



Sharad Utsab  
2023

Georgia Bengali Forum

জর্জিয়া বেঙ্গলী ফোরাম

Atlanta, Georgia



# Georgia Bengali Forum

জর্জিয়া বেঙ্গলী ফোরাম

## Sharadia Durga Puja 2023



### Puja Schedule

**Saturday 21st Oct**

Puja Start : 10:00 am, Anjali : 12:00 pm, Prashad : 01:00 pm  
Lunch: 02:00 pm, Special Snacks: 05:00 pm

**Cultural Programme 06:00 pm**

Invited famous Bollywood celebrity singer,

# VAISHALI

Bajirao Mastani, Kalank And More Bollywood Fame

**Sunday 22nd Oct**

Bijoya Dashami, Puja Start : 10:00 am, Anjali : 12:00 pm, Prashad : 01:00 pm,  
Lunch: 02:00 pm, Bisharjon: 04:00 pm, Shidur Khela : 05:00 pm,

**Special Lunch & Cultural Program: 02:00 pm**

**Address :**

**IMPACT HALL, GLOBAL MALL.**

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Uttam Dey

### **Design**

Alok Chowdhury



# Georgia Bengali Forum

A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization

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## EDITORIAL

Prasenjit Chowdhury



Editorial

Durga Puja is one of the most important and beloved festivals in the Hindu calendar. It is a time for celebration, reflection, and renewal.

The festival commemorates the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura. Durga represents the forces of good and truth, while Mahishasura represents the forces of evil and darkness. Durga's victory is a reminder that good always triumphs over evil, and that hope always prevails in the face of darkness.

Durga Puja is also a time for families and communities to come together and celebrate their shared culture and traditions. People from all walks of life come together to worship the goddess Durga, enjoy delicious food, and participate in cultural events.

This year's Durga Puja is particularly special, as it comes at a time when the world is facing many challenges. However, Durga Puja is a reminder that we must never give up hope. Just as Durga defeated Mahishasura, we too can overcome any obstacle that comes our way.

Durga Puja is also a celebration of diversity. People from all religions and backgrounds come together to celebrate this festival. This is a reflection of the values of tolerance and acceptance that are so important to Bengali culture.

In today's world, it is more important than ever to celebrate our diversity. We must learn to live together in harmony and respect for each other's differences. Durga Puja is a perfect example of how we can do this.

Durga Puja is also a call to action. The victory of Durga over Mahishasura is a reminder that we too must fight against the forces of evil and darkness in the world. We must stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult.

This year, as we celebrate Durga Puja, let us resolve to work together to create a better world. Let us fight for justice, equality, and peace. Let us make Durga's victory our own.

Happy Durga Puja to all!





## DURGA PUJA GREETINGS: MESSAGES OF HOPE AND RENEWAL



Durga Puja is a time of celebration, reflection and renewal. It is time to come together as a community and remember the values of good, truth and justice.

As we celebrate this auspicious occasion, send our best wishes to all who are celebrating Durga Puja this year.

May Goddess Durga bless you with good health, wealth and happiness. Her divine blessings will guide you through all your endeavors and help you achieve your goals. May your home be filled with joy and laughter, and may your heart be filled with love and compassion.

May Durga Puja unite us as a community and strengthen our bonds of friendship and brotherhood. May we learn from Maa Durga's example of courage and strength and work together to create a better world for all.

May Durga Puja become a beacon of hope and inspiration for all people. May we remember that good always triumphs over evil and that peace and justice are possible. May Durga Puja bring us closer and help build a better future for all.

Like every year, this year also "Georgia Bengali Forum" is going to publish its annual periodical "Nobo: Durga". I am grateful to those who have contributed to the publication of this magazine by advertising and writing. Sincere thanks and gratitude to those whose tireless efforts have published the Sharad issue. Sharadiya greetings to all members, members and well wishers of "Georgia Bengali Forum".

May Maa Durga shower her blessings on you and your loved ones.

May your Durga Puja be filled with joy, peace and prosperity.

**Prasenjit Chowdhury**  
President  
Georgia Bengali Forum



## HAPPY DURGA PUJA : A CELEBRATION OF HOPE, RENEWAL & DIVERSITY



Durga Puja is a joyous festival celebrated by millions of people around the world. It is a time to come together and celebrate the victory of good over evil, the power of hope, and the beauty of diversity.

As we celebrate Durga Puja this year, let us send our warmest wishes to all those celebrating. May Maa Durga bless you with good health, happiness, and prosperity. May her divine light guide you on your journey through life.

Durga Puja is a celebration of hope. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always light. Maa Durga is the embodiment of strength, courage, and determination. She teaches us that we can overcome any obstacle that comes our way. Finally, Durga Puja is a celebration of diversity. It is a time to come together as a community and celebrate our differences. Maa Durga teaches us to love and respect all people, regardless of their religion, caste, or creed.

On this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, let us resolve to create a better world for all. Let us work together to fight for justice, equality, and peace. May Maa Durga's blessings guide us on this journey.

'Georgia Bengali Forum' publishes annual periodical 'Nobo: Durga'. I am grateful to those who have contributed to the publication of this magazine through advertising and writing. Sincere thanks and gratitude to those whose tireless efforts have brought out the Autumn issue. Sharidiya greetings to all members, members and well wishers of "Georgia Bengali Forum".

