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শ্রী শ্রী দুর্গা পূজা 2024



আদন অন্বেষা

Durga Puja Festival

Organized By Bangiya Parishad Toronto (BPT)

Venue: Tagore Centre, 140 Millwick Dr. Toronto. ON. M9L 1Y6

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Dear Members,

As we step into the second year of my leadership journey, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued dedication and overwhelming support. Together, we have built a strong and vibrant community, united by our shared values and commitment to one another. This year, as we celebrate the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, we are reminded of the power of togetherness and the resilience that this festival symbolizes. It is a time to honor our traditions, celebrate our rich heritage, and strengthen the bonds that keep our community thriving.



I am excited to announce that this year's Durga Puja will be celebrated from October 18th to the 20th. We invite you to join us in the festivities, and I am confident you'll feel the vibrant puja atmosphere that many of us have dearly missed.

I am particularly delighted to see an increasing number of young members joining Bangiya Parishad Toronto. The involvement of the next generation is vital for ensuring the longevity and growth of our community. We warmly encourage our younger members to step forward, actively participate, and take on leadership roles. Your fresh perspectives, energy, and dedication are crucial to the success of our shared legacy. Together, we can build a future where our traditions continue to flourish, and every generation feels a deep sense of belonging.

In addition to Durga Puja, I am thrilled to announce the arrival of our new Ma Kali idol. This breathtaking idol will undoubtedly draw many to our community. We have planned a special members-only sponsored event on 31st October, followed by a public celebration on 2nd November. If you're not yet a member, I encourage you to join us and be part of something truly special. Our members make all the difference, and I am incredibly grateful for their unwavering support.

As we move forward into this new chapter, let us continue to work hand in hand, fostering unity, cultural pride, and mutual respect. Together, we will uphold the values that define us, celebrate our traditions with joy, and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Looking ahead, one of my key goals is to extend assistance to new immigrants and elderly community members who may need support. To achieve this and pursue other important initiatives, we are always looking for active volunteers. Please come forward and share your expertise with any of the board members. Your involvement helps make our community even stronger.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my deep appreciation to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Most of all, I want to thank my board members for standing by me and working cohesively as a team. A special thanks to our building donors—with their support, we have accomplished so much and brought happiness to many. There is still much to achieve, and with your continued support, I believe we can accomplish even more.

Wishing you all a blessed Durga Puja and Kali Puja, and a year filled with success, happiness, and unity.

Warm regards,
Kalyani Saha
President, Bangiya Parishad Toronto

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140 Millwick Dr. Toronto, ON, M9L 1Y6



Shasti & Saptami

Friday- 18th Oct 2024

Puja: 6.30 pm

Cultural Program: 8.30 pm

Ashtami

Saturday- 19th Oct 2024

Puja and Pushpanjali: 10am to 12.30pm

Sandhi Puja: 2.30 pm | Evening Arati: 6.30pm

Cultural Program: 8.30 pm

Navami & Dashami

Sunday - 20th Oct 2024

Puja: 10 am

Baran Sindurdaan : 2pm

Samapan&Bisarjan: 3pm



Bhog Distribution

Saptami: 7pm to 9pm

Ashtami: 1pm to 7pm

Navami: 1pm to 4 pm

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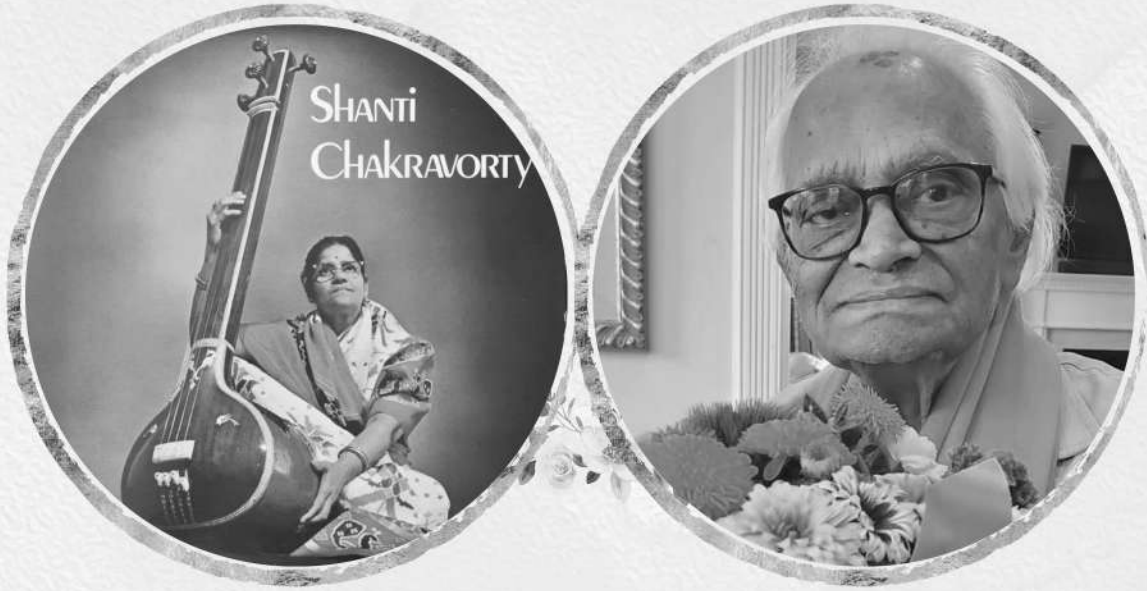
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Puja Greetings & Best Wishes



