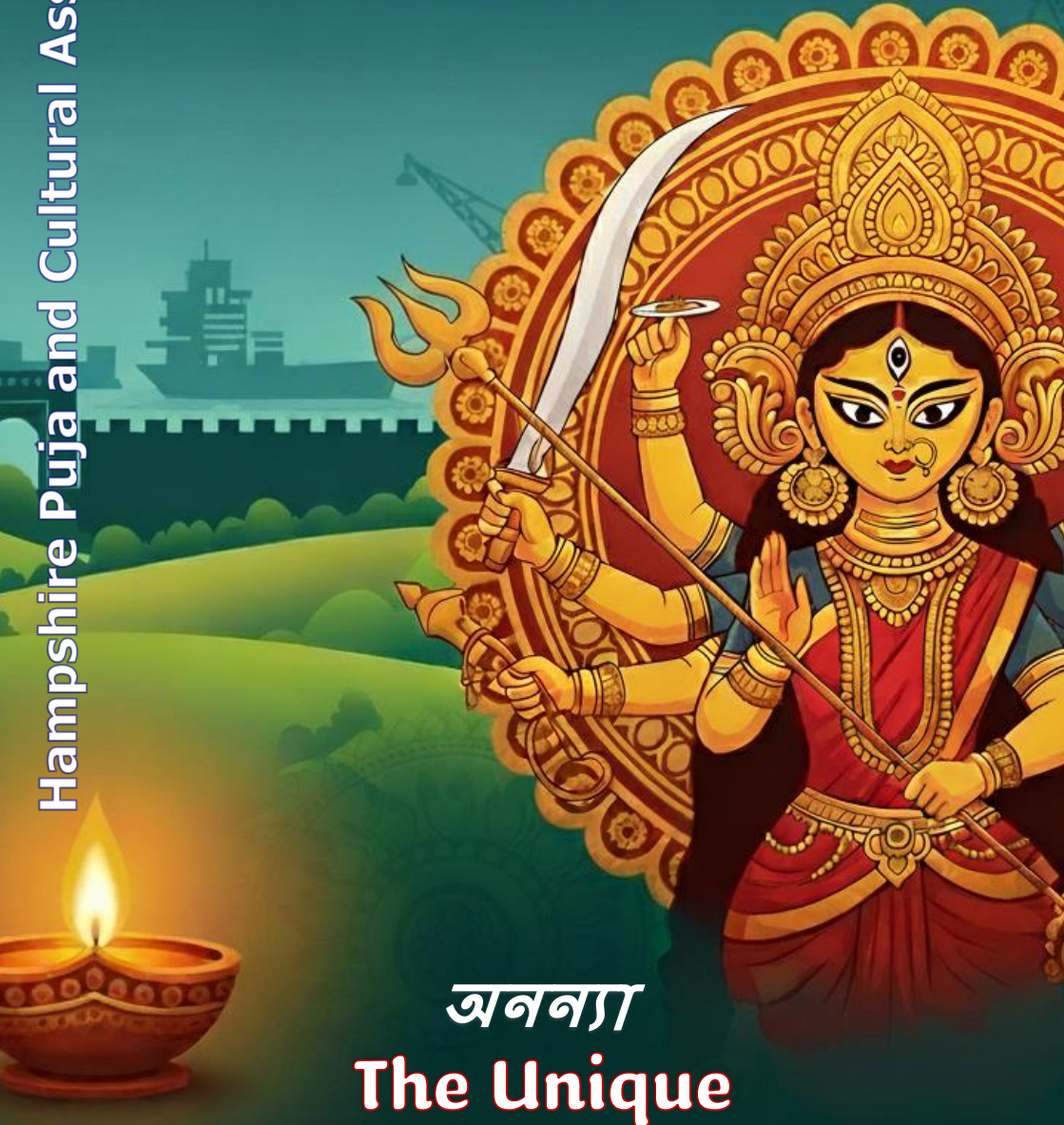


Durga Puja 2025

The Autumn Festival



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Foreword

***Yaa Devi Sarva Bhutheshu Shakti Rupena Samsthithaa |
Namastasyie Namastasyie Namastasyie Namoo Namah ||***

On behalf of the Hampshire Puja and Cultural Association (HPCA), I extend a most sincere and heartfelt welcome to all who have gathered here to participate in the 2025 celebration of Durga Puja and the Autumn Festival. This annual gathering, now in its seventeenth iteration, stands as a monument to the collective dedication and vision of a community bound not only by cultural heritage but by a profound commitment to the preservation and flourishing of those traditions in this foreign land. It is said that the first step one takes is the most important step in life. The heightened risks one continually faces in an exponentially enlarging uncertain world, taking the first steps, such as laying the foundation of the HPCA by the thought-leaders at that time, had the trepidation of fear of its future. But, the HPCA had in its heart the strongest commitment to the community value of oneness and cohesion. It is, therefore, no wonder that the HPCA has blossomed into a vibrant, multifaceted family, where diverse voices converge in harmony, each contributing to the rich, ever-expanding tapestry of our collective experience of one family with varied welfare-enriching missions.

The growth of our membership transcends the quantitative expectations. We have forged 'qualitative bonds' with all in the spirit of cohesion and growth – deeply reflecting that growth to us means 'growth for all and growth of all'. And in this spirit, we have succeeded—year after year—in rendering this festival not only a celebration of the sacred but a testimony to the cultural cohesion that binds us across regions and generations.

Durga Puja, as we know, is no mere ritualistic observance. It is a breathing reflection of the complex interplay between tradition and modernity, spirituality and community. Were it not for the tireless efforts of those who have laboured selflessly behind the scenes—working with passion, with purpose, and with a shared vision, whilst facing multiple structural, financial and managerial issues—this celebration would not have reached the heights it has today. I offer my deepest gratitude to each of you who has contributed, year after year, to ensuring that this occasion shines bright in the cultural calendar of Hampshire and the surrounding counties.

The cultural programme, as always, forms the beating heart of the festival. Among this year's performances by our very talented homegrown artists (both children and adults), the Tribute to Tagore will celebrate Tagore's timeless legacy of versatility and cultural diversity that continues to inspire across generations and borders. It is fitting that the HPCA's youngest ambassadors will again take the stage, embodying the future of this tradition, the torchbearers who, in their innocence and exuberance, remind us of the importance of nurturing the cultural awareness of our youth.

Additionally, we are privileged to host an afternoon of musical performances by external artists, *Krosswindz*—the internationally acclaimed Bengali Folk-Fusion band based in Kolkata, India.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with profound gratitude, our generous patrons and sponsors whose financial contributions sustain this festival. It is through your unwavering support and trust in us that we can keep alive this living tradition and the enduring values of community, culture, and devotion. With your renewed commitment to our community spirit and shared values, the HPCA wishes you the best of growth.

Durga Puja invites us to contemplate, in its fullest sense, the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness, and of unity over division. In this moment of communal reflection, let us celebrate not just the Divinity of Maa Durga but the very essence of what it means to belong, to honour, and to persevere. Welcome, all, to this sacred and transformative experience.

With warmest autumn greetings! *Shuvo Sharadiyo Shuvechcha*

Tapas Mishra (General Secretary, HPCA)

803rd Mayor and 4th Lord Mayor of Southampton
Councillor James Baillie



MESSAGE

On behalf of the City of Southampton I would like to send best wishes for the Durga Puja (The Autumn Festival) and hope it will be a great event.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those that have been involved in putting on this event; I would also like to wish all the Members of the Hampshire Puja and Cultural association success in delivering its aim and objective during the Festival.



Baillie

***The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Southampton,
Councillor James Baillie***



City of
WINCHESTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF WINCHESTER FOR THE DURGA PUJA 2025 FESTIVAL BROCHURE

The focus of the members of the Hampshire Puja & Cultural Association (HPCA) on cohesion, unity, and on bringing people together to work towards a brighter future for everyone, is truly an example for us all. I applaud them for their commitment to such a goal.

I send my very best wishes to all for the Durga Puja and I hope that it will be a wonderful celebration for everyone!

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु नरिण्यः ।
सर्वे भद्राणां पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिदिदुःखभाग्भवेत् ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om, may all be happy,
May all be free from illness.
May all see what is auspicious,
May no one suffer.
Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु नरिण्यः ।
सर्वे भद्राणां पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिदिदुःखभाग्भवेत् ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om, may all be happy,
May all be free from illness.
May all see what is auspicious,
May no one suffer.
Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Warmest Regards,

S. R. Achwal

Cllr Sudhakar Achwal

826th MAYOR OF WINCHESTER





Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary

Chief Constable Alexis Boon QMP

Strategic Police
Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9SJ

Email: chief.constable@hampshire.police.uk

As Chief Constable for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary, I am delighted to be sending you my very best wishes for the Durga Puja and Autumn Festival 2025.

