Shree Sharedto DUIPSE PUJE ZOIE





15th - 19th October 2018

Chestnuts Community Centre 280 St Ann's Rd, London N15 5BN



NORTH LONDON PRABHATI SANGHA

www.nlps-uk.com Charity Number: 1147144 info@nlps-uk.com

Origin of the Durga Puja

Durga Puja - the ceremonial worship of the mother Goddess, is one of the most important festivals throughout the world. Apart from being a religious festival for the Hindus, it is also an occasion for reunion and rejuvenation, and a celebration of traditional culture and customs.

Durga Puja is celebrated every year in the Hindu month of Ashwin (September/October) and commemorates Prince Rama's invocation of the Goddess before going to war with the Demon King Ravana. This Autumnal ritual was different from the conventional Durga Puja, which is usually celebrated in the spring time. So, this Puja is also known as 'Akal-Bodhan' or out of season worship.

The first grand worship of Goddess Durga in recorded history is said to have been celebrated in the late 1500s. Folklores say the landlord of Dinajpur and Malda initiated the first Durga Puja in Bengal. Another source, The Raja Kangshanarayan of Taherpur organised the first Sharadiya or Autumn Durga Puja in Bengal in c.1606.

The origin of the community puja can be credited to the twelve friends of Guptipara in Hoogly who collaborated and collected contributions from residents to conduct the first community puja called the 'Baro-Yaari' Puja in 1790. The Baro-Yaari Puja gave way to the Sarbojanin or community puja. In 1910, they organised the first truly communal puja in Kolkata with full public contribution, control and participation.

The research paper further indicates that high level British officials regularly attended Durga Pujas organised by influential Bengalis. British Soldiers actually participated in the pujas and even saluted the Deity. The most amazing act of worship was performed by the East India Company itself in 1765 (Sukanta Chaudhury, Calcutta City Vol. 1) and it is reported that even the company auditor general John Chips organised Durga Puja at his Birbhum office.

The traditional icon of the Goddess worshipped during Durga Puja is Pratima or Kolabou, made of banana tree. This is the symbolic form of Durga. The tableau of Durga features her two children Kartikya and Ganesh with Saraswati and Lakshmi. Lord Shiva is also worshipped during the puja as well. Those images are made of clay under one structure, known as Ek-Chala. In the present day, people are decorating pandals in an artistic way. At the same time, people are offering their devotion to Maa Durga during the four days of the Puja.



Durga Puja 2018 Programme

Monday 15th October 2018

Adhibas & Puja

MAHA SHASHTI

4 pm - 10 pm

Tuesday 16th October 2018

Puja Anjali Sandhya Aroti Aroti Kirton

Matri Sangeet

MAHA SAPTAMI

10 am

1 pm 6 pm

7 pm - 8 pm

8 pm - 10 pm

Wednesday 17th October 2018

Puja Anjali

Sandhya Aroti

Sandinya Alou

Special Ashtami Attraction - 'Chandi Paat' by children and cultural programmes

MAHA ASHTAM

10 am

1 pm

6 pm

7 pm - 10 pm

Thursday 18th October 2018

Puja Anjali

Sandhya Aroti

Cultural Programmes

MAHA NABAMI

10 am

1 pm

6 pm

7 pm - 10 pm

Friday 19th October 2018

Puja Anjali

Sindur Pradan & Shanti

Sindur Khela

Dhamail

MAHA DASHAM

10 am

1 pm

3 pm - 4 pm

4 pm - 7 pm

7 pm - 9 pm

There will be Cultural Programmes and Activities throughout the week

Prasadam will be distributed and served after Bhog Aroti and

during the evening, after Sandhya Aroti

Contacts: Goura Pada Deb: 07814 262 530, Alok Mukherjee: 07801 513 494 Niranta Deb: 07789 705 661 Susitol Deb: 07967 967 855 Jahar Shil: 07760 391 987 Sharodio Greetings, from NLPS' Chairman

Dear respected devotees,

Please accept my Sharodio Shuvecha and Pronam.

On behalf of North London Probathi Sangha, I am wholeheartedly welcoming and inviting you to our Sharodio Durga Puja 2018.

The organisation, NLPS, has been serving the community since 1991.

We are proud of our community as they are always helping, encouraging and giving us inspiration to promote our culture in the UK.

Our mission is to drive our legacy to the next generation and continue thereafter.

It's our motto to enlighten the society with the spiritual divinity and enthusiastic education. We do this by performing many pujas, rituals and cultural classes throughout the whole year.

We also organise many social activities and cultural functions to encourage and engage our next generation.

Behind our success, we acknowledge that all credit belongs to community.