May your Durga Puja be filled with joy, peace, and prosperity.

May Maa Durga shower her blessings on you and your loved ones.

**Raton Das**  
Secretary  
Georgia Bengali Forum



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Anil Sen's Family**





## JOY MAA DURGA



The natural beauty of autumn, the decoration of Durgama, the decoration of the pujamandap, the sound of conch shells, the sound of drums and the joy of our hearts are all mixed together.

Even though the natural beauty of the autumn, the fields covered with flowers and the smell of flowers are not here, still there is no shortage of the joy of this puja in our residential life. We all enjoy this puja meeting with all our hearts.

Durga Puja is the festival of worshiping Goddess Parvati in the form of Durga. Durga is basically the goddess of strength. She protects us from calamities or crises. Mother Durga has many names. Uma died from Kailash with her father's house and returned to her father-in-law's house after five days. This year Goddess Durga will come to Ghotka, Kailash and return to Ghotka. Nine forms of Goddess Durga. Hence known as Navadurga. Many celebrate Navratri at this time. On Navratri, nine forms of Durga are worshiped for nine nights in each form.

'Georgia Bengali Forum' came into existence on 17 October 2022. This organization is only one year old. In this one year we have completed Swaraswati Puja, 1st Baishakh and Picnic events. Now we are going to worship Durgama. Apologies if there are any mistakes.

You will see with a beautiful eye. And you will see how much success we have achieved in this.

If there has been success, it has been with your help. Our aim is noble. With your cooperation, there will be no difficulty in doing the remaining work. Although 'Georgia Bengali Forum' is one year old, but seeing how the men and women are working with their hard work, talent and skills, utilizing the many years of experience of the organization. I have no words to thank them.



'Georgia Bengali Forum' is a non-profit and tax exempt organisation. So you can donate here and show it in your tax file. 'Georgia Bengali Forum' is a religious, educational, cultural, spiritual and charitable organization. There is no scope for politics. Although the name of the organization is 'Georgia Bengali Forum', according to the law of this organization, any state in America can become a member. Many thanks and best wishes to those who have contributed financially through advertisements and others in various ways. And everyone else from me and 'Georgia Bengali Forum' wish you a very happy Sharadiya. Let's all join hands and enjoy these two days.

Which is Goddess Sarvabhuteshu Shaktirupen Sansthita.

Namastesaye namastesaye namastesaye namo nama..

Finally I would say, chanting this above chant of Chandi, keeping it in mind and gathering strength so that we can go further is our prayer to Mother Durga. Jai Maa Durga.

**Anil Sen**

Chair Of the Board

Georgia Bengali Forum





Manisha Chowdhury

Ganesh is also known as Ganpati by many people. He is known as the god of removing obstacles and thought to bring good luck. Although he has many features, He is identified by the elephant head. So what is the story behind his head?

A long time ago, Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva lived on Mount Kailash in the Himalayas. Lord Shiva had to go on a long journey leaving Parvati alone. Parvati was feeling lonely, wishing she had a child to keep her company. Using her power, she made a statue of a little boy from earth and clay. She gave him life by sprinkling holy water from the Ganges. Then she decided to take a shower. She instructed Ganesh to guard the door and to not let anybody inside, While Ganesh was on the door, Shiv came back from the journey. Shiv was surprised to see someone at the door. He ordered Ganesh to let him go inside the house but Ganesh refused. Shiv, a hot-tempered god, got angry at Ganesh for not letting him into his own house. He swung his Trishul, cutting off Ganesh's head.

After hearing all the chaos, Parvati ran out and cried as she saw the body of her son lying on the floor. She told Shiv that he killed her son whom she had made out of love. Parvati was outraged and wanted to destroy the entire creation. The creator, Lord Brahma, urged Parvati to rethink her decision. She agreed but only on two conditions. One, Ganesh had to be brought back to life, and two, he had to be adored above all gods. Shiv promised Parvati that he would bring back his son's life.

Shiv made his way back to the jungle hoping to find something. An elephant appeared through the trees and was dying and injured. To free the elephant from its pain, he cut the elephant's head and took it with him. He put the head onto Ganesh and brought him back to life. He declared Ganesh as his son and gave him the title of Ganpati.

Shiv blessed Ganesh with prosperity and intelligence. To please his wife, and as a mark of respect for his son for the loyalty and bravery it must have taken to protect his mother, Shiva declared that Ganesh would be worshiped first, before any other god.



# HAPPY Durga Puja



Prasenjit Chowdhury's Family

# The Story of Mahishasura Mardini

Aunnesha Sen



The story of Mahishasura Mardini (meaning the killer of Mahishasura) starts when the demon Mahishasura wished for immortality. Meditating for thousands of years, he hoped to attract the attention of the God Brahma. Eventually Brahma approached the tyrant, pleased with his devotion. Brahma said that any wish Mahishasura had, He would grant it. Mahishasura told Him that he wished that no man or God could kill him! Brahma granted the demon's wish, but spotted the loophole. Mahishasura had said nothing about a woman killing him.

