

DURGA PUJA



Glasgow 2014

www.durgapujaglasgow.com

**The No. 1
Bengali Entertainment Channel***



StarJalsha
Cholo Paltai



Star Jalsha on Sky 808 & TalkTalk 443

*Source: TAM, India
CS F15+ ABC All Bengal, Wk 17/2013 onwards

দুর্গা পূজা

প্লাসগো

দুর্গার আবাহন

বড় আশা ছিল মনে
পূজার এই প্রাঙ্গনে
ভেঙ্গে যাবে বিভেদের প্রাচীর ।
শত শত বরষের গড়ে ওঠা ব্যবধান
সযতনে ধরে রাখা সমাজের সীমারেখা
ভেঙ্গে হবে চুরমার
ভেসে যাবে সাম্যের প্লাবনে ।
বর্নের পরিচয়ে অবিচার হবে না
মুছে যাবে পোষাকের কৌলিন্য
কেটে যাবে বিভেদের কুহেলিকা
দেখা দেবে শরতের প্রভাতে
জেগে ওঠা নূতন সমাজ ,
এক সাথে এক মনে সাজিবে নূতন সাজে
অন্জলি ভরিয়া করিবে বরন
ঈশানীর শুভ আগমন ॥

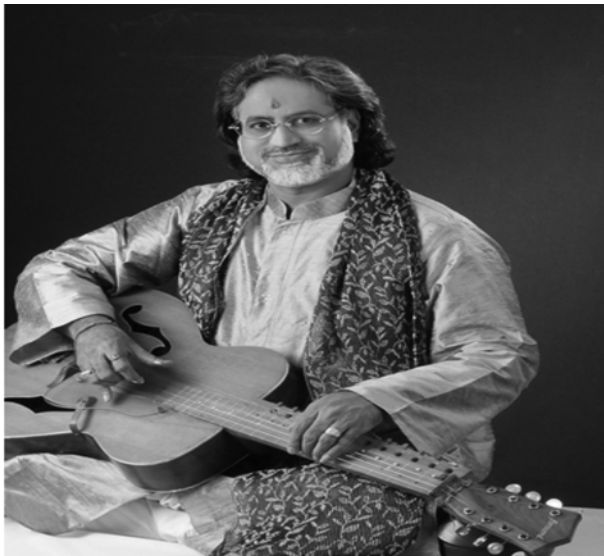
বিশ্বনাথ সিংহ

Sa Re Ga presents
Classical Instrumental Music Concert

Grammy Award Winner
PANDIT VISHWA MOHAN BHATT (Guitar)

Accompanied by

PANDIT RAJKUMAR MISHRA (Tabla)



At

Eastwood Park Theatre,

Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6UG

On

Saturday, 1st November 2014

At 1pm

Entrance: £15 & £25 (front stalls)

Contact:

Prabhakara Bhatt - 0141 9430448

Arijit Mukherjee – 07888692905

Milind Ronghe - 079 1918 6098

Sheela Mukherjee – 07929781966

Amit V Datta - 077 9510 2411

Gautam Patra - 079 8606 9925

Sanjeet Bhattacharya - 079 4142 0550

Shankar Bhaduri - 07944601313

Bimal Kumar – 07803086091

Sudipta Roy - 07766551223

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(gautam_patra@yahoo.co.uk)

(sanjeet77@yahoo.com)

(shankarbhaduri@yahoo.com)

(bimal@globrin.com)

(su2dip@yahoo.co.uk)

Please Note: No Tickets will be available for purchase on the door

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**SRI SRI DURGA PUJA
PROGRAMME 2014**
www.durgapujaglasgow.com

MAHALAYA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 638 4050)

SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER 2014

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

SARBOJANIN DURGOTSAV

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

TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 2014

MAHA SASTHI

TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

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

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA SAPTAMI

WEDNESDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2014

Puja, Puspanjali, Prasad: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA ASTHAMI

THURSDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 2014

Puja, Puspanjali, Prasad: 5.30pm - 8.00pm

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

MAHA NAVAMI & BIJOYA DASAMI

FRIDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 2014

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

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 11.00pm

MAHA LAKSHMI PUJA

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA

TUESDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2014

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA KALI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE

THURSDAY, 23rd OCTOBER 2014

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA SARASWATI PUJA

Clarkston Hall, Clarkston Road, Glasgow G76 8NE (Tel: 0141 638 4050)

SUNDAY, 25th JANUARY 2015

Puja, Arati, Puspanjali, Prasad: 12pm - 3pm

Bhog Bitoron: 3pm - 5pm



EDITORIAL

*Sarva Mangal Mangalye, Shive Sarvarth Sadhike
Sharanye Trambake Gauri, Narayani Namah Stute*

We have once again come together to celebrate Durga Puja for the thirty-fourth 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 the Police Service of Scotland and 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

*The Durga Puja Committee would like to thank
all those who donated their time and money
and have allowed us to purchase
new Durga images from Kolkata, India.*



BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD

(Established 1971)



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT	Dr. Haradhan Datta
GENERAL SECRETARY	Mr. Saibal Kumar Sen
JOINT SECRETARY	Dr Santanu Acharya
TREASURER	Mr. Arijit Mukherjee
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Mrs Madhumita Roy
PUJA CONVENER	Mr Dhruba Kundu
CO-OPTED MEMBERS	Dr Amit Datta & Dr Sudipta Roy
EX OFFICE-BEARER.....	Dr Mridula Chakraborty
AUDITOR	Mr. Mihir Mukherjee

SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

Bijoya Sammelani	Saturday, 18th Oct, 2014	Clarkston Hall
Christmas Night Out	Early Dec '14	TBA
Bengali New Year	Mid April, 2015	TBA
Annual Drama	Sunday, 31st May 2015	Eastwood Theatre
Picnic / Coach Trip	Early June '15	TBA
AGM	Saturday, 20th June '15	TBA

Shaat Faanke Bandha

by Jyotishman Chattopadhyaya

25th May 2014, Eastwood Theatre.



Cast of Shaat Faanke Bandha (from left to right)

Rajdeep Routh, Dhruba Kundu, Gautam Patra, Sudipto Roy, Sanjeet Bhattacharya, Suchandra Kar, Sanjukta Brahma.

Prompting - Supriya Bhaduri & Madhumita Roy **Make-up** - Swati Adhikari & Sunetra Saha

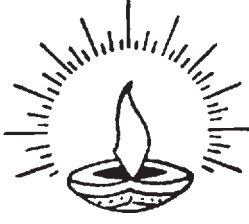
Music - Debjani Patra **Lighting** - Anuradha Roy

Stage Management – Sraboni Bhattacharya, Payal Debroy, Anjana Sen, Saibal Sen, Ankur Mukherjee, Amit Deb, Amit Datta.

Direction - Sheela Mukherjee

Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow holds a drama production every year at Eastwood Theatre.

Make sure to attend next year's production - always an excellent evening - not to be missed!



BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD

(BENGALI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION)

Estd. 1971

This is our 34th Durga Puja Celebration in Glasgow, which is the most popular Durga Puja in the whole of Scotland. The Hindu community from all over Scotland and the North of England travel to Glasgow at the time of Puja to take part in the celebration.

Our Puja has become the centrepiece of our cultural activities in Glasgow. People from different faiths also participate and thus it has become a multicultural celebration in its true meaning in the society of the United Kingdom.

Durga Puja epitomises the victory of good over evil. Durga means one who is 'inaccessible'. However, since she is the mother of the universe she is the personification of tender love, wealth, power, beauty and all virtues. Durga also represents 'Shakti', the destroyer of evil and the preserver of good. 'Puja' in Sanskrit means sacred rituals in the honour of the Divine. Ma Durga embodies all the good qualities of humanity that we all evoke, like compassion, mercy, patience and charity.

Religions can work together for a better world. Through our faith and celebration 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 assertion and respect of diversity, and celebration of the rich spiritual heritage of mankind. This is also the time when family and friends get together to share and enjoy the true meaning of life.

Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad aspires to sustain this established community bond in the ever so fleeting world. The values are handed over from generation to generation. We are all working together to make this year's Puja again a success and we hope that by getting together we will not only strengthen our community and bring the families together but also allow society to maintain a positive attitude towards all and create a better future.

I convey my sincere thanks to everybody.

Dr Haradhan Datta

President

September 2014

Shanti Path

*Om Dyauh Shantir Antarikshagum,
Shanti Prithivi*

*Shantir Apah, Shantir Oshadaya,
Shanti Vanaspathaya*

*Shanti Vishvedeva, Shanti Brahma,
Shanti Sarvagum*

*Shanti Reva, Shanti Sama,
Shanti Rethi*

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shantihi

“Ahimsa - “love-force” or “non-violent force” - involving reverence for all life, is a notion with a long religious history and has been interpreted to mean either that men and women should avoid evil by withdrawing from the world or that they should fight evil by doing good deeds in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Om is the akshara, or imperishable syllable. OM is the universe, and this is the exposition of OM. The past, the present and the future, all that was, all is, all that will be, is OM. Likewise all else that may exist beyond the bounds of time, that too is OM.

Mandukya Upanishad

“The term Dharma is one of complex significance. It stands for all those ideals and purposes, influences and institutions that shape the character of man both as an individual and as a member of society. It is the law of right living, the observance of which secures the double object of happiness on earth and salvation. It is ethics and religion combined. The life of a Hindu is regulated in a very detailed manner by the laws of Dharma. His fasts and feasts, his social and family ties, his personal habits and tastes are all conditioned by it.”

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE

**Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad
Glasgow**

www.durgapujaglasgow.com

*“Yaa Devii Sarvabhuteshhu Maatrirupena Sansthitah
Yaa Devii Sarvabhuteshhu Shaktirupena Sansthitah
Yaa Devii Sarvabhuteshhu Shaantirupena Sansthitah
Namastasyaih Namastasyaih Namastasyaih Namoh Namah”*

Goddess Durga is omnipresent. She is the personification of Universal Mother. She is a Mother, who is present everywhere and who is embodiment of power and energy. Great mother, who is present everywhere and who is embodiment of Peace. I bow to that mother, I bow to Durga, I bow to Shakti.

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

In 1981, a small group from our community had a 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 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.

Swami Vikenanda best explained the worship of the image of Durga, “the Hindu does not worship an idol made of clay and wood, he sees consciousness within the earthiness and loses himself in it.”

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.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Drs Sandip and Kiron Ghosh for taking the responsibility for ordering the new pratimas from Kolkata. Thank you also to Dr Umesh Chowdhury from Kolkata for co-ordinating all aspects from the purchase to the shipping of the pratimas.

A special mention must also go to Mr Sarajit and Mrs Anjana Sen, who for the past five years have been very kind in getting the puja invitation cards printed and donated to the Puja committee. Thanks also go to Mr Gautam and Dr Debjani Patra for personally bringing these cards from Kolkata to Glasgow.

Thank you to Mr Arijit Mukherjee, Mr Amit Datta, Mr Gautam Patra, Dr Prabhakara Bhatt, Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya, Mr Shankar Bhaduri, Dr Sudipta Roy, Dr Santanu Acharya, Dr Milind Ronghe and Dr Ankur Mukherjee for kindly raising extra funds for purchasing the pratimas.

Thanks also to the ladies who held a snack stall during the Puja to raise funds for the purchase of the pratimas.

Thank you to all those who have donated for this endeavour.

Thanks go to the Police Scotland and Glasgow Life for their continuous help and support.

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


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

My sincere thanks and gratitude go to the Durga Puja Committee for volunteering their time and for their hard work and commitment in serving our community. My thanks go to all the children and parents who have helped to make the Puja enjoyable and successful.

Finally, our sincere thanks to our purohits, Mr Dilip Mukherjee, Dr Prabhakara Bhatt and Dr Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay.

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

*Sheela Mukherjee
Chairperson*



We are pleased to be associated
with this event

With Best Wishes
from

**Dalmellington
Care Centre**

9 WATERSIDE STREET,
DALMELLINGTON,
EAST AYRSHIRE,
KA6 7SW

TEL: 01292 550555

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Deputy First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0845 774 1741



Congratulations on the 34th Festival of Durga Puja.