Community events such as this are so important in bringing people together to share their culture and faiths. We are fortunate in Hampshire and Isle of Wight to have strong links and partnerships with our communities, being able to support and recognise events such as this is always a pleasure. Of course, a festival that includes celebrating the triumph of good over evil is one that resonates well with policing. Keeping people safe is at the heart of what we strive to achieve.

I acknowledge all the hard work and thank those that work behind the scenes to prepare for and deliver what I am sure will be a successful and enjoyable celebration for the Goddess Durja.

Yours faithfully

Alexis Boon
Chief Constable

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The HPCA Presents



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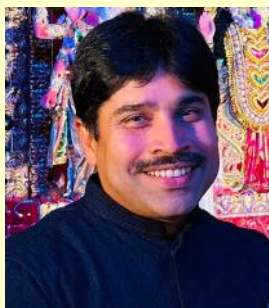
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HPCA Committee 2025-27



Tapas Mishra
General Secretary



Sujit Sahu
Treasurer



Kohinoor Roy
Cultural Secretary



Raja Basak
Food Secretary



Rishika Mukhopadhyay
Media Secretary



Arnab Jana
Technical Secretary



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THE HPCA PRESENTS

DURGA PUJA 2025

26 September (Saptami)

5-7 pm: Puja Sthapona, Aarti
7-8 pm: Cultural Event I
8-9 pm: Bhog (Dinner)
9-10 pm: Cultural Event II

27 September (Ashtami-Nabami)

11 am: Puja, Aarti, Pushpanjali
12 pm: Children's Arts Workshop
1-3 pm: Bhog (Lunch)
5-7 pm: Puja, Aarti
7-8 pm: HPCA Cultural Extravaganza
8-9 pm: Bhog (Dinner)
9-10 pm: Dandiya Dance

28 September (Dashami)

11-1 pm: Puja, Aarti, Pushpanjali
1-2 pm: Bhog (Lunch)
2-3 pm: Children's cultural event
3-5 pm: Performance by External Artist: KROSSWINDZ
5-6 pm: Sindur Khela
6-8 pm: Bijoya Dashami

Venue: The HILT, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 5NP

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My Dream 11

Arihaan Sahu

Kings' School, Winchester, Year 9

In football, there are many players that you wish could be on the same team to make your dream team of historical players. Today, I am going to tell you about my unstoppable dream team, which could win any match. You might not agree with all my decisions, but it is “my” opinion, so I may have different thoughts than you have.

Goalkeeper: In goal, my first-choice keeper would be **Lev Yashin**, known for having great reflexes and being a shot stopper. He is also the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon d’Or. He has shown that he can perform when needed. For example, he performed for Russia in the World Cup 1990. **Lev Yashin Records:** Only goalkeeper to win a Ballon D’or, most clean sheets in football history. My second-choice keeper would be **Iker Casillas**, known as “The Wall” for being a great shot-stopping goalkeeper, and is known for his famous save against the Netherlands in the World Cup final in the last few minutes.



Centre Back: My first central defender will be **Paulo Maldini**, known for his outstanding defending, combining perfect positioning with impeccable timing to neutralize threats without resorting to rough challenges. Unlike many defenders who rely on physicality, Maldini rarely needed to slide tackle, instead using anticipation, balance, and calm composure to intercept play and control attackers. His versatility allowed him to excel both as a left-back and centre-back, always maintaining discipline, leadership, and success under pressure. My second central defender would be **Sergio Ramos**, known for his aggressive and fearless defending style, combining physicality with elite football intelligence. Renowned for his ability to read the game, executing last-ditch tackles, and dominating aerial duels, Ramos is also a natural leader who thrives under pressure. His versatility allowed him to excel not only as a centre-back but occasionally as a right-back, his defensive instincts, timing, and unmatched will to win made him one of the most influential defenders of his generation.

As a substitute, I would keep **Franz Beckenbauer**, who completely changed the role of the defender by introducing the concept of a deep-lying defender who not only intercepted attacks but also initiated counters with vision. Unlike traditional centre-backs who focused solely on stopping the opposition, Beckenbauer brought composure, technical skill, and strategic intelligence to the back line, often gliding past opponents and launching attacks with pinpoint passes.

Fullbacks: My first choice left back would be **Roberto Carlos**, a player who redefined the left-back position with his explosive pace, flair, and his thunderous left foot to shoot from meters out. Unlike traditional full-backs, he played almost like a winger, constantly rushing forward, delivering dangerous crosses, and scoring spectacular long-

range goals (most famously his physics-defying free-kick against France in 1997). Defensively, he was aggressive and relentless, using his speed to recover and break up plays. However, his greatest impact came from stretching defences and contributing to the attack.

My right back would be **Javier Zanetti**, known for his intense work rate, exceptional stamina, and impeccable positional sense. Zanetti was rarely flashy, but always defended with intelligence, tackled cleanly, and seamlessly transitioned into attack. His calm personality, leadership qualities, and discipline made him a role model on and off the pitch.

My substitute would be **Marcelo**, who brought flair, creativity, and unmatched attacking prowess to the left-back position, making him one of the most entertaining and effective full-backs of his generation. A key figure in Real Madrid's golden era that combined dazzling dribbling skills, pinpoint crossing, and technical brilliance with energy that made him a constant threat in the final third.

Midfield: My first central midfielder would be **Zinedine Zidane**, known for his creative style of play and ability to orchestrate a play. He is also known for his ability to strike with a deadly volley. Effortlessly gliding across the pitch, Zidane dictated the tempo of games with intelligent passing and an ability to produce moments of magic under pressure, such as his stunning volley in the 2002 Champions League final. Zinedine Zidane records: the first manager to win 3 consecutive titles in the UCL modern era.



My second midfielder, who has more of a defensive style of play, is **Lothar Matthäus**, a formidable presence as a defensive midfielder thanks to his remarkable versatility, physicality, and tactical intelligence. My third midfielder, who is a more attacking player, is **Neymar Junior**, showing that his creativity, flair, and vision make him a constant threat between the lines. As a midfielder, Neymar has more freedom to orchestrate play, using his exceptional dribbling, quick feet, and unpredictable movement to unlock defences and create crucial chances for teammates. My substitute midfielder would be **Andrés Iniesta**. More than just a technician, Iniesta was the heartbeat of the tiki-taka style, seamlessly linking defence and attack with composure and an unmatched understanding of the game.

Attack: Just before I tell you about my attack, I would like to let you know that I am aware that you may not entirely agree with my selection, so please don't be upset if your favourite players aren't in this team. On the right wing, I chose **Lionel Messi**, arguably one of the best players in his position. He is known for his ability to dribble effortlessly past opponents and help his team get out of a tight situation. He redefined the role by combining the creativity of a playmaker with the clinical finishing of a striker. Lionel Messi records: Most Ballon D'ors, most goals in a calendar year (91), the

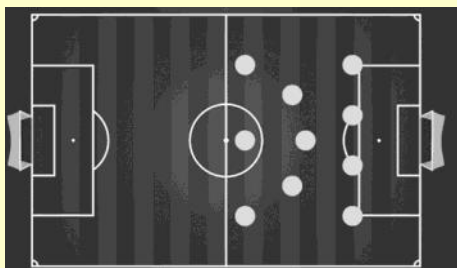
only player to score in every stage of the World Cup, most goals in LaLiga history (474) and many more.

My Striker would be **Pelé**, by far the best player of football, scoring and dribbling past opponents effortlessly using his athleticism, intelligence, and technical brilliance to dominate world football during his era. More than just a goal poacher, Pelé was a complete forward, capable of creating chances, linking play, and entertaining fans with his ability to dribble and ragdoll defenders. Pelé records: Most World Cups in football history (3), youngest player to score in a World Cup Final and youngest player to score a World Cup hat-trick.