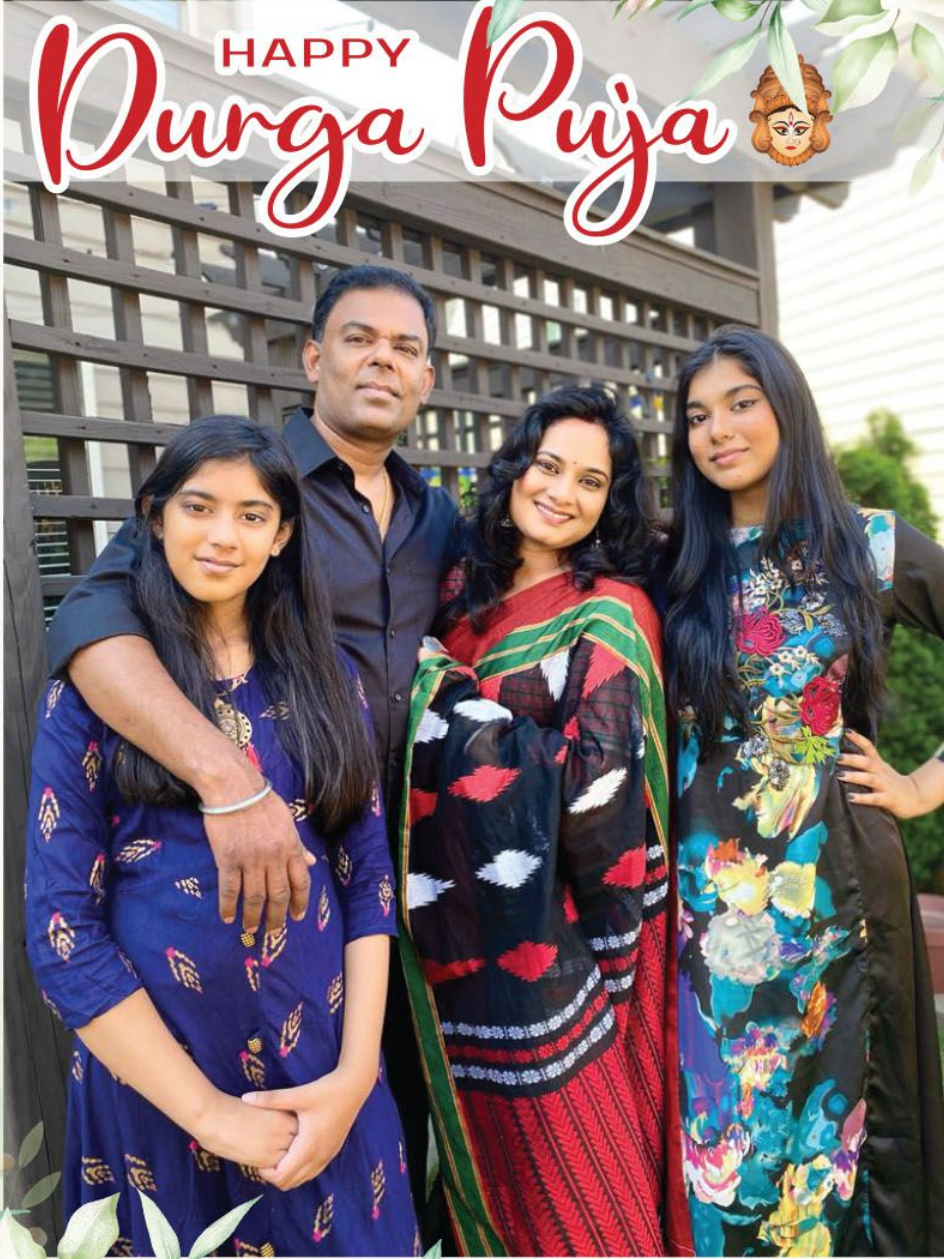
Soon, Mahishasura had laid waste to Earth, and chased the Gods out. With his new granted boon, the demon considered himself immortal. Scared, the Gods ran to Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva for help. They explained the problem to the Gods of creation, preservation, and destruction. After conferring, the three Gods created a blinding light. In the light, out came the beautiful Goddess Durga, with ten arms altogether! One by one, each of the Gods gifted Her a weapon.

From Lord Vishnu, Durga was given the Sudarshan Chakra. The God of the sea, Lord Varuna, gifted Her a quiver full of arrows. Lord Shiva gave Her a trident, one of the most known weapons of Durga. The other gods gifted Their own weapons to the Goddess, and Finally, on a lion's back, She was ready to battle Mahishasura. For ten days, Durga fought the evil demon, a different form of Her fighting each day, such as Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, or Parvati and Kali.

To celebrate this victory, people all over the world perform Durga Puja annually. In India, Bangladesh and even here, in America, hindus celebrate the fact that good always triumphs over evil.