I send my greetings and good wishes for this year's Durga Puja celebration.

I know that this great festival is very dear to the hearts of Hindu communities.

It carries a message of hope that can be shared by people across Scotland. In a momentous year for our nation we all share the desire for peace and unity amongst all peoples.

The contribution of Scotland's many minority ethnic and faith communities to our nation is a source of pride and makes our country stronger.

Events such as this are an example of the diversity we celebrate.

I hope that the event is a resounding success.

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside Constituency

Humza Yousaf MSP
Minister for External Affairs and International Development

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0845 774 1741



On behalf of the Scottish Government, I am delighted to send my greetings and best wishes for this years Durga Puja Celebration.

This great festival, held dear to the hearts of Hindu communities, carries a message that can be shared across Scotland: that good will triumph over evil and that there will be peace and unity amongst all peoples.

The Scottish Government values the contribution that the Hindu community has made to the cultural, economic and social life of Scotland. Celebrations such as Durga Puja are a fantastic example of the diversity which makes Scotland a vibrant and strong nation with many cultures.

I wish you all the best for a very successful event.

Humza Yousaf MSP
Minister for External Affairs and International Development



The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow
Councillor Sadie Docherty



Durga Puja 2014

As the Lord Provost of Glasgow it is a privilege to offer my best wishes to everyone involved in this year's Durga Puja.

This unique event has become a highlight of Glasgow's cultural activities, attracting people from across the country to participate in the celebrations.

The Durga Puja Festival is a vibrant and spectacular event, enjoyed by all faiths and backgrounds.

It's a wonderful opportunity to see the valuable contribution and positive influence the Hindu community has on life and culture in Glasgow.

On behalf of the city I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes and a very successful celebration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sadie Docherty".

Councillor Sadie Docherty

Lord Provost of Glasgow

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



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
एडिंबरा
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
EDINBURGH

17 Rutland Square
Edinburgh EH1 2BB
Tel. : 0131-229 2144
Fax : 0131-229 2155

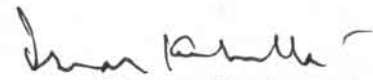
E-mail : indianconsulate.scotland@btconnect.com



On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, I convey my heartiest greetings to all the members of the Indian community.

Durga Puja celebrations in Glasgow organized by the Bangiya Sansritik Parishad bring together members of the Indian community and their Scottish friends to have a better understanding of Indian customs and culture. This festival symbolizes victory of Truth, Light and Divine Forces over Falsehood and Darkness. Durga Puja inspires people to strive towards peace and harmony and lead a good, noble and virtuous life. May this festival strengthen bonds of brotherhood and may Goddess Durga shower her blessings on all our people who have come and settled abroad. I am sure, the celebrations of this type of festival will further enhance the historical connections between India and Scotland.

My colleagues & families in the Consulate General of India, Edinburgh join me in conveying our best wishes for a successful celebration of this year's Durga Puja in Glasgow and wish all the participants good luck and prosperity in the coming year!


(Oscar Kerketta)
28th July, 2014



**Message from Sir Stephen House QPM,
Chief Constable, Police Scotland.**

This year marks the thirty-fourth year of celebrating Durga Puja in Scotland. It gives me great pleasure to offer the best wishes and continued support of Police Scotland to the Hindu Bengali Community as they celebrate this important religious event.

We at Police Scotland recognise the importance and value placed on religious and traditional values by the wider members of the communities we serve. This festival is a fine example of the cultural diversity that exists within Scotland

I am delighted that we enjoy such good relations with our vibrant and active Hindu Bengali community and look forward to building upon our strong foundations of trust and mutual respect in the future.