Therefore, we hope you will continuously be supporting us, as you always do and help us to progress further to promote our culture generation after generation.

Ma Durga Bless Us All.

Goura Pada Deb



Message from General Secretary

Dear Devotees,

I am welcoming everyone in our community, to come and help us make our puja a great celebration to remember for years. We also conduct other pujas with different cultural programmes throughout the year. This year we have published a souvenir called 'Prabhati' in which you will find details of our NLPS activities, other pujas and cultural events.

Our NLPS door is open for everyone. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who's dedications, hard work and maximum effort has made our festival even more successful, especially by the children of our community.

With best regards,

Mr Niranta Deb

लबराल्ड र्वा thह protima

PUJA MODEL SOCIETY Kushik Mall - Project Manager Paltu Chitrakar - Sculptor



























I would like to wish everyone a joyous Durga Utshob this year. Durga Puja is the main religious celebration in the Hindu calendar, symbolising victory over evil, and tackling injustice. It is also an opportunity to foster peace within the community.

The Hindu community celebrates Durga Puja joyously, creatively and energetically.

Various communities have adopted their own traditions over the decades, so Durga Puja is now seen as a celebration that everyone can take part in.

I am delighted that the North London Prabhati Sangha will publish a souvenir for this Durga Puja celebration, which will further generate excitement about the festival.

I greatly appreciate the North London Hindu community's contribution to the organisation of this Bengali celebration every year, despite living far away from home. Of course, I hope that London is also seen as home. Durga Puja helps to foster harmony and amity among all colours and faiths, so that we can work to improve the lives of others.

Durga Puja is simply no longer a celebration for the Hindu community. It is now a celebration for all. I wish peace, happiness and prosperity to everybody, including the Hindu community, during this auspicious Durga Utshob.

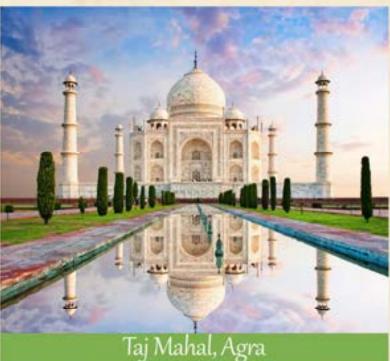
Cllr Jilani Chowdhury (Labour Councillor for Barnsbury Ward, London Borough of Islington)











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Day 3 - 4: Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Day 5 - 6: Hawa Mahal & City Tour, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Day 7 - 9: Sightseeing & shopping in Delhi, followed by return to London

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Modan Deb	Appointed May 2012
Chompok Deb	Appointed May 2012
Susitol Deb - Cultural Secretary	Appointed May 2012
Ranadhir Deb - Treasurer	Appointed May 2012
Jahar Shil - Advisor	Appointed May 2012
Shubash Deb - Publicity	Appointed May 2012
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Message from Cultural Secretary

Dear Devotees.

My Sharodio Pronam to you all.

NLPS is a cultural organisation. We are promoting our culture and teaching into our community. Durga Puja is the biggest event we organise with your support and cooperation.

We are thankful to the community for the unconditional support and help. Ma Durga bestows the peace and prosperity to all.

Joy Durga Ma.

Susitol Deb





Who we are and what we do

- North London Prabhati Sangha is a registered charity and governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Board of Trustees are the members of the association
- The organisation was established over 26 years ago, in 1991.
- Our main objective is to promote and celebrate the culture and traditions of Hindu way of life and facilitate the integration of the people from the Indian sub-continent with the community in the UK.
- We provide education and facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life of the community. We provide music, dance and Bengali class.
- We celebrate all major Hindu pujas including Dol Jatra, Janmashtami, Kali Puja, Saraswati and Durga puja.
- We organise social and cultural events Bhoishaki (Bengali new year), seaside trip, annual sports day, Christmas and end of year social event.

What we did in the last twelve months

Some of our activities are outlined below.

Boishakhi - Bengali New Year celebration (June 2018)

- We celebrated the Boishakhi Bengali new year for the 6th year running. There was music from children, amateurs, professionals artists who performed to the joyous crowd.
- The celebration was attended by people from across the community including prominent local Islington councillors and Right Honourable Emily Thornberry, Shadow Foreign Secretary.
- We are grateful to London Borough of Islington for their generous ongoing support of our annual Boishakhi celebration

Saraswati Puja (January 2018)

- The Saraswati Puja festival (also known as Basant Panchami or Vasant Panchami) is a festival devoted to Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music and art.
- Children, in particular, joined in the celebration and prayers and seeking blessings of the goddess for success in learning, arts and crafts.