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Raton Das's family**

# Durga Puja celebration

Prameet Chowdhury



Durga Puja, celebrated with the Georgia Bengali Forum, has the same level of energy as it would in Bangladesh. The day is transformed into an amazing viewing and celebration of art, culture, and devotion to the goddess Durga. During the day, everybody gathers around to worship the same entity. The loud music and the sweet aroma of incense and food fill the air as we supporters dress in traditional clothing to come offer our prayers. The celebrations, which last for a couple of days, include a variety of cultural events, ranging from music and dance performances to delicious food stations. It has impacted me in a positive way by introducing me to other like-minded individuals towards the goddess, making friends and seeing their personality radiate and their talents really shine through their performances. Durga Puja has been my go to for expressing my love for dancing, as everybody there has been very supportive of me and my choreography. Durga Puja is more than just a religious festival; it is also a cultural event which brings people together for a time of fun and enjoyment. Durga Puja with the Georgia Bengali Forum not only has a cultural depth, but it also serves as a bridge that links generations and maintains traditions. It's a lovely monument to Bengali's culture's ongoing legacy, allowing younger generations like myself to cherish our heritage while creating new ties and memories. Finally, Durga Puja embodies the essence of unity, tradition, and artistic expression, making it a unique event that continues to enhance the lives of everyone who attends.





# HAPPY Durga Puja



Uttam Dey's family



## 3 Favorite Drinks for Health and Wellbeing



Sanchita (Shanta) Sen-Christian

To live each day with intention, energy, joy, peace as best as possible, nourishing our body, mind, and spirit is essential. There are many paths to achieve this, but here are a few simple ways to hydrate and nourish the body. The ingredients in these drinks detoxify the organs, nourish the cells, elevate energy, increase focus, and enhance the immune system!

### Ayurvedic Tea

What you need:

- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 2 cups of water

How to make it:

1. Put the spices in boiling water and let it brew for at least 5 minutes.
2. Strain in to a cup and drink.

*Resource: Radhi Devlukia-Shetty*

### Lemon (or lime) water

What you need:

- Few pieces of lemon or lime (to taste)
- Glass of warm water (I like mine very warm)
- Optional additions: pinch of Himalayan pink salt, 2 pieces of cloves, or few mint leaves

How to make it:

1. In warm water, squeeze a few pieces of lime and/or lemon.
2. Optional: put a little amount of Himalayan pink salt, cloves, or mint leaves.

### Alkagizer Mild (a green smoothie)

What you need:

- 1/2 apple
- 2 stalks of celery
- 3 inches of cucumber
- Half handful of spinach
- Half avocado
- Water as needed

How to make it:

- Place all ingredients in a high-powered blender (e.g. NutriBullet or Vitamix).
- Adjust the quantity of ingredients as needed.
- If you prefer a more tangy or spicy taste and more antioxidants, here are some tips: 1) remove the apple, and 2) add some ginger, jalapeno, and lemon to taste, or 3) add greens (e.g. kale, cilantro, parsley).

*Resource: Eric Edmeades, Wildfit program*

To receive a quarterly newsletter on free information on integrative health and well-being, email [butterflyeffectwellness@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyeffectwellness@gmail.com) to get on the email list.



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Avijit Chowdhury's Family**

# Durga Puja

Uttam Dey



This autumn of 2023 has again driven all of us together to celebrate the Durga Puja. Sharadiya Utsav Samiti, Pilani welcomes you all to this joyous festival. All men have poetry in their hearts while celebrating festival, but Durgapuja is a poetry within itself! Goddess Durga, originally a religio-mythical figure but to most Bengalis an intrinsic part of social & cultural life. For nearly a week, most of Bengal will remain in a state of self-imposed euphoria, everyone will become a worshipper obliterating all secret or overt political sentiments, roads will get blocked making it difficult to move around even during emergencies. Those who live outside of Bengal will do their best to celebrate and worship the Durga. Ask the most rational Bengali about Durga Puja, and you will get a response that this craze is 'not part of a belief in Hinduism' but a cultural practice of "being Bengali"

The original notion of this autumn celebration is celebration of diversity, in which everyone was accommodated; and where both individuals and groups could come together in ever widening circles of inclusion and integration. At the broadest level, utsav, as conceived by Tagore, represented no less than a celebration of the whole of human society, or manabsamaj, where at least the possibility of meaningful creative sharing and global cooperation would exist.

In the molten gold of this autumn sunshine, softly reflected from the fresh dewy green outside—"the autumn which ripened for me my songs as it ripens the corn for the tillers; the autumn which filled my granary of leisure with radiance; the autumn which flooded my unburdened mind with an unreasoning joy in fashioning song and story....."! So let's take a plunge into the sea of joy and feel the warmth of the goddess of power and celebrate her homecoming ...

We are celebrating 2023 Durga Puja with the beats of hearts and divine feelings. Durgapuja dissolves the boundaries between the human and the divine to obtain an eternal life.





# HAPPY Durga Puja



Pradip Devnath's family

# Major religious festival Durga Puja



Rohan Chowdhury

Durga Puja is widely celebrated in Bangladesh because it holds cultural and historical significance in the country. Here are some key reasons why it is one of the biggest celebrated pujas in Bangladesh:

1. **Historical Ties:** Durga Puja has been celebrated in Bangladesh for centuries, dating back to the time when it was part of British India. The tradition has endured even after Bangladesh gained independence in 1971.
2. **Cultural Heritage:** Durga Puja is an integral part of the cultural heritage of Bangladesh. It brings communities together to celebrate Bengali culture, art, and music.
3. **Religious Significance:** For many Hindus in Bangladesh, Durga Puja is a major religious festival. It commemorates the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.
4. **Inclusivity:** Durga Puja transcends religious boundaries in Bangladesh, with people from various backgrounds and religions participating in the festivities. It promotes unity and harmony among different communities.
5. **Grand Celebrations:** Durga Puja in Bangladesh is known for its elaborate and grand celebrations. Artisans create intricate idols, and communities compete to build the most impressive pandals (temporary temples). These festivities attract people from all walks of life.





HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Shimul Adhikary's Family**

# Lord Krishna

Prince Dey



Krishna holds a significant position in the Bhagavad Gita, as his teachings and guidance play a pivotal role in the epic poem. He is revered not only as a god but also as the ultimate source of knowledge and wisdom. As the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, Krishna is believed to possess divine and boundless qualities, making him worthy of reverence and devotion. The Bhagavad Gita is the poem of a conversation between Arjun and Lord Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Krishna emphasizes the importance of self-realization and the realization of the Supreme Being, which he asserts is the ultimate goal of human existence. He proclaims himself as the Supreme Brahman, the eternal and all-pervading reality that underlies the entire creation. Krishna implies to Arjuna to surrender himself completely to him and to act in accordance with his divine will, assuring him that such devotion will lead to ultimate liberation. This prime example of devotion is something that we as devotees of Krishna can use to influence our lives and our futures.





HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Amarjit's Family**



# Maa Durga

Om P. Adhikary



Maa durga also known as Devi and Shakti. Durga was created for the slaying of the buffalo demon mahishasiira by brahma, vishnu, Shiva and the lesser gods. she is also greater than any of them. She is usually depicted riding a lion and 10 arms, each hand holding the special weapon of one of the gods. she is both derivative from the male divinites and the true source of their inner power. Durga also known as 'mahamaya, is the great mother of the cosmos, who is responsible for the creation. Preservation, and eradication of evil forces throughout the universe. Haven and earth celebrated at her victory, and the three plants were once again in peace. Shumbha, the Asura lord, Durga, the most powerful God.



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



Suit Cole's family

# Puja Festival

Ratul Chowdhury



Georgia Bengali Forum's events are something look forward to throughout the year. These events have created a strong sense of community and friendship. The biggest event held by the Georgia Bengali Forum is the Durga Puja. At the Durga Puja, many families come together to celebrate, pray, and have a good time. There are also many other events that throughout the year such as the Saraswati puja. There is a large selection of foods and sweets brought by many families that will make everyone happy and leave them with a memorable experience. Our events help preserve our cultural identity. People from all walks of life can come to celebrate the same thing. Friends who are unable to see each other can finally catch up with each other. The younger generation can learn their traditions and can take part in some cultural programs and activities. Cultural events hosted by GBF promote Bengali traditions that are not often seen in mainstream culture. My friends and I are very excited for this year's Durga Puja because it will give us a chance to share our stories. I hope that you will enjoy our puja as much as we do.



# HAPPY Durga Puja



Pryatosh Chowdhury's Family

## A New Life

Maya Christian



There once was a boy in a land called Tulip. He was a very spoiled child. One day, he saw a boy in filthy rags, “Go away you filthy dormouse!” he said. His mom quietly overheard, so she decided to teach him a lesson. She said, “Today we will start a new life in the woods.”

“It’ll be fun!” Her son thought it would be like a camping trip, so he had no complaints.

Later, when they arrived in the woods. They needed to build a house, “Aren’t we supposed to have a tent?” he stated.

“No, we are starting a new life remember?” his mom said.

After a few hours, he finally figured it out, “Hey!!!” “I don’t want to leave my old house.” His mother just shrugged and continued. For dinner, they had fish his father caught from the lake, “I don’t like fish,” he said complaining.

“Well deal with it,” his mom said back.

After a few days, he got used to it. After his mom was satisfied, she said, “I think we can come home now.”

“But I thought we started a new life remember?” he said cluelessly.

