



DURGA PUJA

Glasgow 2017

37th Anniversary Year

www.durgapujaglasgow.com





SRI SRI DURGA PUJA PROGRAMME 2017

www.durgapujaglasgow.com



MAHALAYA

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

SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER 2017

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

SARBOJANIN DURGOTSAV

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

TUESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER - SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER 2017

MAHA SASTHI

TUESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA SAPTAMI

WEDNESDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA ASTHAMI

THURSDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

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

MAHA NAVAMI

FRIDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA DASAMI

SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Preeti Bhoj: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA LAKSHMI PUJA

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA

THURSDAY, 5th OCTOBER 2017

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8.00pm - 10.00pm

MAHA KALI PUJA

Couper Institute, 86 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DA

THURSDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2017

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)

MONDAY, 22nd JANUARY 2018

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

Bhog Bitoron: 8pm - 10pm



*Mother Durga!
Rider on the lion,
giver of all strength,
Mother, beloved of Shiva!
We, born from thy parts of Power,
we the youth of India,
are seated here in thy temple.
Listen, O Mother,
descend upon earth,
make thyself manifest
in our land of India*

Sri Aurabindo



We are pleased to be associated
with this event

With Best Wishes
from

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Care Centre***

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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-seventh 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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Sandip & Kiron Ghosh

Haradhan & Shakuntala Datta

Sheela Mukherjee & Family

Bishnu & Rashmi Routray

Haraprasad Kushari

Anupam & Sindhuja Sinha

Josh & Ruby Sarkar

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.

**Best Wishes for
Durga Puja
from**

Maharani Restaurant

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We also cater for birthdays and puja.

**Should you require any further information
please contact Sukhdev Basi**

07793 280871



*Greetings to
Durga Puja
Glasgow 2017*

Dr N. Bagaria & Family (Edinburgh)



Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad (BSP), Glasgow

Scottish Charity Register No. SC047561

Estd. 1971 Registered under Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005

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

BANGIYA SANSKRITIK PARISHAD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2018

President	Mr Sarajit Sen
General Secretary	Mr Sanjeet Bhattacharya
Joint Secretary	Mrs Sudakshina Kundu
Treasurer	Dr Sudipta Roy
Social Secretary	Mrs Rituparna Sengupta
Puja Convener.....	Mr Dhruva Kundu
Co-opted members.....	Ms Payal Debroy, Mr Arunava Banerjee
Auditor.....	Mrs Saroni Sil
Ex-Officio	Dr Haradhan Datta, Mr Saibal Sen, Dr Santanu Acharya

CULTURAL EVENTS

**Sitar & Tabla Recital
on Sasthi Puja Evening
Tuesday 26th September 2017**

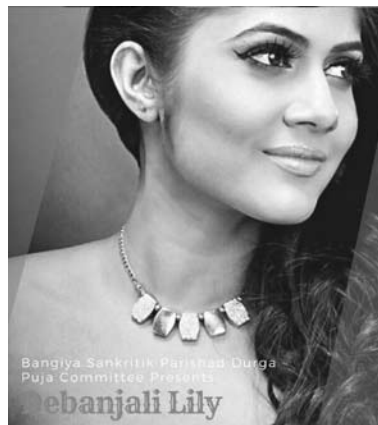


*Soumya Adhya
Sitar*



*Subrata Dandapata
Tabla*

**Dashami
Gala Music Evening
Saturday 30th September 2017**



*Debanjali Lily
Singer*

Please don't miss these exciting events!



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE

**Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad
Glasgow**

www.durgapujaglasgow.com



It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our thirty-seventh year of Durga Puja celebrations in Glasgow. In fact, the Mahalaya programme had been held even earlier from 1971.

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. These are certainly are times that call for introspection.

The 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 are 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 a 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 purohiths for the Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati Pujas and for the first time, Pramurto Majumdar for the Kali Puja.

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 Organising 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
September 2017*



Thistle Healthcare Ltd.

Best Wishes to
Durga Puja
Glasgow 2017

From

Mr & Mrs Dev Fowdar and Family

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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland

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Message of support for the 37th Festival of Durga Puja

On behalf of the Scottish Government it is a privilege to offer my best wishes for the 37th Annual Durga Puja celebration in Glasgow.

This colourful festival provides the opportunity to celebrate and reflect, over the next five evenings, the enduring values of your faith.

It is also an appropriate time for us to acknowledge and welcome the significant contribution that the Hindu community continues to make to enriching Scotland socially, culturally and economically.

I wish you a successful and enjoyable Durga Puja 2017.

NICOLA STURGEON
First Minister of Scotland



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
एडिंबरा
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
EDINBURGH

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Edinburgh EH1 2BB
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Fax : 0131-229 2155

E-mail : indianconsulate.scotland@btconnect.com



Consul General of India
Ms. Anju Ranjan

Message on Durga Puja 2017

At the outset, on behalf of the Consulate General of India, Edinburgh, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to convey my warm wishes for the Festival of Durga Puja to Indian community in Scotland.

Durga Puja symbolises the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge of ignorance: ॐ असतो मा साद् गमय, तमसो मा ज्योतिर् गमय, मृत्योर् मा अमृतम् गमय

(Om Asato Ma Sad Gamaya, Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya, Mriytor Ma Amritam Gamaya)

Lead us from ignorance to truth, Lead us from darkness to light, Lead us from death to deathlessness.