Dol Purnima (March 2018)

- Doljatra is the festival is also known as 'Dol Jatra', or the 'Swing Festival' commonly referred to as the festival of colours and this is an occasion to pray for the ushering in of joy and happiness
- We celebrated the festival at a community centre, in Islington, with great fanfare. There
 were bhajans and prasads were distributed lavishly and people indulged in putting
 coloured powder on each other.

Janmasthami puja (September 2017)

- Janmashtami is the celebration of Sri Krishna's birthday.
- We had a full day of celebration and guests came from all places including from far away as Birmingham and Loughborough.
- We had Bhajan Kirtan, pujas, and a speech on Bhagbhatam by monks from ISKON. Our young children performed plays based on the life of Krishna which mesmerised our audience.

Kali Puja (November 2017)

- Maa Kali is the fearful and ferocious form of the mother goddess Durga. The main purpose
 of the puja is to seek the help of the goddess in destroying evil both in the outside world
 and within us.
- We celebrated Kali puja on a November night with hundreds of devotees coming together to make it a very special and enjoyable night. There were prayers, songs, art performances and served Prasad

Summer activities (July & August 2018)

- We held a sports day and picnic for families at a north London park. Activities included football, cricket, egg and spoon and sack races. Families brought cooked dishes and shared with each other to make it a very family friendly day out. .
- NLPS organised a seaside trip to Broadstairs. Over 50 people young and old -from the community came on the trip for a wonderful summer day at the seaside.

End of Year celebration (Sonkranti) (December 2017)

- NLPS celebrated another eventful year, and invited all members, volunteers and the community to come together and reflect and say farewell to 2017.
- As well as celebrating Christmas we also celebrated Sankranti in advance as that is usually on or around the 13th of January. It is a harvest festival and consequently families brought in home made savouries and dishes to celebrate the coming of the New Year.

Arts and performance

- We held a number of arts and performance activities for young children to take part in cultural songs and dances, ably taught by an experienced teacher of Bengali music.
- Children took part in short religious plays and we are actively encouraging all families to encourage their children to be more involved in cultural art and music.

Durga Puja (September 2017)

- We celebrated our second year of Durga Puja at Chestnut Community Centre in Haringey.
- It was a massive success with nearly 1000 visitors over the five days of celebration.
 Everyday we served fresh vegetarian food, cooked on site, to our visitors throughout the day.
- · Highlights included Bhajan Kirtan, pujas, music and dance.
- We have over 30 members who helped with organising and running of the five day activities. In addition we have army of volunteers - men, women, and children who gave up their time to come and help us.
- For 2018 we have new Maa Durga brought from India. We are grateful to our members for their generosity which made it possible.

Contacts

Goura Pada Deb: 07814 262 530 Alok Mukherjee: 07801 513 494 Niranta Deb: 07789 705 661 Susitol Deb: 07967 967 855