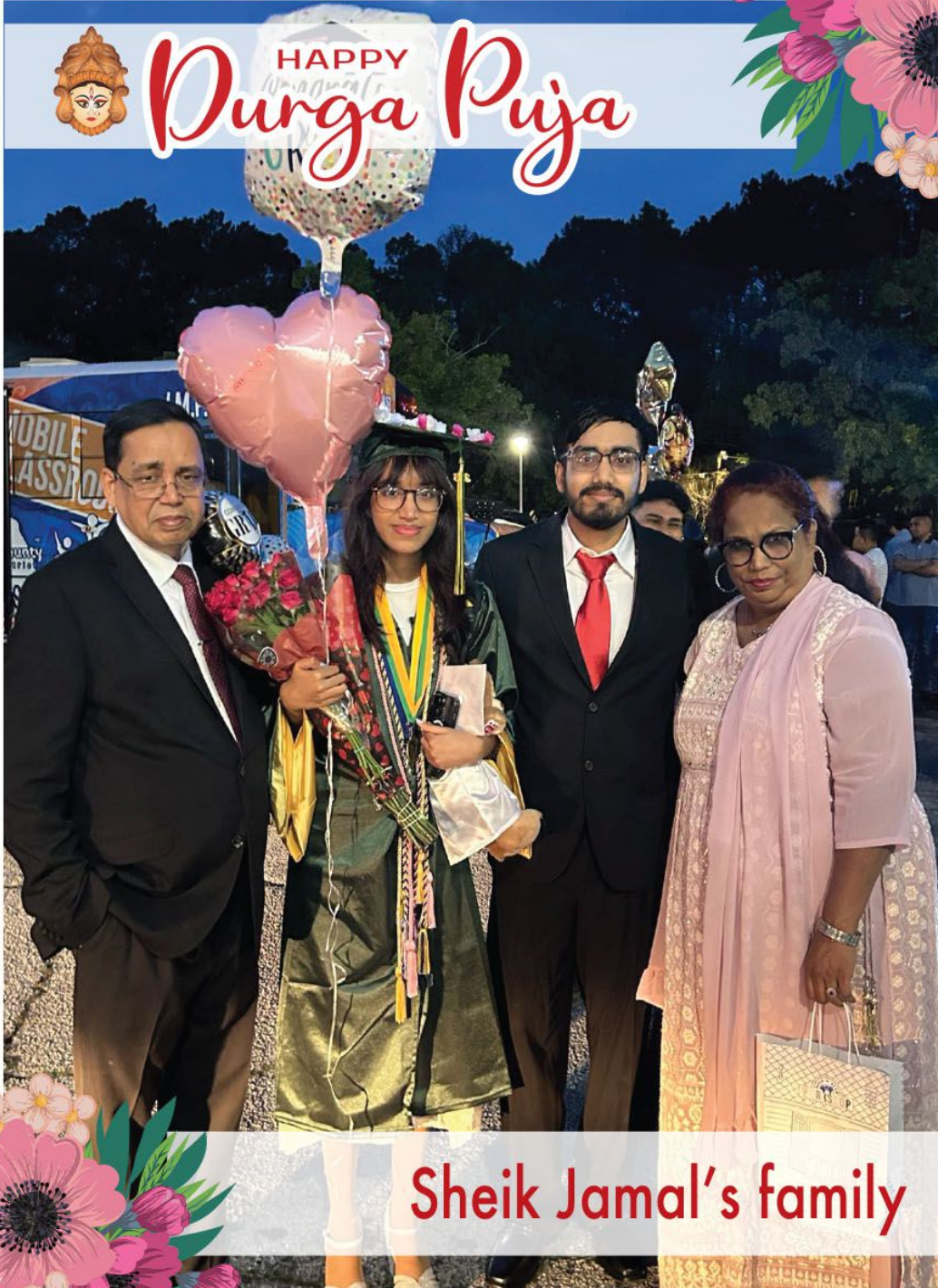
His mom ignored him.

After they came home, he felt like it was wrong to be mean to the less fortunate. He apologized to that boy, and after that day on he learned, to not mistreat people, and to not judge by appearance.





# HAPPY Durga Puja



Sheik Jamal's family

# The Nine Forms Of Maa Durga

Usha Sen



1. Shailputri Maa Shailputri is the form of Durga that came to earth on Pratipada.

This form of Maa durga is seen riding the bull Nandi with a lotus in one hand, and a trishul in the other. Ma Parvati is the daughter of Himalaya, which is where the name Shailputri has come from. Shail means Mountain in the ancient language Sanskrit.

2 . Brahmahcharini Maa Brahmacharini is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Dwitiya. This form of Maa Durga is a symbol of Maa Parvati deep in her meditative practices. Maa Brahmahcharini holds a Rudraksha Mala in one hand, and a Kamandulu in the other.

3. Chandraghanta Maa Chandraghanta is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Tritiya. This form of Maa Durga has ten hands. In which she holds a Trishula, Gada, Bow and arrow, Khadak, Kamala, Ghanta and Kamandal. Maa Chandraghanta is depicted with a crescent moon on her forehead, hence the name Chandraghanta.

4. Kushmanda Maa Kushmanda is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Chaturthi . Maa Kushmanda with eight hands holding a kamandalu, bow, arrow, lotus, trident, a jar of nectar, a discus, and a mace. The name Kushmanda comes from the words in Sanskrit, Ku (little), Ushma (warmth,energy) and Amnda (egg). Together these words mean “ The creator of the universe.”

5. Skandmata Maa Skandmata is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Panchami. Maa Skandmata holds two lotus flowers, a bell, and a sacred Kamandalu in her four hands. This form of Maa Durga holds a Kartikay known as Skanda on her lap, and is seated on a lotus flower.

6. Katyayani Maa Katyayani is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Shashti. Ma Katyayani is one of the more violent forms of Maa Durga. She is a form of the warrior goddess Shakti. Maa Katyayani is depicted on the back of a lion with a sword in one of her four hands.

7. Kaalratri Maa Kaalratri is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Saptami. Maa Kaalratri has four arms carrying a sword, noose and trident. Maa Kaalratri is depicted to be riding a donkey and with a third eye which is said to contain our whole universe. Maa Kaalratri gets her name from embracing a dark complexion from killing demons.

8. Mahagauri Maa Mahagauri is the form of Durga that came to earth on Maha Ashtami. This form of Maa Durga has four hands carrying a Trishul and a Damru. Maa Mahagauri is depicted either riding a bull or white elephant.

9. Siddhidatri Maa Siddhidatri is the form of Durga that came to earth on Navami, the last day of Navratri. Maa Siddhidatri is a symbol of perfection. Often depicted sitting calm on a lotus flower holding a mace, discus, lotus and book in her four hands.