In loving memory of my parents Dr. Paresh Chakravorty
& Sangeet Praveen Prof. Shanti Chakravorty

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Grandchildren



**On the Happy Occasion of
Durga Puja**

Best Wishes

from

Aditi, Dipendu

Ronjon, Praveena,

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Amita (Tanya), Anil & Lavanya

(Rahas and Misirs)



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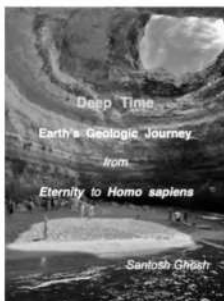
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santosh.skg2007@gmail.com



Author – Santosh Ghosh: M.Sc. (Geology), Presidency College, Calcutta, India. A Fulbright Scholar. Ph.D. Binghamton Univ., New York.

Worked: Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Belize, US, Canada, India & elsewhere. Santosh, a retired geologist has varied experience – energy industry, research, academia, and public sector mineral exploration. He has published and presented his work in many international journals & conferences. His love of nature started during his geological journey in the far corners of India in the late sixties. His first book, a testimony of 5-decades-long travel and work, reflects his life-long passion for geology. He highlights climate change through the eons and his real concern about the alarming human impact on the environment today.



The Book (coming out soon): It narrates the amazing story of how Earth evolved step-by-step from a glowing 4.57-billion-year-old fireball to a mature congenial planet today. The easy-to-read book unfolds the marvelous geologic history from the Big Bang to the 'Present'. It unravels the layered secrets of each time slice, with attractive rocks/minerals/gems, unique ancient animals and plants, and the ever-changing climate. All chapters contain bite-size sections with meaningful, non-technical heading, and a chapter summary. Discussion on the Cosmos & the Moon sets the backdrop for the enchanting tale of our home.

The work highlights Earth's recurring waltz of tectonic plates, volcanism, asteroid impact, etc., throughout its long journey. The progression of complex life, leading up to the human species, started from a chance humble beginning in the hazy past. Earth's deep internal workings have made our planet a goldilocks place with exuberant growth of life. However, climatic downturns have also played havoc in 5 geologic mass extinctions. Arguably, we may be the reason for the sixth mass extinction happening today. Finally, we delve into Earth's future, including the longevity of humans and Earth itself. A timely understanding of our planet is vital for all, because of the intertwined nature of Earth's many facets, where we are increasingly playing a crucial role.



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and*

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&*

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*Bangiya Parishad Toronto (BPT)
board members wish you a
Happy Puja 2024*



Kalyani Saha



Pradipta Datta



Surajit Biswas



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*Phyllis, Gora, Peter,
Pul & Jennifer Aditya*

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Bhog Preparation - Amit Sarkar and team

Ma Durga Flower : Indira Sen

Puja Decoration - Board members: Suchandra Neogy, Kalyani Saha, Surajit Biswas, Shantanu Banerjee, Paromita Roy, Subrato Ghosh, Pradipta Datta

Membership Booth - Subrata Ghosh and team

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Sound by - Imon

We are grateful to all our volunteers for their unwavering support and dedication towards making this Durga Pujo a grand success.

We shall continue to recognize and appreciate your kind gesture of contributing towards the club through our various modes of communication in the future also.