Jahar Shil: 07760 391 987



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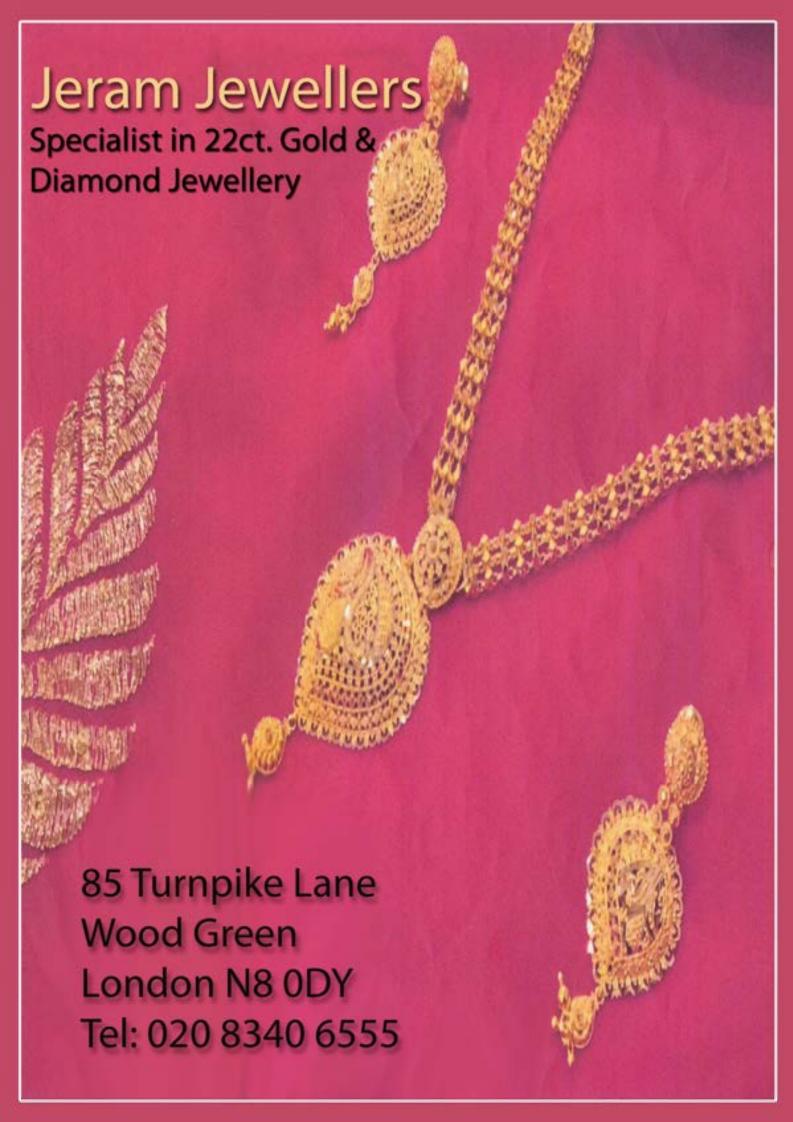
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'Girls only need to think about looks', but Goddess Saraswathi gave us books.
Girls can have good occupations to take care of their health, Lakshmi is the Goddess of wealth.
The Lotus: symbol of supreme reality, to portray goddess Saraswathi, the muse of learning.
Durga; the principle form of goddess. Power is the key to her success.
Lakshmi; wife and shakti of Vishnu, goddess of fortune and prosperity.
Durga, Kali Maa, Parvati, Gouri, Uma are the different names and forms of Shakti.

Bipasha Deb



DURGA PUJA 2018 RAFFLE DRAW

Win 1st, 2nd and 3rd Raffle Prize on Thursday 18th October 2018

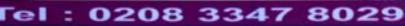
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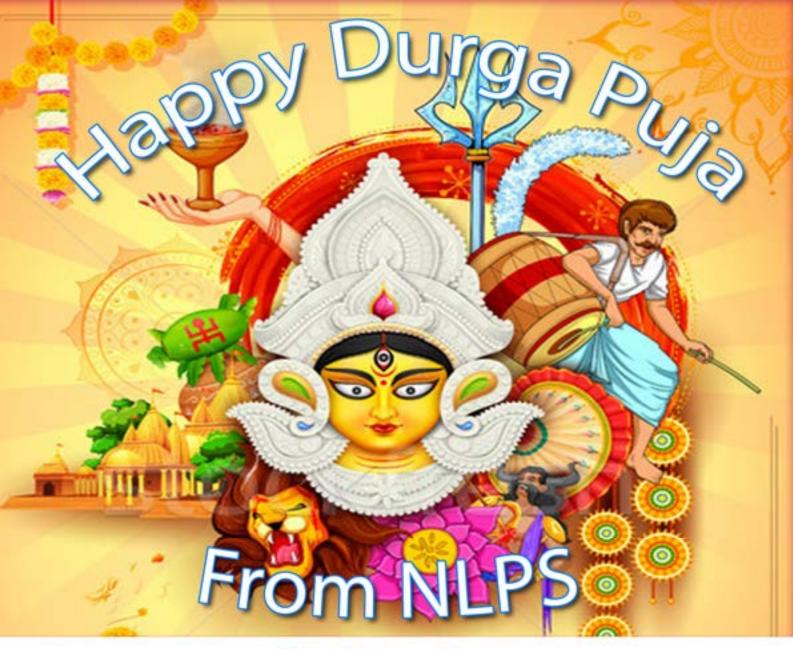
NLPS CULTURAL CLASS

NLPS plays a dynamic part in promoting its cultural values by holding cultural classes in which Bengali language, music and drama are taught regularly. NLPS also holds religious classes which teaches children and adults of our Hindu background to promote Hinduism and expose its roots to the new generation.



If you are intetested to participate in these classes please contact:

Mr Goura Pada Deb - 07814 262 530 Mrs Mahamaya Shil - 07957 716 892



For Donations

NatWest Bank NLPS Durga Puja: A/C No. 24706221 Sort Code: 50-30-09

Support us on Social Media. North London Prabhati Sangha (@NLPSUK) is on Facebook and Instagram. Like and follow us to show your support and to keep updated on our activites and events.

And if you are posting pictures from this year's Durga Puja please use following hashtags:



#NLPSUK #NLPSUKDP18