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

Let us all pray to Goddess Maa Durga to enshower her blessings to bring peace, harmony in the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society of Scotland.

I look forward to our continuous collaboration and endeavour to enhance the quality of life of Indian community and to build a future based on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Durga Puja Committee, Bangiya Sanskritik Parishad, Glasgow, and all the Bengali community and Indian community for organising the Durga Puja Festival. I have firm belief that Goddess Durga will bring to her devotees peace and prosperity and happiness & success in their lives.



The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow
Councillor Eva Bolander



I am delighted to send my best wishes to everyone celebrating Durga Puja here in Glasgow.

This famous Hindu festival worships the Goddess Durga's victory over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura and, I believe, is the biggest celebration of its kind, held here in Scotland.

Our Hindu community make a huge contribution to our city and beyond and, as First Citizen, I'm honoured to be given this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful five days of festivities.

Glasgow is proud of its reputation as a multi-cultural, diverse and tolerant city. It's always wonderful to witness the colour, excitement and vibrancy events like this generate.

Your celebration of the Mother Goddess is an important tale of good triumphing over evil. It is a universal message that many people are celebrating. However, Durga Puja is also a deeply religious occasion, allowing Hindus to contemplate their faith.

I wish you all a joyous and uplifting Durga Puja.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eva Bolander".

Councillor Eva Bolander
Lord Provost of Glasgow



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEE 2017

OFFICE BEARERS

CHAIRPERSON Mrs Sheela Mukherjee
GENERAL SECRETARY Mr Gautam Patra
JOINT SECRETARY Dr Sumanta Dutta
TREASURER Mr Amit Deb
CONVENER Mr Dhruva Kundu
AUDITOR Dr Satya Ranjan Chakrabarti

ADVISORS

Mr Ashis Mallik Dr Sandip Ghosh Dr Bishnu Routray
Dr Haradhan Datta Mr Arijit Mukherjee

PUROHITS

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

Puja Head: Mrs Asha Mallik
Bhog Preparation Heads: Mrs Anu Sarkar, Mr Gautam Patra, Mr Sarajit Sen
Donation Collection Heads: Mrs Anjana Sen, Mrs Sraboni Bhattacharya
Children's Corner Head: Mrs Mohua Ray
Cultural Co-ordinator: Dr Debjani Patra

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asha & Ashis Mallik
Ira & Purnendu Das
Mridula & Ashok Chakraborty
Aditi & Mihir Palchoudhuri
Versha & Virendra Sharma
Uma & Satya Chakrabarti
Kamala & Bibhas Ray
Pratima & Shyamal Sengupta
Kalpana & Biswanath Sinha
Reba & Durga Rakhit
Swati & Siddhartha Adhikari
Kajal & Purnendu Chakraborty
Anjana & Sarajit Sen
Molly & Dilip Mukherjee
Kalpana & Mihir Mukherjee
Vimla & Arun Das
Leena Mukherjee
Anu Sarkar
Sanjukta Brahma
Payal Debray
Jayanti Kundu
Srirupa & Santanu Bhattacharjee
Suchandra & Ajit Kar
Sagarika & Sumanta Dutta
Poushali & Pramurto Majumdar
Meghomala & Parthapratim Ghosh-Biswas

Sunetra & Amit Deb
Sudakshina & Dhruba Kundu
Debjani & Gautam Patra
Pamela & Arunava Ghosh-Ray
Shakuntala & Haradhan Datta
Arunima & Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay
Anindita & Arunava Banerjee
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Sudatta & Gobinda Chowdhury
Kiron & Sandip Ghosh
Rashmi & Bishnu Routray
Soheli & Dev Mukherjee
Mohua & Goutamananda Ray
Rituporna & Subrota Chatterjee
Mousumi & Rajdeep Routh
Saroni & Santanu Acharya
Sushmita & Shikhar Sircar
Sindhuja & Anupam Sinha
Moumita & Jaydeep Dei
Saibal Sen
Sudipta Roy
Dilip Ganguly

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

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. It is clear that our festival will be in good hands in the future.

MAHISASURAMARDINI



Cultural Co-ordinator:

Debjani Patra

Singers:

Siona Sircar
Raina Mukherjee
Ayanna Routh
Risha Chatterjee
Priya Datta
Anharika Pandey
Sinjini Dutta

Debjani Patra
Aditi Palchaudhuri
Suchandra Kar
Mousumi Routh
Kamala Roy
Pratima Sengupta
Mridula Chakraborty
Anu Sarkar
Sudipta Roy (Mrs)
Shikha Majumdar
Mahua Ray
Meghan Ray
Sanjeet Bhattacharya
Sandip Dhar
Gautamananda Ray

Aaditya Bhattacharjee
Sayon Sircar
Batu Kirshna Maitra

Dancers:

Sudakshina Kundu
Rituparna Sengupta
Payal Debroy
Anurima Chatterjee
Saroni Sil

Narration:

Babulayeb Mukhopadhyay
Sudipta Roy

Harmonium:

Debjani Patra, Aditi Palchauchuri

Keyboard & Violin:

Rick Mukhopadhyay

Tabla:

Arunava Ghosh-Ray

Technical Help:

Sunetra Saha & Subrata Chaterjee

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 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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