We sincerely regret the inadvertent omission of any name(s).

কালো আমার আলো

আশিষ ঘোষ

ওপার বাংলায় ঠাই নাড়া হয়ে সাধন কাকু, স্ত্রী, দুই মেয়ে ও ছেলে নিয়ে থিতু হলেন উত্তর কলকাতায়। বারো ঘর এক উঠোন, ৫০/- ভাড়ায় এক কামরা ঘর। দপ্তরীপাড়ায় এক কাগজ ব্যবসায়ীর ম্যানেজার (তাঁর কথায়, কোনও মানে নেই যার) তিনি, সামান্য মাইনে, জুতো সেলাই থেকে চন্ডী পাঠ সবই করতে হয়। বড়মেয়ে শ্রীমতী সুন্দরী। তার বিয়ে দিয়েছেন ধারদেনা করে। কিন্তু সে বাপের বাড়ি এলেই অভাবের দোহাই দিয়ে টাকাপয়সা আদায় করে। কোনও দায়িত্ব নেই তার। মেজমেয়ে শ্রীরাধা। রং কালো, পুষ্পদন্তি ! মনে হয় যেন ওর ডাগর হরিণ ভিজে চোখে কালো ভ্রমর বসেছে ! কালবোশেখের ঘন চুল কোমর ছাড়িয়েছে ! সপ্রতিভ, নির্ভয়, দৃঢ়চিত্ত ও সংবেদী মন তার। যা করা উচিত, তাই করে। বিএসসি অনার্স, টিউশনি করে। বিভিন্ন সরকারী চাকরীর পরীক্ষা দিয়ে হঠাৎই সে Employment Exchange এ চাকরী পেয়ে গেল ! নকশাল আমল। বামরাজত্বে বন্ধ সব কলকারখানা। পড়াশোনা শেষ করে বসে আছি বহুদিন। ভালোকে বলেছি, চাকরী নয়, শুধু কয়েকটা Interview জোগাড় করে দিতে, যাতে নিজেকে একটু বাজিয়ে নিতে পারি। আমি কালো'কে 'ভালো' বলে ডাকি, কারণ আমার কাছে আগে 'গুণবিচারী পরে দর্শনধারী'। দু'দিন পরে ও বলল, ব্যারাকপুরে Tech. employment Ex. এ নাম লেখাতে। কলকাতায় Card Renew করলে ওটাও Renew হয় ! আশ্চর্য !! এক মাস পরে একটিমাত্র পদে ১০ জনের মধ্যে প্রতিযোগিতার শেষে Naval Armament এ Mech. examiner এর লোভনীয় পদে চাকরী পেলাম। চাকরি হবেনা জেনেও, দাঁত কামড়ে প্রতিটি প্রশ্নের বোধহয় সঠিক উত্তর দিয়েছিলাম। এক বছর বাদে স্থায়ী হব। কাশীপুরে নৌবাহিনীর তৈরি 'Mk4' টর্পিডোর গুণাগুণ পরীক্ষা করতে হয় আমাদের। এই টর্পিডোই পাকিস্তানের Submarine 'গাজী' কে ডুবিয়েছিল। ভালো, আমার চোখের আলো হয়ে গেল ! আমি প্রেমে পড়লাম। ওর বেকার ভাই নির্মানসামগ্রির সিন্ডিকেট ও তোলাবাজি করে ভালই কামায়। সে একদিন গোষ্ঠীদ্বয়ে খুন হল বাড়ির সামনেই ! এই দুঃসময়ে ওদের বাড়িতে আমার যাতায়াত বেড়েছে। এখন সমস্যা, কান্নায় ঝরে না পড়ার কষ্ট নিয়ে ওরা কি করে বাঁচবেন? কালোই তো এখন ওদের প্রধান আশ্রয়। অতএব, এই মুহুর্তে বিয়ের প্রশ্ন নেই। শুধু নিজেদের ভাগ্যবিপর্যয়ের কথা বলে এক কাপ চা বিস্কুট খাইয়ে পাত্রপক্ষকে বিদায় করেন বাবা মা। গরিব ঘরের কর্মরতা কালো মেয়ের এটাই নিয়তি যে তাকে বর্ণের গেরোয় মান মর্যাদা বন্ধক রাখতে হয় ! অথচ, পৃথিবীর কবির তো কালো মেয়েকেই জিতিয়েছেন। কবি শার্ল বোদলেয়ার সারাজীবন কালো মেয়ের জন্য দিকভ্রান্ত ! শেক্সপিয়ার অমর করেছেন তাঁর ' ডার্ক লেডি ' কাব্যকে ! রবীন্দ্রনাথ 'কৃষ্ণকলি ' কে জনপ্রিয় করেছেন তাঁর কবিতা ও গানে ! গায়ের রং কালো মিশরের রানী ' ক্লিওপেট্রা ' বিদুষী, বিশ্বসুন্দরী ! সাহিত্যিক তারাশঙ্কর বন্দোপাধ্যায়ের লেখা গানের কলি, "কালো যদি মন্দ, তবে কেশ পাকিলে কান্দ কেনে " এইসব কথাই তো আমি ভালোকে বারবার বলি। তবুও সে হতাশায় ভোগে। অতিরিক্ত পরিশ্রমে যতই তার শরীরের বাঁধন এলোঝেলো হচ্ছে, কপালের ভাঁজ, গোড়ালির ফাটল স্পষ্ট হচ্ছে - জমা অভিমান দুমড়ে মুচড়ে দিয়ে সে ভাবছে, বিয়ে করতেই হবে, কিন্তু ওর মা তো অসবর্ণের বিয়েতে প্রবল আপত্তি জানিয়ে আত্মহতার হুমকি দিয়েছেন !!