## The Sun

Nikhil J. Christian

What is that yellow ball outside?  
It is called the sun!  
It brings happiness and pride  
To everyone

OH NO! THE SUN IS GONE!  
Now I feel sad  
I can't even mow my lawn  
I don't feel so glad

You're wrong, the sun is there  
It's just behind the clouds  
It comes out with no time to spare  
And it emerges proud

The sun gives us food  
It also helps the food chain  
The food helps us live good  
And it also helps your brain

What is that yellow ball outside?  
It is called the sun!  
It brings happiness and pride  
To everyone



## Mother of Strength

Oh, Durga, Mother of Strength,  
Your victory over Mahishasura,  
Is a beacon of hope for all.

You represent the power of good,  
Over evil, truth over falsehood,  
And light over darkness.

On this auspicious occasion of  
Durga Puja,  
Let us all celebrate your victory,  
And reaffirm our commitment to fight  
Against all forms of evil and darkness.

May your blessings guide us  
on our journey,  
And help us to create a  
better world for all.



# HAPPY Durga Puja



**Amit Sen's family**



## Universe Mother

Parthib Chowdhury

Oh, Ma Durga, Mother of the Universe,  
Your beauty and grace are unmatched.  
Your strength and courage inspire us all,  
To face our challenges and never fall.

You are the embodiment of  
feminine power,  
And you teach us to be strong and fierce.  
You show us that we can  
overcome any obstacle,  
If we set our minds to it and never tire.

We bow down to you, Ma Durga,  
And offer our deepest gratitude.  
For your blessings and guidance,  
We are truly grateful.

## Oh Maa Duga

Amrit Chowdhury

Oh, Mother of Strength,  
Your power knows no bounds.  
You stand tall against the darkness,  
And shine your light on all.

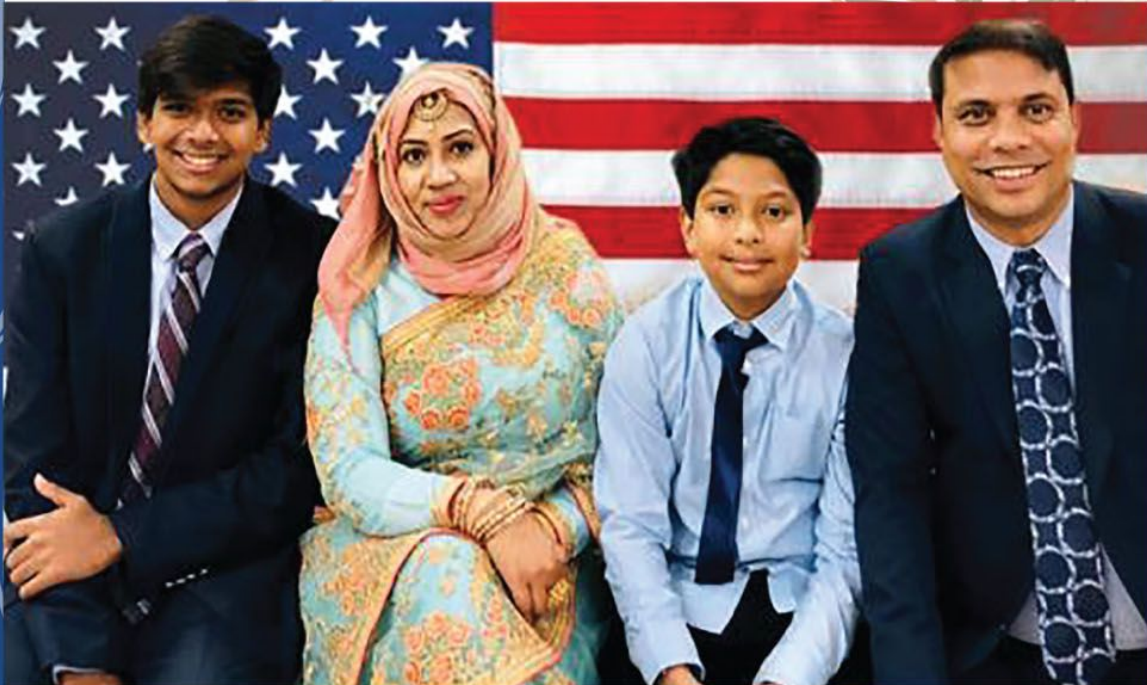
You teach us to be brave,  
Even in the face of fear.  
You show us that we are strong,  
Even when we feel weak.

You are the embodiment  
of courage,  
And you inspire us to be  
our best selves.

Thank you, Mother of Strength,  
For being our guiding light.



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Shahidul Islam Thandu's Family**

# The History of the Durga Puja



Durga Puja the most popular religious festival of Babgali Hindus, celebrates the return of the goddess Durga to her natal home. In other parts of India as well, Durga is worshipped, but under different names. For example, in Kashmir she is worshipped as Amva, in the Deccan as Amvika, as Hingula and Rudrani in Gujrat, as Uma in Bihar and as Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. Celebrations outside Bengal are, however, on a minor note.