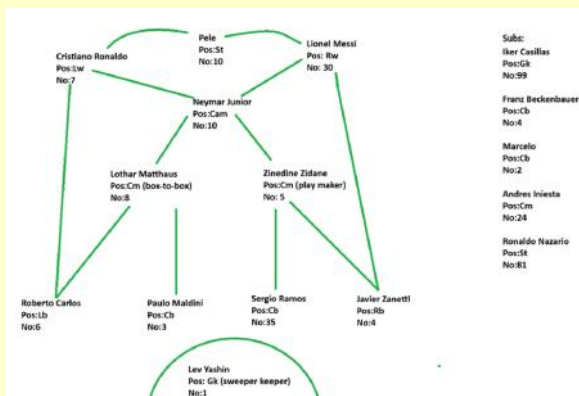
My Left winger would be **Cristiano Ronaldo**, who is known for his ability to fly past defenders and single-handedly carry his team to victory. He turned out to be one of the most physically dominant goal scorers the game has ever seen. Operating from the left flank, he combined his extraordinary pace, explosive stepovers, and a lethal right foot to cut inside and unleash unstoppable shots. Whether driving at defenders or drifting into a central position to strike, Ronaldo's presence on the left was both terrifying and decisive, making him one of the most complete and impactful wide forwards in football history. As a substitute, I would like **Ronaldo Nazario**, a phenomenal striker, who used his flair and skill to dribble past defenders as if they weren't there.

Tactics: Tactically, I would in a 4-3-3 formation, where would be effective, putting striker, but also be able to the box, as Ronaldo and flair to dribble past shot into the top corner. move into midfield and wingers on counterattacks. defend, Maldini and Ramos can use their strength to fend off attackers and, if needed, Yashin can save or parry away a shot.



like this team to play the wide players in crosses to the shoot from outside Messi can use their defenders and curl a The full-backs can transition into When needed to

Conclusion: Based on my understanding, I believe that this team would be very successful, as I am sure that if this team plays in any modern-day competition (UEFA Champions League, FIFA World Cup, UEFA Super Cup), this team would at least the runners up if not the winner of each competition as this team has a good depth in each position and also works tactically as a team of execution.



HPCA Members and artists participated in the Food Bank Angel's charity ball and donated funds they raised to a local food bank charity.





The Day My Pet Started Talking

Vivaan Bhadra
The Latymer School, Year 8

My day started off normal. Like every other day. Just a boring old Sunday, groaning at the thought of school starting the very next day. As I came down the stairs, I heard a strange noise coming from somewhere in the living room. With all the bravery and courage I could muster, I decided to... run upstairs screaming. "THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE LIVING ROOM!!!". However, to my disappointment, my parents had gone out to do shopping for back to school. So I thought, "Great, just great". I was stuck with my brother, who was still sleeping, for the next who knows how long hours. Finally, I decided to just shake it off and walk downstairs to face the issue...

As I walked down the stairs, the sound was gone. This gave me hope that there would be nothing there. So I strolled into the living room and to my shock..... THERE WAS NOTHING THERE. As I turned back to go upstairs, I heard a noise AGAIN, which made me jump and slip on my back. I groaned as I slowly got up. But much to my amazement, there was still NO ONE THERE. So I went to check out where it came from, and guess where? THE FISH TANK! The fish was trying to talk to me! So I went towards him and tried to make out what he was saying. It was somewhere along the lines, "OI GIMME MY FOOD, I'M STARVING IN HERE!". At once, I quickly glanced at the clock, and it read 9 o'clock. I rushed to the cabinet where the fish food was kept and found the fish's delicacy: algae wafers. Swiftly, I darted back and dropped one wafer in the fish tank.

My fish darted to the wafer. "NOM NOM NOM!", it said while eating the wafer. "THIS IS BUSSING!" he shouted. Then I remembered, I HAD TO GO TO MY SCHOOL'S OPEN DAY! I dreaded the thought as it would be a TWO HOUR long tour of something I had already seen. My fish must've been a mind reader to say, "Can I come to the open day with you?". Now, see, here's the thing, fish can't be portable. But I figured that since it can talk, then surely it can walk. So I delicately picked him up, put him in a jar and headed off to school. When we arrived, it was, for some reason, PACKED with people. Crying kids, tired parents, classmates, you name it! As I went around the school, doing my best jaw-dropped face whenever they showed an artefact of the school... THAT I HAD SEEN A THOUSAND TIMES. Then my fish, whose name is Shaq, started speaking, telling everyone my little embarrassing secrets. I stormed out red-faced and raged at Shaq.

I ran home and dropped Shaq back into his tank and sat doing nothing on the sofa. No sound at all. You could hear a pin drop. "Shaq?" I called out. No answer. So I went to his tank and kept calling his name. Still no answer. He was just happily swimming around. So I gave up wondering if it was a dream. I will still check back on him tomorrow...

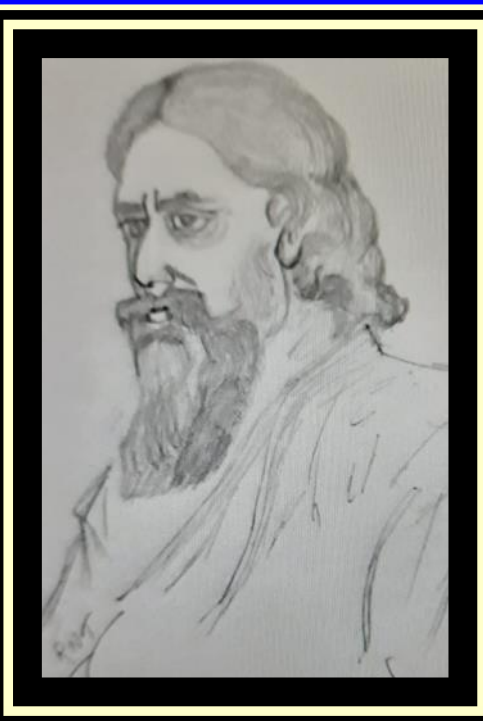




Pencil Sketch

Yogesh Nischal

*Gurudev
Rabindranath
Thakur*



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Why are spiritual rituals relevant to this day?

Dev Acharyya

Age– 15, The Romsey School

Hinduism, being one of the oldest religions, is filled with tradition and rituals that continues to be followed by over a billion people to this day. These include chanting, puja, praying, meditation, and many others, which is each practiced differently across the globe. Among all these visible actions, each one of these holds their own purpose and deeper meaning behind, but why exactly are these so important in Hindu life? This question is useful as it helps understand how Hindu practices influence daily life along with spirituality.

Hinduism is often described as a “way of life” by many scholars, rather than a religious duty. This is mainly due to its development in India around four thousand years ago, which started with many cultural practices such as chanting mantras and yoga (still practiced to this day). These cultural practices originated from the Indus Valley Civilisation and later merged with Indo-Aryans to produce the Vedas scriptures. Over time, these rituals were often described in other texts such as the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads, which influences how we pray and more importantly how we live our lives in this day and age.

Many may ask why these ancient rituals are still relevant in this modern world, and why us Hindus should continue to follow them. On a spiritual level, it helps maintain a sense of gratitude and devotion (Bhakti) towards the divine. Meditation (which originated from the Indus people) still continues to be a powerful tool when achieving inner peace, and has played a major role in popularising the action outside the religion. However, on a more social level, embracing Hindu practices and festivals creates a close sense of community, and keeps these traditions alive for many generations.

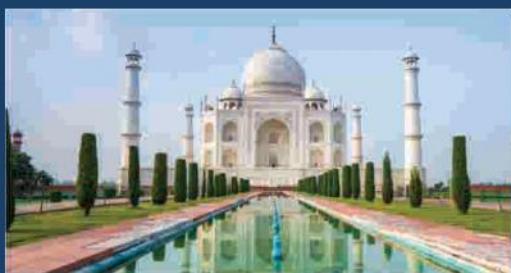
Continuing to follow spiritual practices means that we are able honour our history, whilst also carrying a way of life that has meaning. The views that I outline here reflect my own understanding, and the main message that I wish to share is that these rituals made thousands of years ago are just as relevant today.



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Mohalaya 2025





A World Without Screens

Vihaan Bhadra

Age— 16, Queen Elizabeth's School

It began with silence. All phones, all laptops, all scorching billboards went dark. At first, people thought it was a temporary glitch, a brief outage. But the days turned into hours, and still, nothing but darkness.

Panic spread in a flash. Banks closed their doors, and money was out of reach. Flights were grounded in mid-air, and airports jammed with stranded travellers. Supermarkets refused to accept cards; shelves emptied, and people clashed over the few cans of food left. With no news or announcements to differentiate rumour from fact, suspicion spread faster than any germ.

The city came apart.

Traffic lights failed, and intersections were confused battlefields. Trucks carrying supplies disappeared into the maze of suburbs, misplaced without GPS. Hospitals were overcrowded, their machinery dead and useless, cut off from their digital backup. People roamed the city, holding dead devices in their hands like talismans, unwilling to accept that they were only glass and plastic now.



Night fell in full. No windows lit, no neon signs bled into the sky, but only heavy darkness that came clamping down over everything. New sounds: rat scurries down alleys, far-off wails, gun-crack on the air.