'স্বামী' শব্দটা একটা সরল নিষ্পাপ মেয়ের কাছে বড়ো দামী ! আমার মন পাখিটা ঘুঘু ডাকা বিষম সুরে তার বন্ধুনিকে খোঁজে সারাদিন ! হঠাৎ একি !! ভালো, তার মেঘবরণ লম্বা চুল কাঁধ থেকে কেটে দান করেছে চুলহারা ক্যানসার রোগীদের !! বাকরুদ্ধ আমি ওর মহানুভবতাকে শ্রদ্ধা জানিয়ে তখনই হাতদুটো ধরে বিয়ের প্রস্তাব দিলাম। ও ব্যথালি জল ভরা চোখে আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে নাকের পাটা ফুলিয়ে বললো, "পারবো তো ? যদি না পারি তাহলে অন্তত, করুণা করোনা, সহিতে পারবোনা "। আমি বলেছি, "তুমি এই তুলসীমঞ্চে পবিত্র সাঁঝবাতির কাজলা শিখা। আমার প্রাণের আরাম, মনের আনন্দ, আত্মার শান্তি - আমার ইচ্ছে নারী !! দাম্পত্যে দুটি জিনিস জরুরী, শ্রদ্ধা আর ভালোবাসা। মানে, যাকে ভালো লাগে তার ভালোতেই বাস করা। বর্ণভেদেও তুমি সুখী। তুমিই তো শ্রীকৃষ্ণের ল্লাদিনী শক্তি শ্রীমতি রাধা ! নির্ভর হয়ে আকাশে ডানা মেলে কালো আমার আলো হয়ে ভালোয় ভূবন ভরিয়ে দাও" !!

অনেকগুলো বছর কাটলো। সন্তানহীনা ভালো এখন একাকীত্বে ভোগে। ওর সঙ্গে আমিও কষ্ট পাই। "তুমি নীচের ঘরটায় ছেলেমেয়েদের পড়াও"। এই প্রস্তাবে ও সানন্দে রাজী। ছাত্রছাত্রীও জোগাড় হয়ে গেল। ... আমার অবসর নেবার সময় হয়ে এল। ইতিমধ্যে একটি ছাত্র স্কুল পেরিয়ে পরে আইনজীবী হয়েছে। ... ভালো একটি নীতিবাক্য খুব বলে। "সংসার সুখের হয় রমণীর গুণে"। আমি আরও একটি লাইন জুড়ে দিয়েছি। "সুজন সঙ্গী যদি মেলে তার সনে"। সুখ তো মনের আয়না !! তবে, মনের আয়না না দেখেই বুঝতে পারি আমরা বেশ সুখেই আছি, ভালোই আছি !!!!

Fun Facts about Bengali's

by Kalpita Biswas



Value of Native Language

Bengali is an Indo-European language that ranks as the second most spoken language in India and fifth most spoken language in the world. When you spend time with Bengali folks, you'll understand why UNESCO named 'Bengali the sweetest language in the world'.