Durga does not belong to the Vedic pantheon, but is a later goddess. She is also known as Adyashakti, Mahamaya, Shivani, Bhavani, Dashabhuja, Singhavahana etc. The goddess came to be known as Durga after killing a demon named Durgo or Durgam. She is also called Durga because she brings an end to all forms of misery. Devi Durga, Ramakrishna Mission, Dhaka

The best known story of Durga is that of her defeating the demon Mahisasur, who could not be killed by any male because of a blessing he had received from brahma. Knowing that the gods could not renege on the boon they had granted, Mahisasur fought the gods and threw them out of their abode. The gods and goddesses appealed to vishnu for help. On Vishnu's advice, each god gave up one of his qualities and weapons to Durga. Armed with their weapons and imbued with their qualities, Durga fought and killed Mahisasur. Consequently she is also known as Mahisamardini. There are detailed discussions about Durga in Kalivilas-atantra, Kalikapurana, Devibhagavata, Mahabhagavata, Vrhannandikeshvarapurana, Durgabhaktitarabgini, Durgotsavaviveka, Durgotsavatattva.

There are two pujas associated with Durga: Basanti Puja in spring (basanta), and Sharadiya Puja in autumn (sharat). Basanti Puja is performed in the first fortnight of Chaitra (March-April) and Saradiya Puja in the first fortnight of Aswin or Kartik (October-November). The origins of Basanti Puja date back to the time of King Surath, who had lost his kingdom. Advised by a wise man to worship Durga, he did so and had his kingdom restored. Saradiya Puja derives from a worship of the goddess arranged by ramachandra in autumn.

Invoking the goddess' blessings in his fight against Ravana, Ramachandra arranged a worship of the goddess in autumn. Since then this puja has been known as akalvodhan (untimely invocation) or Saradiya Durga Puja. Nowadays Basanti Puja is rarely performed, and Durga Puja has become synonymous with Saradiya Puja.

HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Zabbar Mohon's Family**

On the occasion of Durga Puja, the goddess is invoked on the sasthi, sixth day, of Aswin or Kartik. Puja is offered on the shaptami, astami, navami or mahanavami, the seventh, eighth and ninth days. The image of the goddess is immersed in water on the dashami, tenth day. Preparation for the immersion of the Durga images start on the morning of dashami, but the immersions actually take place in the evening. Long processions of devotees carry the images of the goddess from various puja pandals to nearby ponds, canals, rivers etc, where they are immersed. The dashohara mela is held on this day. Wearing new dresses, members of the Hindu community congregate at the fair. Everyone exchanges greetings, and the young visit their elders to seek their blessings. Boat races are a special attraction of the fair.

There are three kinds of Durga Puja: a) Sattvik (esoteric), which includes meditation, yavja (elaborate rites during which mantras are chanted) and offerings of vegetarian dishes; b) Tamasik (unenlightened), which is meant for people of lower castes, during which there is no meditation, but which includes the recital of mantras and during which wine and meat are served; c) Rajasik (imperial), during which an animal is sacrificed and offerings made of non-vegetarian dishes. The recommended sacrificial animals are goat, lamb, buffalo, deer, pig, rhinoceros, tiger, iguana, tortoise, fowl. Some scriptures even recommend human sacrifice.

The goddess Durga is usually depicted with ten hands, though she may also be represented with four, eight, sixteen, eighteen or twenty hands. On the occasion of Durga Puja, images of the goddess are made of straw and clay. The images are then painted, either light golden, bright gold or red. In the past a few families, including the Tagore family of Jorasanko, used to attire the icon in costly saris and adorn it with gold ornaments before immersing it with all its finery. Puja is at times performed without an image of the goddess but with a durpun (a shiny, reflective metal piece, usually of brass) or with a book, a picture, a trishul (trident), arrow, kharga (falchion).

Durga Puja celebrations are believed by some to have been introduced into Bengal by Kangsanarayan, Raja of Tahirpur in rajshahi district during the reign of Emperor akbar (1556-1605). Others believe that krishnachandra roy (1710-1783), Raja of nadia, popularised these celebrations.

collected



HAPPY  
*Durga Puja*



**Sayed Murad's Family**





**HAPPY  
DURGA  
PUJA**

**Didarul Gazi**



**HAPPY  
DURGA  
PUJA**



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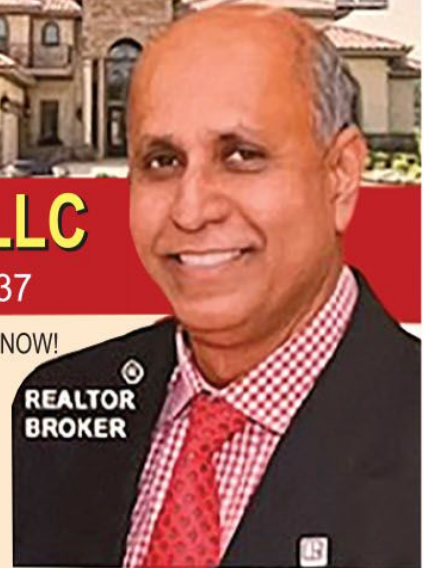
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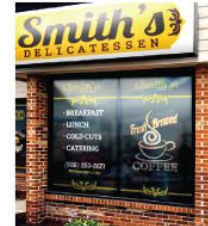
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