We tried to adjust, some of us, but most of us fell apart. Neighbours turned on one another. Families broke apart. Without screens to comfort or connect us, the world showed its true nature: savage, cruel, and hungry.

I once thought screens imprisoned us. Maybe they did. But when they did fail, they brought down the very fabric of society. What was left was not freedom, it was destruction. And today I look up at the sky and I don't see its beauty. I see fear, an empty and endless space, a blank and infinite screen that reminds me just how completely blind we have always been.





হারিয়ে গেছি আমি

সুস্মিতা বড়ুয়া

২০০২ থেকে ২০০৮, জীবনের এই ছয়টিবছর আমার জাপানে অতিবাহিত হয়েছিলো। জীবনের অনেক স্মরণীয় অভিজ্ঞতাও এই সময়ের। একদিনের গল্প শোনানো যাক। আমি জাপান যাবার পর International housing (নাম ছিল: নিনুমিয়া হাউসিং) এ ছিলাম, সেখানে আরো তিন/চার দেশী পরিবার আর বিভিন্ন দেশের পরিবার ছিল। তো বেশ কিছু পরিবারের সাথে সখ্যতা গড়ে উঠেছে, যেহেতু আমরা সেখানে সবার জুনিয়র, মাত্র বিয়ে হয়ে এসেছি, সবাই খুব স্নেহ করতো।

কয়েকমাস পরে আমরা বাসা পরিবর্তন করে স্বামীর কর্মস্থলের কাছাকাছি বাসা নিলাম। কিন্তু নিনুমিয়া হাউসের সবাইকে ও মিস করছি ভীষণ, সদ্যই দেশ থেকে সবাইকে ছেড়ে আসবার পর ওরাই আপন হয়ে উঠেছিলো। আর নতুন বাসার আশপাশে সারাক্ষণ জাপানীজ কিচির মিচির শুনতে শুনতে আমার কান বেশ ক্লান্ত, তাই একটু বাংলায় আড্ডা মারার লোভে, একদিন ঠিক করলাম আমি একাই বাসে চেপে পুরানো বাসার থেকে ঘুরে আসি। সবার সাথে দেখা সাক্ষাৎ ও হলো।

আমার নতুন বাসার পাশেই বাস স্টপেজ, সেখান থেকে সব বাসই সিটি সেন্টারে যায়, আর সিটি সেন্টার থেকে নিনুমিয়া হাউসে হেটে যেতে পচিশ মিনিট। ঠিকঠাক পৌছে গেলাম। বিপত্তি বাধল ফেরবার সময়। নিনুমিয়া হাউস থেকে আবার হেটে সিটি সেন্টারে এসে ওখান থেকে ফিরবার বাস ধরলাম। আমার হিসাব মতো সাত/আট স্টপেজ পরেই আমার বাসা আর শুকুবা (আমার সিটির নাম) শহরের বাসের নিয়ম হলো, উঠবার সময় যে স্টপেজ থেকে উঠব, তার নম্বর লেখা টিকেট নিতে হয়, আর নামবার সময় উঠবার স্টপেজ থেকে হিসাব করে পয়সা পে করতে হবে। তো আমি জানি, আমার ১৮০ ইয়েন লাগবে আমার স্টপেজে আসতে। বাস চলে, ১৮০ ইয়েন গেলো, ভাবছি different route ঘুরে আমার স্টপেজে আসবে, কোথায় কি! ৩৬০ গেলো, আমি এবার চিন্তিত, ৫৪০ ইয়েনে আসতে শংকিত, আমি কি অন্য শহরে চলে যাচ্ছি?

বাস দেখলাম ডিপোতে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে এবং আমি একমাত্র যাত্রী। বাস থামতেই ড্রাইভারের সাথে বাকচিৎ করতে গেলাম, আমার জাপানীজ জ্ঞান তখন বর্ণমালা পর্যায়ে, সুমিমা সেন(excuse me) আর দুই চারটা ছুটকো শব্দ জানি, পুরা বাক্য জাপানীজে বলবার মতন কাবিল তখনো হই নাই। ড্রাইভার দেখি ভীত দৃষ্টিতে তাকায়, কারণ তার ইংরেজী জ্ঞান yes/no তেই সীমাবদ্ধ। আর

আমি ইংরেজীতে তাকে বোঝানোর চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছি। বেশ কিছুক্ষণ দুইজন দুই ভাষাতে কথোকথন চালিয়ে বুঝলাম, কেউ কারো ভাষাই বুঝি না এবং এইখানে দাড়িয়ে আর সময় নষ্ট করবার মানে নাই, সন্ধ্যা হয়ে গেছে। আমার husband কে ফোন করে বললাম, ও কি করবে বুঝতে পারছে না, আমি কোথায়, সেটাতো আমি ও জানি না। আর আমার জামাইয়ের জাপানিজ জ্ঞান আরো কম। বলে কি জাপানি পুলিশ খুজে দেখো। কিছুক্ষণ হাটাহাটি করছি, যদি ইংরেজী জানা কাউকে পাই।

জায়গাটা বুঝলাম মূল শহরের বাইরে, তাই লোকজন ও তেমন নাই। হাটতে হাটতে বড় রাস্তা(ওটা ছোটখাট মোটরওয়ে টাইপ, কারণ প্রচন্ড speed এ গাড়ী চলছিল, আর আমি হাত তুলে help me, help me করে যাচ্ছি, গাড়ীর লোকজন নিশ্চিত ভাবছিল, এই বৈদেশিক বাণিজ্য পাগলের আমদানি কোথা থেকে!

হঠাত দেখি সামনে এক মোটরবাইক একটা বাকের মধ্যে ঢুকে গেল, আমি ও ছোট লাগলাম ওই বাকের উদ্দেশ্যে, দেখি একটা নির্জন গলি, কোন জনমনিষি নাই। আরেকটু এগোতে দেখি, বেশ পুরানো ডিজাইনের এক জাপানিজ বাড়ি, ভেতর থেকে কেমন মন্ত্র পড়ার আওয়াজ আর সাথে কুকুরের ভীষণ গর্জন, যা আছে কপালে, কুকুরের কামড় খাইলে খাইলাম, জান বাচানো ফরজ, বাড়ির বাউন্ডারি গেইট ধরে অনেকক্ষণ ধাক্কা ধাক্কি করতে হাত যখন বাহু থেকে খুলে আসবার জোগাড়, তখন দেখি এক বৃদ্ধা (বয়স সত্তোরধ, কোন সন্দেহ নাই) বেড়িয়ে আসল, আমি শুধু বলতে লাগলাম, শুকুবা শুকুবা, যেটা আমার শহরের নাম।

বৃদ্ধা কি বুঝলো কে জানে, বৃদ্ধি করে আমাকে হাত ধরে কিছুক্ষণ হাটিয়ে একটা বাস স্টপেজে নিয়ে আসল, অপেক্ষা করতে করতে আসল শুকুবার বাস। ভদ্রমহিলাকে আরিগাতো(ধন্যবাদ) জানিয়ে বাসে উঠলাম। সৌভাগ্যে ক্রমে এই ড্রাইভার দুই/চারটা ইংরেজি জানে, সে জানালো, এটাই last বাস ছিলো শুকুবা সেন্টারে ফিরবার। শুকুবা বাস স্টপেজে পৌঁছে আবার অন্য বাস ধরতে হল, এবার অন্য ড্রাইভার, তাকে হাত পা নেড়ে নেড়ে আমার স্টপেজ বুঝিয়ে ঠিক বাসে উঠে রাত এগারোটায় বাড়ি এসে পৌঁছলাম। সেইদিন ওই বৃদ্ধা না আসলে, আমার কি গতি হতো!