We are always not meant for Maach Bhaat (Fish and Rice)

Apart from Fish and Rice, Bengali food has a lot of varieties, including Kosha Mangsho (Minced Meat Curry), Mutton Biryani with Aloo and Egg, Aloo Posto (Potatoes with Poppy Seeds), Shukto (mixed veg with moringa drumsticks and bitter gourd), Daab Chingri (Bengali Prawn curry cooked and served in a green tender coconut), Aloo Bhaja (Bengali Potato Fries), Begun Bhaja (Fried Eggplant) and a lot of lip-smacking dishes which can make anyone drooled.



Certified Tea Person

Bengali's are known as Tea Lovers. Tea appears to energise a Bengali person in all areas of life, including sports, politics, career, daily news, and everything else. Offer them a cup of tea, and they will show the best version of themselves. They are unstoppable for any kind of conversation.



Afternoon Nap is the secret of Bong's Energy

You will see a lot of Bengali folks who follows this quote "Bhaat Ghoom". It means that after a great afternoon meal, they crave an afternoon nap. They listen to their body, and their body says that it's mandated to have an afternoon nap after a lip-smacking meal.



Bengali's are born with a 'Sweet Tooth'

A Bengali will never deny eating sweets on any occasion or after every meal. They cannot stop themselves to crave their mind and soul for sweets such as Mishti Doi, Rossogulla, Chom Chom and a lot of uncountable Bengali sweets.



Encyclopedia of Pet Names

Bengalis appear to have a secret vast collection of pet names in their dictionary. They will call Babu or Shona or Babu-Shona altogether to their kids and any kid they will meet. If you are out of names for your kid, consult your Bengali friend and they will give you a lot of pet names such as Gora, Bhola, Babai, Tukai, Tutun, Tuktuk, Dadan, Papan and the list is never over.



Durga Pujo is the National Festival

Every culture and religion celebrates a wide variety of festivals, such as Holi, Karwa Chauth, Lohri, and others. However, if you ask any Bengali about any festival, they will simply say that they celebrate Durga Pujo. The festival is not just worshipping Goddess Durga but also the celebration of food and culture. Dhunuchi Dance is a ritualized dance worship which is performed by men and women using Dhunuchi (a flared shape clay bowl filled up with coconut husks, burning charcoal and powdered incense). As the dancers move to the rhythms of the dhak, the scene is breathtaking.



Incredible Bengali Wedding

People are blessed if they are part of a Bengali Wedding. The wedding style is unique because the bride sits on a low wooden stool called pidi during the Bengali wedding tradition of Saat Paak. Her brothers then lift the stool, and the bride is brought in seven circuits around the husband. This rite denotes that they are entwined in one other's lives. The bride and groom stare at each other in front of guests after the saat paak Bengali marriage ceremony. The bride looks at the husband after removing the betel leaves off her face. The couple's journey to be together in front of their family and friends begins with this exchange of love glances.



Brains with Bunch of Intelligence

Bengali men and women are equally intelligent and creative in many activities such as Dance, Painting, Singing, sports, etc. They are constantly eager to learn and boast some of India's and the world's most brilliant minds. Politics, science, philosophy, the arts, and even complicated astronomy appear to be Bengalis' favourite topics of debate.



Not all Bengali's are from Kolkata

Whenever I introduce people that I am Bengali, I always get this question: Are you from Kolkata? My mind speaks like- Am I not supposed to be born anywhere in this world being Bengali. If I am Bengali, do I have to sign an agreement with God that, please give me birth in Kolkata? But then I always come with an answer that all Bengali's are not from Kolkata such as all Gujrati's are not from Gujarat and so on!



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Bangiya Parishad Toronto welcomes
all old, new members and guests
to Durga Pujo 2024.

May all your lives be filled with
abundant happiness, joy and prosperity.



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Performers of 2024 Pujo



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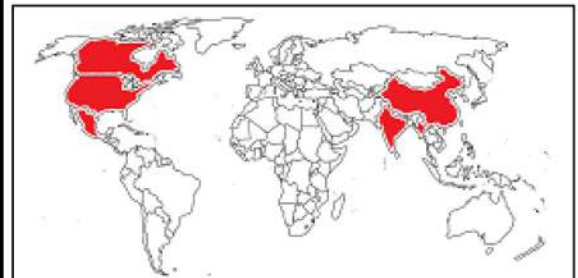
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*Best wishes for an
enjoyable and
successful Durga Puja
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