I extend my congratulations to all concerned and wish you all every success whilst celebrating this important event.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE 2014

OFFICE BEARERS

CHAIRPERSON Mrs Sheela Mukherjee
SECRETARY JOINT Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya & Dr Rajdeep Routh
TREASURER Dr Satya Chakrabarti
CONVENER Mr Dhruva Kundu
AUDITOR Mr Mihir Mukherjee

ADVISORS

Dr Gour Sarkar Dr Sandip Ghosh Mr Arijit Mukherjee Mr Shankar Bhaduri

PUROHITS

Mr. Dilip Mukherjee - Durga Puja / Lakshmi Puja
Dr Prabhakara Bhatt - Kali Puja
Dr Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay - Saraswati Puja

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asha & Ashis Mallik
Ira & Purnendu Das
Mridula & Ashok Chakraborty
Aditi & Mihir Palchoudhuri
Anju & Dilip Chatterjee
Moni & Kamal Mondal
Jayanti & Ramen Kundu
Uma & Satya Chakrabarti
Kamala & Bibhas Ray
Pratima & Shyamal Sengupta
Kalpana & Biswanath Sinha
Reba & Durga Rakhit
Swati & Siddhartha Adhikari
Kajal & Purnendu Chakraborty
Aparna & Barun Majumdar
Anjana & Sarajit Sen
Suchandra & Ajit Kar

Molly & Dilip Mukherjee
Anita & Nirmal Dhar
Kalpana & Mihir Mukherjee
Chhabi & Shyamal Majumdar
Vimla & Arun Das
Jaba & Nripen Ganai
Maitraye & Pinaki Ghosh
Tripti & Gour Sarkar
Ruby & Josh Sarkar
Leena Mukherjee
Meena Dutta
Shruti Majumder
Madhushri Burman Roy
Anu Sarkar
Ruma Saraswati
Payal Debray



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE 2014

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Srirupa & Santanu Bhattacharjee

Suchandra & Ajit Kar

Swapna & Ashok Roy

Sumana & Prasanta Roy

Usha & Priyo Sengupta

Dilip Ganguly

Ashim Datta

Saibal Sen

Baisali & Puspal Sengupta

Meghomala & Parthapratim Ghosh-Biswas

Supriya & Shankar Bhaduri

Sunetra & Amit Deb

Sudakshina & Dhruva Kundu

Moumita & Joydeep Dey

Debjani & Gautam Patra

Pamela & Arunava Ghosh-Roy

Shakuntala & Haradhan Datta

Arunima & Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay

Indrani & Arijit Mukherjee

Shalini & Amit Datta

Sraboni & Sanjeet Bhattacharya

Sudatta & Godinda Chowdhury

Kiron & Sandip Ghosh

Rashmi & Bishnu Routray

Chhabi & Bhajaman Singh

Mama & Debodutta Rath

Anima & Nilokantha Rath

Dolan & Dipayan Roy

Soheli & Dev Mukherjee

Mohua & Goutamananda Ray

Poushali & Pramurta Majumdar

Mousumi & Rajdeep Routh

Saroni & Santanu Acharya

Sushmita & Shikhar Sircar

Madhumita & Sudipta Roy

Suchitra & Satyen Mukherjee

Ankur Mukherjee

Robin Bhattacharya

The Organising Committee would like to express their gratitude to Catherine and her team for all their help throughout our celebrations.

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

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



महिशसुरामर्दिनी

Cultural Co-ordinator:

Suchandra Kar

Participants:

Megan Ray
Anusha Patra
Ahona Routh
Ashmi Deb
Bani Bhattacharya
Sraboni Bhattacharya
Suchandra Kar
Madhumita Roy
Mahua Ray
Debjani Patra
Pamela Ghosh-Roy
Kamala Roy
Mridula Chakraborty
Pratima Sengupta
Anu Sarkar
Goutamananda Ray
Sanjeet Bhattacharya

Narration:

Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay
Sudipta Roy

Tabla:

Arun Ghosh-Roy

Stage Decoration:

Jayanti Kundu

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' fill up the predawn 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 chanting of mantras and singing 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 form 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 the 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. But 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 "devipaksha", 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 dhotis 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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Glasgow Botanical Gardens

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*Our thoughts are with the friends and families of
Mrs Mina Ray and Dr Bijoy Burman Roy
who have sadly passed away since the last Puja.*

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