এই হারিয়ে যাবার রোগ আমার প্রায়ই হতো তখন, যেহেতু আমি হেঁটে হেঁটে বা সাইকেল চালিয়ে একা একা নতুন নতুন রাস্তা আবিষ্কার করতে যেতাম, তবে এই অভিজ্ঞতাটা বেশ মনে দাগ কেটে রয়েছে, সেইদিন ওই ভদ্রমহিলা না থাকলে বা আমি শেষ বাস না ধরতে পারলে আমি আসলে কি করতাম, সেটা এখনো আমাকে ভাবিয়ে তোলে।



Saraswati Puja 2025







সখের পূজা সোমনাথ পরামানিক

এমন একটা পূজা হোক !
হয়তো বলবে, "তুমি পাপী লোক !"
চাই, বৃষ্টি হোক, অঝোরে,
পড়তে চাইনা কারো নজরে ।
সারাদিন গল্পঃ আড্ডা, খাবার
মা কে বলব, এটুকুই আবদার ।
চপ-মুড়ি আর লুচি-ঘুগনি,
বিরিয়ানি আমার লাগবেনি ।
ঘি-ভাত মুগডাল, পোস্ত,
খেয়ে ঘুম দেব এক মস্ত ।
হাফ-প্যান্ট টি-শার্ট এই থাকবো মেতে,
যাবো, মা এর সাথে মা কে দেখতে ।
চ্যাংকুরাকুর আওয়াজ, অঞ্জলী, আরতি
সবই হবে, কিছুই থাকবে না বিরতি ।
শুধু থাকবে না মোবাইল, ল্যাপটপ,
ইনস্টা-ফেসবুক, থাকবেনা কাজের চাপ ননস্টপ ।
শুধু আমি আর আমার পরিবার,
যদিও পুরানো পূজা মনে পড়বে বারবার,
তবুও এমন একটা পূজা হোক, শেষ হোক বেলা,
নিয়ে সাথে উপন্যাস, শকতারা, আর আনন্দমেলা ।
নতুন জামাকাপড় না পরার দুঃখ নেই মনে,
না হয় এবার দান করলাম তাদের পরনে ।
কিন্তু মন খারাপ একটাই, নয়নে তো তাদেরও বৃষ্টি,
কেথায় থাকবে-ঘুমাবে, মা এ তোমার কেমন সৃষ্টি?
না, না-না এমন একটা পূজা হোক,
লাল-নীল-সবুজ আলোতে তারাও প্রাণবন্ত হোক ॥



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Happy Durga Puja



MEZBAAN

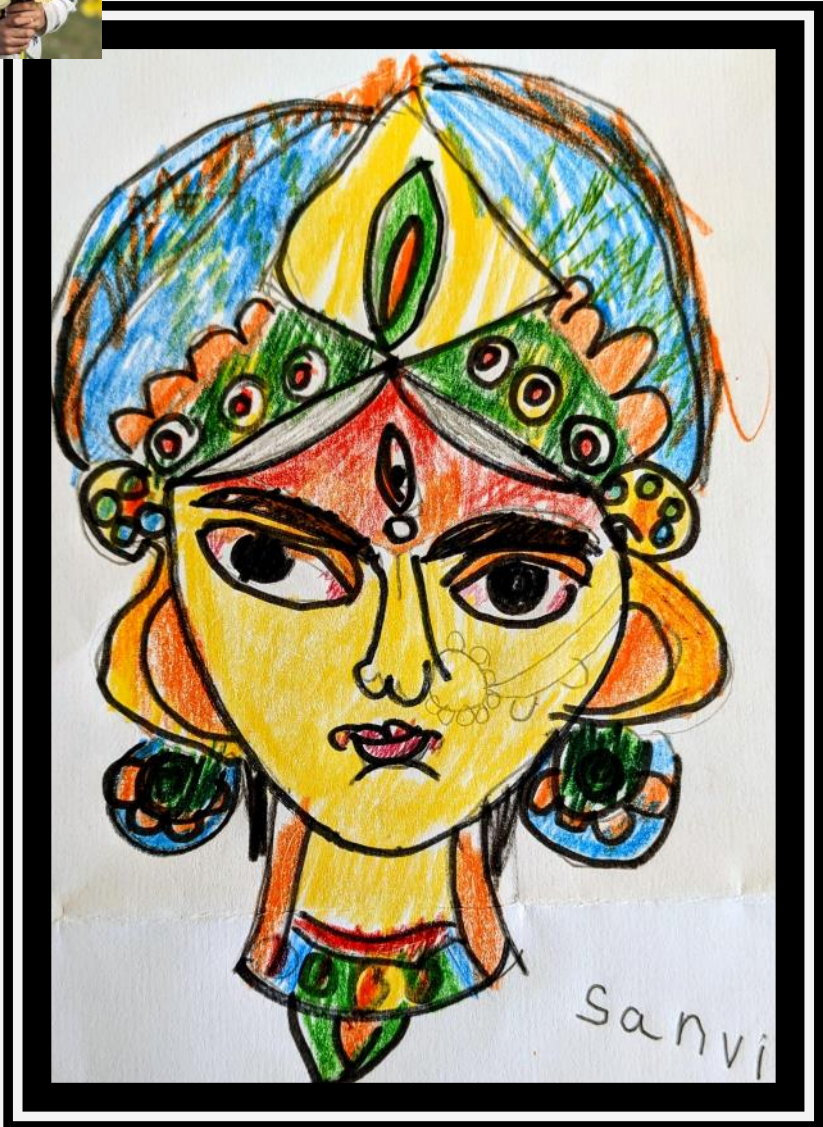
Durga Puja 2024





Sanvi Singha Roy,

Greentrees Primary School, Year 1





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Manohar Goda
CeMap & MBA
Founder of Finso
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What is Mahalaya? A personal journey...

Prof. Sujit Sahu

Let's turn the clock back about 50 years or so. It's a chilly autumn morning, about 4AM, in a remote village in Bengal. Turning on the radio, a mother calls her children: "Khuku, Khokan, ..., Khuku, Khokan wake up! Its Mahalaya today! Don't you hear the radio playing Mahalaya music and

Birendra Krishna Bhadra?"

That's exactly how we used to wake up to listen to the All India Radio Mahalaya programme on this auspicious day – every year in our childhood! It never did age on us – most of Bengal and Bengalees still listen to the same non-visual radio programme first aired in 1931. I still never get bored of the magical music, recitation of the hymns and stotras and sloka's: "Ya Devi sarba bhuteshu..." to blatantly praying for happiness, wealth and fame: "Joyong dehi, disho dehi, jasho dehi"...

The Mahalaya day marks the start of the "debi poksho", which is shuklo poksho, the bright half of the month in the Hindu lunar calendar, which is the fortnight period from the New Moon to the Full Moon. The Durga puja festival starts on the sixth day of this bright fortnight (shuklo poksho) and so from the Mahalaya day its only a week's wait to the pujas! In our childhood, on every mahalaya, we used to live through the famous quote: "if winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Besides, the usual natural signs of the autumn in Bengal: arrival of the white cotton like clouds in the blue sky (after the dark and wet rainy season) and the grey-white flowers of the pampas grass (kaash fool), I used to notice a strange argument between my parents. My housewife mother will urge my father to buy new batteries (4 type C) for the radio set so that she can hear the Mahalaya programme in crystal clear sound. Apologies, it is hard to communicate how a radio will sound like on a set of run-down batteries! My father will eventually buy new batteries but on just the day before the Mahalaya morning!

My story sort of ends there, when I left the village for higher studies in the big city of Kolkata! But that Mahalaya planted in my blood did not leave me! It came right back up when our daughter, Bithi, was a 5-6 year little girl in Chandler's Ford, England. As parents we are not at all religious but somehow the Durga pujas and that Mahalaya music drove us to expose our culture to Bithi. In Chandler's Ford, during 2005/6, we were lucky to have very good friends: Shubhayu & Sharmila, Laxmikant and Baishakhi, Krishnan and Suparna, with whom we witnessed Durga Pujas in Camden town hall, Tooting and Slough. Enjoyable as those pujas were but we felt the need to have one of our own in Southampton. That decision was taken in 2006!

But in 2007 we spent the Durga Puja times in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. There we noticed a insane thing – they organized the pujas almost two weeks after the actual dates due to the non-availability of the hall! Nevertheless, pujas were performed in full glory with khichudi bhog served and night-time addas (with drinks) outside the puja hall. That gave me the conviction that Pujas can be organized on nearby dates (Akal Bohdan) as well!

But coming back to Mahalaya, we celebrated in North Carolina with friends there in our small flat. An even better highlight of our trip is that I remember listening to the “Mahisasura Mardini” CD while driving during our holidays in the Yellow Stone National Park in USA! We really felt and witnessed the story of destruction and



creation of earth in the park with varying-colored and ragged landscapes, hot springs, geysers, and animals – buffalos (mahish), wolves, grizzly's and moose.

Back in Chandler's Ford in 2008, Madhu, Jayanta and few others invited us to join- in the Saraswati Puja in the Vedic Society Hindu Temple in Southampton. Our Puja and Culture Association started its journey then! We celebrated Mahalaya in our house - made many new friends like Soumyabrata and Abanti. Friends were allowed to drink beer since that was a vegetarian drink! Mahalaya celebrations continued in our home until about 2014 when we had to move the event to Scout Hall as the group size became too large to host!

Still today, Mahalaya gives us a warming-up ground rehearsal for the main event of Durga Puja. To us, Mahalaya is the final weekend of rehearsal and preparation – get to know the new faces, collect subscription monies and arrange sponsorships. Nowadays, we also arrange the stage rehearsal after the Mahalaya khichudi lunch – so that's two tasks done in one afternoon!

