this opportunity to wish our Hindu community a joyous and uplifting festival.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Eva Bolander'.

The Rt Hon the Lord Provost of Glasgow
Councillor Eva Bolander

Glasgow City Council, City Chambers, Glasgow G2 1DU
Telephone: 0141 287 4001 / 4201 Facsimile: 0141 287 0127 / 4747



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE 2018

OFFICE BEARERS

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GENERAL SECRETARY Mr Gautam Patra
JOINT SECRETARY Dr Subrato Chatterjee
TREASURER Mr Amit Deb
CONVENER Dr Haradhan Datta
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ADVISORS

Mr Ashis Mallik Dr Gaur Sarkar Prof Purnendu Das
Dr Sandip Ghosh Dr Bishnu Routray Mr Arijit Mukherjee

PUROHITS

Mr Arunava Banerjee - Durga Puja / Lakshmi Puja
Dr Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay - Durga Puja / Saraswati Puja

*Our thanks to all our supporters,
those who have donated time, resources and financial assistance.*



SUB COMMITTEE HEADS

Puja Head:	Mrs Asha Mallik
Donation Collection:	Mrs Anjana Sen, Mrs Sraboni Bhattacharya
Children's Corner:	Mrs Mohua Ray
Mahalaya:	Dr Debjani Patra
Prasad Distribution:	Mrs Anu Sarkar
Mahalya Cooking:	Sarajit Sen & Gautam Patra
Sasthi Bhog Preparation:	Subrato Chatterjee
Saptami Bhog Preparation:	Bimal Kumar
Ashtami Bhog Preparation:	Sarajit Sen
Navami Bhog Preparation:	Subrato Chatterjee
Dashami Cooking:	Sudakshina Kundu
Lakshmi Puja Bhog Preparation:	Gautam Patra & Sanjoy Das
Kali Puja Bhog Preparation:	Sarajit Sen
Hall Decoration:	Sraboni Bhattacharya & Aparna Mazumder

The Organising Committee would like to express their gratitude to The Ladies of Khai Khai Stall for all their financial help throughout our celebrations.

We would also would like to thank Catherine and her team for all their assistance.

We are most grateful to all the children for their participation. It is clear that our festival will be in good hands in the future.

Our apologies if we have missed out anyone's name.

महोद्दसुरमरदिनि



Cultural Co-ordinators:

Debjani Patra - Music
Sraboni Bhattacharya - Dance

Ayanna Routh
Risha Chatterjee
Priya Datta
Rajlakshmi Maitra
Tanisha Das
Batu Kirshna Maitra

Singers:

Debjani Patra
Aditi Palchaudhuri
Suchandra Kar
Mousumi Routh
Kamala Roy
Pratima Sengupta
Mridula Chakraborty
Anu Sarkar
Shikha Majumdar
Mahua Ray
Meghan Ray
Sudatta Chowdhury
Anuirma Chatterjee
Sraboni Bhattacharya
Dolly Chaki
Sutapa Dutta
Sanjeet Bhattacharya
Gautamananda Ray
Arunava Ghosh-Ray

Dancers:

Sudakshina Kundu
Payal Debroy
Mithu Sree
Hema Shetty
Harika Adama
Paranjayee Mandal

Narration:

Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay
Gobinda Chowdhury

Tabla:

Arunava Ghosh-Ray

Harmonium:

Debjani Patra, Aditi Palchauchuri

Sound Engineer:

Pro Sound Services

Mahalaya

The traditional six day countdown to Mahasaptami starts from Mahalaya. Goddess Durga visits the earth for only four days but seven days prior to the Pujas, starts the Mahalaya. The enchanting chant of 'chandi path' fills up the pre-dawn hours of the day thus marking the beginning of "devipaksha" and the countdown of Durga Puja. It's a kind of invocation or invitation to the mother goddess to descend on earth - "Jago Tumi Jago". This is done through the chanting of mantras and singing of devotional songs.

The story element is captivating. It speaks of the increasing cruelty of the demon king Mahisasura against the Gods. Unable to tolerate his tyranny, the Gods plead with Vishnu to annihilate the demon. The Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara (Shiva) come together to create a powerful female from with ten arms - Goddess Durga or 'Mahamaya', the Mother of the Universe who embodies the primeval source of all power.

The gods then bestow upon this Supreme creation their individual blessings and weapons. Armed like a warrior, the goddess rides a lion to battle with Mahisasura. After a fierce combat the 'Durgatinashini' is able to slay the 'Asura' king with her trident. Heaven and earth rejoice at her victory. Finally, the mantra narration ends with the refrain of mankind's supplication before this Supreme Power:

"Ya devi sarbabhuteshshu, sakti rupena sanksthita namasteshwai namasteshwai namasteshwai namo namaha."

This day bears immense significance for Bengalis. It is according to the myths that Sree Rama hastily performed Durga Puja just before he set for Lanka to rescue Sita from Ravana. According to Puranas, King Suratha, used to worship the goddess Durga in spring. Thus Durga Puja was also known as Basanti Puja. However, Rama brought the Puja forward and worshiped Durga in autumn and that is why it is known as 'Akal Bodhon' or untimely worship. It was considered untimely as it is in the myths that puja was performed when the Gods and Goddesses were awake i.e. "Uttarayan" and was not held when the Gods and Goddesses rested i.e. "Dakshinayan". It was on the day of Mahalaya, the beginning of "devipoksha", the Gods and Goddesses woke up to prepare themselves for Durga Puja.

Autumn in its bloom, mingled with the festive spirit of Durga Puja reaches its pitch on the day of Mahalaya. From this day starts 'Devipaksha' and marks the end of 'Pitri-paksha'. It is the day when many throng to the banks of river Ganga, clad in dhosis to offer prayers to their dead relatives and forefathers. People in the pre-dawn hours pray for their demised relatives and take holy dips in the Ganges. This ritual is known as 'Tarpon'.

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Secondary - November 3rd

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