Mahalaya ends darkness, brings hope; spreads joy and happiness; promises prosperity; starts new beginnings; terminates all evils; re-establishes our long-lost friendships; encourages new ones; awakens our consciousness; refreshes our memories of good times; teaches us to be humble and be kind to each other; evokes our good senses. We wish you all the best for this year's Durga Puja and all the ones for years to come! Thank you for listening to our story!



Durga Puja 2024







Out in Space

Mitanshu Basu

Year 9, Thornden School

Voyaging around the solar system, I was surrounded by gleaming stars and dozens of planets. I felt like I was in a movie. This was also my first mission, in this part of space. As I was staring at Jupiter and I could imagine the gas clouds evaporating out of the planet. “Harry, you need to see this!”, shouted my colleague on the spaceship. My face immediately lit up. “What is there actually another moving vehicle on our radar!”, I exclaimed. I was thinking about the amount of money I would make from this discovery. Suddenly, the radar started ringing! Rapidly, everyone in the spaceship looked outside of the windows.

Briskly a sleek, metallic object, which was oddly shaped with a bump coming at the top and an oval shaped bottom, was heading our way. I didn’t know if I should be excited or petrified. Expeditionously, Dave pulled out a laser blaster, out of the emergency box. As I anticipated for a friendly encounter. But it was the opposite!

Hastily, red beams were shot our way! Glass was being shattered everywhere. Rapidly, Parker ran to the emergency phone and contacted the international space station. “Help us immediately, we are experiencing an attack”, screeched Parker. But it was too late!

As I opened my eyes, there was a bright light shining in my eyes. Briskly, I realised I felt a piece of tape covering my face. I tried shouting as loud as I could, but I couldn’t move a single thing as I was stuck in a cage. Snappily, there was a creature as yellow as a lemon that came past me. I tried moving a muscle, but I couldn’t do anything. As I stared into the creature, I noticed it had shimmering, golden skin with large, black eyes that and slender body with elongated with four long arms and two legs. My arms were shaking in fear, trying to predict what would happen next. Instantaneously, I heard high pitched gibberish noises coming out of the creature. I was praying for nothing bad to happen!

Unexpectedly, the creature had exclaimed, “You stupid humans are so selfish, we built you guys pyramids in Egypt and expected something in return, but instead we got nothing in return and we got ignored!”. “So, all this stupid human race shall go extinct, all Proximatyons hate humans, we also have been taught to never help this stupid race again



and you shall all die”, the alien declared. Sweat was dripping down my head and my heart was racing inside of my chest! I immediately signalled to take off the tape of my face. Swiftly the alien yelled, “No you stupid human being, all of you humans should be gone forever! I’m tired of this evil race!”. As the alien finished, it had quickly disappeared. Instantly I remembered I had a pocketknife in my shirt pocket. I took off the rope of my hands, and I ripped the tape of my face. I swiftly scanned my surrounding to see if there were any more aliens.

Luckily, there were no aliens around. Suddenly there was a space suit for Proximaytons, and I put it on. Steadily I scanned for cameras and security checkpoints. Suddenly, my heart plummeted, I had walked past a group of aliens. The creature was strapped up with laser blasters and had black glasses on. As I scanned him more, I noticed he had grey tinted shoes made of metal. Everywhere I looked I saw laser blasters and writing in an unknown language. Instantly I came into a room, and I saw Parker and Dave strapped up in a cage. They were trembling with fear. I immediately took off my helmet and showed them it was me. “Guys look it’s me; I put on one of their special armouries and got away with it”, I explained to them.

I rapidly took off the tape of their mouth, and I took the rope of their arms. Dave quickly exclaimed, “I have an emergency cell phone, that can contact the space station anywhere in our solar system”. Dave quickly called the space station and demanded people to come for help and asked them to track us down. Immediately, we looked outside of our spaceship, and we saw the United States flag on it. “Finally, some help had come!”, I exclaimed in joy. Abruptly, there were laser guns from two spaceships blasting at each other and American astronauts with laser guns coming into the alien’s spaceship. The aliens were quickly outnumbered by the amount of space soldiers that were coming. At full tilt our glass was broken, and we were all picked up by astronauts with jetpacks on. Suddenly, the Proximayton’s spaceship had exploded. I immediately went into the spaceship and went to sleep on the floating bed.

Instantaneously, I had woken up in planet earth. As I stepped foot outside of my bed, I quickly brushed my teeth and came into my once old home. I felt goosebumps knowing I can’t float anymore. Oxygen surrounds me and starts to greet me back home. My gravity around me reminds me what a wonderful planet we have and there is no point of leaving our beloved home. Suddenly, I noticed thousands of cameras flashing on my face and people shouting questions about my experience. Straight away I went down to sit down onto my bench and notice how different is my world. I felt like a baby first learning how to walk for the first time. As I approached the first reporter, I had spotted my family glancing at me from a distance. The reporter exclaimed, “How was 2 days outside of Earth”. I replied by saying, “This was an absolute nightmare, the international space station should explore this part of space before sending people on missions there”, I yelled at the reporter. Suddenly, my children sprinted to me and gave me a massive hug. I could notice my wife was smiling at me joyfully.



Durga Puja 2024







A Memorable Journey to Mauritius **Novojeet Acharyya (Koushik)**



In August 2025, I set out on a journey with my parents and brothers that I will always remember: my holiday to Mauritius. The adventure began at London Gatwick Airport, where I boarded an Emirates flight bound for Dubai before connecting to Mauritius. The first leg was smooth, and I landed in Dubai's Terminal 3 for a long layover of nearly ten hours. Instead of waiting inside the airport, I decided to make the most of my time and explore. Dubai's skyline is world-famous, and I could not miss the chance to see the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world. Standing at its base and looking up at its incredible height was an unforgettable moment. After exploring a little, I returned to the airport to continue my journey. The second flight was just as comfortable, and when I finally arrived in Mauritius, I was greeted by warm weather, swaying palm trees, and the sound of the ocean. I stayed at house in Flic en Flac, a charming coastal town, and rented car for the trip. Having my own transport gave me freedom and independence to explore the island at my own pace, turning the holiday into a real adventure.

Mauritius revealed itself as a place of great beauty, spirituality, and culture. One of my first visits was to the towering Mangal Mahadev statue near Ganga Talao (also known as Grand Bassin). At 33 meters tall, it is a striking image of Lord Shiva and a deeply significant Hindu pilgrimage site. Walking around the sacred lake and seeing the statue of Parvati added to the atmosphere of peace and devotion. Later, I travelled to the Sagar Shiv Mandir in Pointe de Flacq, a temple set on a small island by the sea. The combination of religious architecture and the sound of waves created an unforgettable sense of calm. Mauritius is equally rich in natural wonders. At Black River Gorges National Park, I was surrounded by thick forests, rolling hills, and cascading waterfalls. It was a paradise for anyone who loves the outdoors. Another highlight was Casela World of Adventures, a nature and Bird Park where I had the chance to see giant tortoises and feed them plants. Getting so close to these gentle creatures was a special experience. Every place I visited showed me a new side of the island, from its deep spirituality to its unspoiled landscapes and unique wildlife.

Of course, no trip to Mauritius would be complete without time on the beaches, and these were some of the best moments of the holiday. The island is blessed



with clear turquoise waters and soft golden sands, and every beach I visited felt like paradise. I spent hours swimming in the warm sea, walking along the shore, and simply relaxing under the sun. The beaches, together with the culture, nature, and hospitality of the people, made Mauritius feel like a complete destination. On the 27th of August, I returned to the UK with a heart full of memories and a strong wish to visit again. What makes Mauritius so special is not just one thing, it is the mix of peace and adventure, spirituality and leisure, natural beauty and friendly faces. Travelling there reminded me how valuable it is to step outside our daily routines and see the world. This holiday was more than just a break; it was an experience that will stay with me forever, and I hope that one day I will return to explore even more of this beautiful island.



Kumari Pujo 2024



Kali Puja 2024



Kali Puja 2024



Kali Puja 2024





Roots of Sanātana Dharma: The Evolution of Hindu Wisdom from the Vedas to Modern Traditions

Madhu Acharyya

1. Introduction

Sanātana Dharma, known today as Hinduism, is among the world's oldest living traditions. Unlike religions centered on a single prophet or scripture, it developed gradually as a vast body of wisdom. From the Vedic hymns to the Upanishads, from the ethical struggles of the epics to the devotional Purāṇas and Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, it evolved in layers, each responding to its age yet rooted in the same Vedic soil.

This article traces that journey: from sacrifice to contemplation, cosmic hymns to personal devotion, political treatises to universal philosophies. It shows why Hinduism embraces many texts instead of a single canon, how it absorbed reform movements like Buddhism and Jainism, and how it continues to adapt in modern forms such as ISKCON. Its unifying vision is clear: truth is one, though expressed in many ways, and diversity enriches humanity's spiritual path.

2. The Vedas: Foundations of Knowledge

The word Veda derives from vid, "to know." Far beyond ritual handbooks, the Vedas contain hymns, insights, and cosmic reflections that remain foundational. For millennia, they were preserved orally in the guru-śiṣya lineage. Students mastered verses with perfect pitch and rhythm, a discipline that became a spiritual practice in itself. Though eventually written down (c. 1500–500 BCE), oral recitation remained central for centuries.

Each of the four Vedas i.e., Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva, contains successive layers: Samhitas (hymns), Brahmanas (ritual manuals), Aranyakas (forest texts), and Upanishads (philosophy). This progression shows Hinduism's ability to evolve from ritual to inner realization.

- **The Upanishads:
Culmination of Vedic
Wisdom**

Composed between 800–400 BCE, the Upanishads represent the philosophical peak of Vedic thought, also called Vedānta. They shift focus from sacrifice to self-inquiry, exploring the unity



of ātman (self) and brahman (ultimate reality).

Concepts of karma, samsāra, and moksha appear here, promoting meditation and self-knowledge. Famous teachings like “Tat Tvam Asi” (“Thou art That”) affirm unity between individual and cosmic existence. Their influence shaped Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and even Western thinkers like Emerson and Schopenhauer.

- **The Epics: Dharma in Action**

The Ramayana (7th–5th centuries BCE) recounts Rama’s exile, Sita’s abduction, and Ravana’s defeat, dramatizing dharma through its characters. Retold across Asia, it became a universal story of virtue and duty.

The Mahabharata (300 BCE–300 CE), the world’s longest epic, narrates the Pandava–Kaurava rivalry and Kurukshetra war. Beyond history, it is an encyclopedia of politics, ethics, and spirituality, presenting moral dilemmas accessible to all. Within it lies the Bhagavad Gita.

- **The Bhagavad Gita:
Harmony of Paths**

In this dialogue, Krishna guides Arjuna with a synthesis of spiritual paths: Dharma (duty without attachment), Karma Yoga (selfless action), Jnana Yoga (knowledge), and Bhakti Yoga (devotion). Its universal message, which is, “act with integrity, surrender results, and cultivate devotion”, inspired seekers worldwide. Gandhi called it his “spiritual dictionary.”



- **Arthashastra: Ethics and Politics**

Attributed to Chanakya (Kautilya), the Arthashastra (c. 400 BCE–200 CE) covers governance, economics, and diplomacy. While pragmatic, it emphasizes welfare and ethical responsibility, showing that dharmic principles can guide politics without ignoring realpolitik.

- **Manusmṛti: The Dharmashastra Tradition**

Alongside the Arthashastra, the Dharmashastras shaped social order, the most prominent being the Manusmṛti (c. 200 BCE–200 CE). Attributed to Manu, it outlined duties by life stage and class, and set rules on law, kingship, and daily conduct. Though not part of the Vedas, it belongs to the Smṛti tradition, applying Vedic principles to society. Influential in shaping ancient law and custom, its hierarchical codes remain

debated today as an attempt to translate sacred ideals into governance.

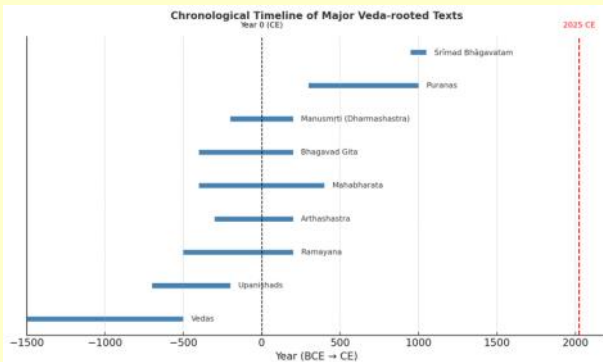
● The Purāṇas and Śrīmad Bhāgavatam

Between 300–1000 CE, the Purāṇas spread philosophy through stories, myths, and pilgrimages, democratizing Vedic wisdom. Eighteen major Purāṇas highlight traditions of Vishnu, Shiva, and Devi.

The Śrīmad Bhāgavatam (c. 950–1050 CE) elevates bhakti as the highest path, with 18,000 verses centered on Krishna, presenting divine love as universal and accessible to all.

3. Cycles of Time: The Four Yugas

Vedic cosmology views time as cyclical: Satya Yuga (truth), Treta Yuga (ritual and inequality), Dvapara Yuga (virtue and vice), and Kali Yuga (materialism and strife). We are said to be 5,127 years into Kali Yuga. Both this and science's linear timeline stress the immensity of cosmic time.



4. Transmission and Transformation of Knowledge

Centers like Takshashila and Nalanda preserved Vedic and secular studies. Thinkers like Adi Shankaracharya refined Upanishadic philosophy, while Bhakti saints spread it through vernacular songs. Hinduism engaged with Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, and Western thought, adapting without losing continuity.

5. Why Many Texts, Not One?

Hinduism rests not on one scripture but on many. Each age produced texts suited to its needs, i.e., ritual, philosophy, devotion, or politics. Together, they form a mosaic of wisdom richer than any single book.

6. Evolution of Hindu Worship

Early Vedic worship focused on fire sacrifices to uphold cosmic order. The Upanishads emphasized inner knowledge, while the Epics and Purāṇas personalized divinity in Rama, Krishna, Shiva, and Devi. Temple rituals developed, evolving worship from cosmic ritual to personal devotion.

7. Shared Roots with Other Faiths

Buddhism and Jainism arose as reform movements, rejecting Vedic ritual yet sharing ideas like karma and liberation. Sikhism blended Vedic and Bhakti elements with

Islamic influence. Modern ISKCON globalized Krishna devotion, drawing from the Gita and Bhāgavatam.

8. Toward Peace and Harmony

Together, the Vedas, Upanishads, Epics, Gita, Arthashastra, and Purāṇas chart humanity's spiritual journey. They reveal diversity as the foundation of harmony, each voice enriching the symphony of truth.

9. Conclusion

Sanātana Dharma means “eternal truth” or “eternal order.” It is a living dialogue across millennia, preserving continuity through transformation. Its universal vision stresses interconnectedness, compassion, and justice. For today's world, it offers not a fixed creed but a timeless invitation to walk together in peace, recognizing unity in diversity.

Author's Note:

This article is a brief introduction drawn from my book titled “Roots of Sanātana Dharma: The Evolution of Hindu Wisdom from the Vedas to Modern Traditions”. If you'd like to dive deeper, the full book is available to read for free here: <https://editor.reedsy.com/book/86a7e35d-fc64-4fef-9983-5afb9680074a>.



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শারদীয়ার
প্রীতি শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

Sports Day/BBQ 2025







সেপ্টেম্বরের শেষ, মুশল ধারের বৃষ্টির পর
চ্যান্ডলার্স ফোর্ডের আকাশে রোদ উঠেছে।
বেশ একটা বর্ষার বিকেল ভাব।
হিল্টের পার্কে বসে, চায়ের কাপ হাতে,
আমি ভাবছি—মেদিনীপুরের সেই রকটার কি বদলে গেছে স্বভাব?

যেখানে বিকেল মানেই আড্ডা,
আর আড্ডা মানেই জীবন।
“কী খবর রে?” বলে শুরু হওয়া
এক অনন্ত কথোপকথন।।

মন্টুবাবুর টিউশন থেকে বের হয়েই
পল্টুদার চায়ের দোকানে সান্ধ্য ঠেক।
মাত্র ২ টাকায় চা, সাথে এক প্যাকেট চপ, মুড়ি—
শুরু হয়ে যেত চর্চা সঙ্গে একটু বেশিই আবেগ।।

তখন ঘোর বাম জমানা।
এসএফআই-এর দাদা ও দিদিদের প্রবল প্রতাপ—
আকাশ-বাতাস কাপানো স্লোগান:
“ধনি-বুর্জোয়াদের কালো হাত ভেঙে দাও, গুড়িয়ে দাও!”

এমনই এক আড্ডার ঠেক থেকে জানতে পারলাম—
বুর্জোয়া কাহারে কই!

আমাদের সাইন্স ব্যাচটা একটু বেশী ফিচেল ছিলো।
আড্ডার ঠেকের নামও ছিলো বেশ হাই-টেক—
“স্টিরিও ঠেক”!
এই স্টিরিও কোনো মিউজিক্যাল নয়,
মলিকিউলের কনফিগারেশন থেকে ইন্সপায়ার্ড।

এরকমই এক আড্ডার সন্ধ্যা,
উপস্থিত হলেন সত্যদা—
আমাদের ক্লাসে এসএফআই-এর জনসংযোগ প্রতিনিধি!
ওনার সত্যই কত বয়স, সেই বিষয়ে ছিল সবাই অনিশ্চিত
আর কত বৎসর ছাত্রাবস্থা তাহাও হাইলি সিক্রেটিভ !

খুব সদ্যই বাম পুনরায় ক্ষমতায় এসেছে—
আমরা ২৩৫, আর ওরা ৩৫! চারিদিকে দামামা বাজছে।
তখনি আবার সিঙ্গুর, নন্দীগ্রামে মেঘ একটু একটু ঘনাতে শুরু করেছে।

একদিনের সান্ধ্য আড্ডায় আমরা সত্যদাকে চেপে ধরলাম—
“এ কিরকম গণতন্ত্র?”
যেখানে প্রতিবাদের ভাষা কে করো অবিরত অপদস্থ,
“এটাই কি সেই মার্ক্স-লেনিনের সমাজতন্ত্র?”

আমাদের প্রশ্নে অতির্ষ হয়ে সত্যদা বলেই ফেলল—
“আমি কি সরকারের মুখপাত্র?” “ব্রিগেড কিংবা আলিমুদ্দিন ঘুরে এসে আমাকে দাও ক্ষান্ত!”
কিন্তু তর্ক-বিতর্ক হোক না যতই ফাটাফাটি, আড্ডার ঠেক থাকতো অলওয়েজ জমাটি।।

কে জানে, সেই পল্টুদার দোকান আর আছে কিনা—
না কি ধূলিস্যাং হয়ে গেছে শপিং মলের চাপে !
কে জানে, এখনও কেউ মন খুলে বর্তমান শাসকদের দু -চার কথা শোনাতে দিতে পারে
কিনা—
চিত্ত যেথা ভয় শূন্য, আপোসহীন শ্রেণীসংগ্রামের বাণী শোনাতে শোনাতে!!

এ যুগের আড্ডা এখন ডিজিটাল- গ্রুপের বাহার হোয়াটস্যাপ-এ,
কিন্তু কথা বলতে হয় সার্বধানে!
কে জানে কে কীভাবে নেবে—
“শুঙ্কস্ কাঠং” লেখা উইথআউট কোনও ইমোশনে ।

তবুও তাতেই বিপ্লব!
কালকেই এসজিএম ডেকে
এর একটা হেস্টনেস্ত করতে হবে!
ইলেকশন কমিশনার সাহেব বলেন—
“আমিই সবই দেখছি।”
কথাটা কি ও সিরিয়াসলি বলছে,
না কি, উপহাসে কৌতুকে !

কিন্তু থেমে থাকে না আড্ডা।

আড্ডা হলো একটি বিশুদ্ধ সময় অতিবাহন ।
কেউ বলে, কেউ শোনে, কেউ তর্ক করে,
কেউ শুধু চুপচাপ বসে থাকে।

কেউ কেউ বলে—
“এই জন্যই তো বাঙালি কিছু উন্নতি করতে পারেনি—
ফালতু সময় নষ্ট করে শুধু আড্ডা দেয়!”

কিন্তু আমি বলি—
আড্ডা একটা ভালো সাহচর্য।
বাঙালির রসপ্রীতির সাথে মিশে থাকা
এক অনন্য আনন্দ ও যৌবনের প্রাচুর্য।

আড্ডা আমাদের শিকড়ের টান।
আড্ডা আমাদের আত্মপরিচয়।
আড্ডা এক চুপচাপ বিপ্লব।

বিপ্লব শুধু মিছিল দিয়ে হয় না,
কথার মধ্যেও হয়।

শেষ কথা?
আড্ডা হারিয়ে যায় না। ওটা শুধু রূপ বদলায়।
মেদিনীপুরের স্টেশন পাড়া থেকে হিল্টের হলে
চায়ের কাপ থেকে মোবাইল স্ক্রিনে—
আড্ডা চলেই।

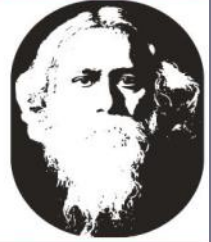


HPCA artists at Southampton Mela 2025



The HPCA Presents

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VENUE: THE HILT, CHANDLER'S FORD. SO535NP

List of HPCA Members

(Members for 12 months from 2024 Durga Puja)

Acharyya	Madhusudan + Bharati
Banerjee	Raj + Sandhya
Banerjee	Rupjani + Angshuman Panigrahi
Banerjee	Anindya + Sikha
Barua	Pranabesh + Susmita
Basak	Raja + Moumi
Basu	Abhishek + Roselle
Basu	Manab + Arpana
Basu	Shatrunjay
Basu	Subhradipta + Sreeparna
Bhadra	Vivek + Sarbani
Bhattacharya	Sushmita + Shyamantak
Bose	Amit + Christina Sum
Burman	Koushik + Moumita
Chakraborty	Soumyabrata + Abanti
Chakraborty	Ananda + Ahana
Chakraborty	Koushik + Debipurba
Chakravarty	Siddharta + Soma
Chatterjee	Shre & Sophie
Chatterjee	Subhendu + Arijita
Chowdhury	Samuel + Priyanka
Chaudhury	Sadhana
Chavda	Koushik + Sunita
Das	Bulbulee
Deb	Rishi & Indrani
Dutta	Debjit + Anubhuti Agarwal
Dutta	Anjan + Family
Dwivedi	Vineet + Family
Hall	John + Debika
Jana	Arnab + Dhriti
Kapoor	Rajit
Kar	Santanu + Monisha
Karode	Shyam + Chhaya
Karode	Himanshu + Trishita

List of HPCA Members

Khurana	Tarun
Kumar	Tonmoy + Haimanti
Kundu	Krishnan + Suparna
Mahapatra	Jubilee + Family
Maharatna	Koushik + Aditi
Mishra	Tapas + Mamta
Mishra	Arun + Anindita
Mukherjee	Manish + Sutapa
Mukherjee	Nilanjan + Runa
Mukhopadhyaya	Rishika
Nagpal	Mahesh + Family
Nicholson	Soama + Colin
Nischal	Yogesh + Jatshree
Pathak	Debnarayan + Dalia
Ray	Swayamjyoti + Meenakshi
Rokade	Ashok + Kirti
Roy	Kohinoor + Nandan
Roy	Ipsita + Atul
Roy	Tapash + Susmita
Sahu	Ranjit + Priyanka
Sahu	Sujit + Ranu
Sarkar	Debashis + Pratima
Sau	Jayanta + Aparna
Semple	Chris + Peyalee
Setu	Sanjay + Nandini
Singha Roy	Soumya + Rimpa
Singh	Simran + Balvinder
Sinha	Kajari
Sinha	Dipshankar + Mohua
Somani	Bhaskar + Sweta
Tiwari	Laxmikant + Baishakhi
Verlekar	Pankaj + Heena Kithany

Become an HPCA member and get complimentary access to all of our events throughout the year.

To join, simply contact one of our committee members.

Durga Puja 2025 Sponsorships

Puja and Culture Sponsorships

Friday Evening	Swayam Jyoti and Meenakshi Ray	&	Shantanu Kar and Monisha Poddar
Saturday Morning	Manish and Sutapa Mukherjee	&	Koushik and Aditi Maharatna
Saturday Evening	Manab Ranjan and Arpana Basu	&	Tapas Mishra and Mamata Parhi
Sunday Morning	Nilanjan and Runa Mukherjee	&	Soumyabrata and Abanti Chakraborty
Sunday Afternoon (Outside Artists)	Nandan and Kohinoor Roy	&	John and Debika Hall
Sunday Evening (Sindoor Khela)	Debnarayan and Dalia Pathak		—

Bhog Sponsorship

Mahalaya	Sujit and Ranu Sahu	&	Ranjit and Priyanka Sahu
Friday Evening	Vivek and Sarbani Bhadra	&	Madhu Sudan and Bharati Acharyya
Saturday Morning	Raja and Moumi Basak	&	Rishi and Indrani Deb
Saturday Evening	Debjit Dutta and Anubhuti Agarwal	&	Tonmoy and Haimanti Kumar
Sunday Morning	Koushik and Debipurba Chakraborty	&	Yogesh and Jayshree Nischal

Ananya Magazine Editor: Soumya Singha Roy

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