

CHITTARANJAN PARK KALI MANDIR SOCIETY (KMS)

NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXV No. XI AN UPDATE ON SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

From the Secretary's Desk

Respected Members / Devotees,

I feel privileged in extending once again my heartiest Bijoya Greetings to you all Members of KMS and the Residents of Chittaranjan Park and adjoining areas and readers of Newsletter. May the Mother Durga shower her immense blessings on all of us. You would doubtless share with me the satisfaction that the Durgotsab, 2015 from 19th October to 23rd October, 2015, the mega-festival of the year in the Mandir has passed off peacefully and smoothly. Devotees participation including that of respected senior citizens was indeed tremendous, as reflected in the turnout for Pushpanjali, Prasad, Bhog, Sandhyarati, Cultural Functions and Pratima Baran. The Broad-based Durga Puja Committee, 2015, constituted by the KMS did a splendid job particularly in Organization, Reception, Security & Volunteers, Cleanliness, Reception to VIPs, and in other fields - Puja, Prasad, Bhog and Cultural Affairs (including Cultural Competitions). You all also agree that with the procurement of huge quantity of lotus flowers, Jaba, Aparajita and Billa Patra, devotees were highly satisfied while offering Pushpanjali to Mother Durga. The role played by South Delhi Durga Puja Immersion Committee (SDDPIC) and KMS (Immersion sub-Committee) in Pratima Niranjana are noteworthy. The Bijoya Samelan was organized on the evening of 23rd October in Puja Compound wherein Shantijal was sprinkled by respected Priests and greetings exchanged. The occasion created an

atmosphere of cordiality, unity and fellow feelings.

I also express my deep regards to donors and fund collectors as without their cooperation it would have been difficult to perform the Maha Puja in such a grand scale. Further, while KMS targeted efficient management of the great event, there might have been some lapses here and there. Suggestions, if any, towards better management of the great event is most welcome.

The events of November, 2015 which are worth-mentioning are: Sri Sri Kali Puja - (10/11), Jagaddhatri Puja (20/11), Satyanarayan Puja (25/11), and Shoni Puja (28/11). I on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues cordially invite you to join with friends and members of your family in these festivals.

With regards,

Dr. Pradip Majumdar

SRI SRI DURGA PUJA

Durga Puja, the mega religious event of the month of October, 2015 was celebrated in the Mandir complex from the 19th to 23rd October, 2015 exhibiting deep religious sentiments and limitless joy. The celebration was started with 'Ananda Mela' (a fair of joy and merriment) on the 19th October, 2015. The emphasis was on age-old Bengali tradition - charming idols in Ekchala, eye-catching pandal with decorative photos of Deities who gave their divine weapons to Maa Durga,

offering of Pushpanjali with 'Jaba' and 'Aparajita' flowers brought in huge quantities by air from Kolkata, preparation and distribution of a variety of Prasad, Bhog and Sandhi Puja with deep religious spirit on October 21, 2015 with 1008 Lotus flowers, 'Saptasati' hom yagna on Mahanavami Day (October 22) and sprinkling of holy 'Shantijal' on 'Bijoya Dashami'. The procession of about forty drummers in the early morning of 'Durgashasti' and 'Sandhya Arati' by three priests on each Puja evening were added attractions. Senior Citizens, in thousands, seated in a special enlarged space, took bhog with great pleasure. Month-long cultural events-competitions / melodious programme of songs and dances presented by local and Kolkata Artistes in the evening of four puja days commencing from 23rd September to 22nd October, 2015 were entertaining.

With all humility, it may be said that Durga Puja in Kali Mandir was a grand event.

SWAMI SHANTATMANANDA MAHARAJJI INAUGURATED DURGA PUJA

Swami Shantatmananda Maharajji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi inaugurated Sri Sri Durga Puja on the evening of October 19, 2015 and performed Arati in the presence of a large number of devotees. Revered Swamiji was felicitated by KMS with an angabastra, flower bouquet and pronami.

NEWLY DEVELOPED JABA GARDEN

When the Devotees visit the Kali Mandir next time, they would be greeted with a full gloomed 'JABA' Garden in between Shiva Temple and Kali Temple. It was the courtesy of Prof. B. K. Sen, Ph.D., resident of 80, Shivalik Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi - 110019, who came forward and agreed to donate 16 plants of Jaba of different varieties. The garden would be adorned with rare varieties which are not normally seen. It is the humble offerings of Prof. Sen and his family members to have thought for this pious gift to Kali Mandir and KMS is grateful to them.

SOUTH DELHI DURGA PUJA IMMERSION COMMITTEE (SDDPIC)

Arrangements made by SDDPIC on Immersion Day (23.10.2015) at Kalindi Kunj Ghat was far better than previous years. The number of cranes were also more than last year. Lighting and other arrangements were also noteworthy.

Whole hearted co-operation received from the District Magistrate (SE) and Delhi Police were praiseworthy.

The entire work was co-ordinated, organised and managed skilfully by Shri M. K. Roy, Secretary, SDDPIC.

This committee was established in 1993, Dr. Ananda Mukherjee is the Chairman and Dr. Pradip Majumdar is the Treasurer of this Committee.

দরিদ্র নারায়ণ সেবা

Daridra Narayan Sewa was organised on Sunday, 25th October 2015. In spite of the great mega event - Durga Puja, KMS kept in mind the sewa to the down trodden and maintained the October slot.

OBITUARY

M. B. Roy Choudhury, E - 834, C. R. Park left for his heavenly abode on 28.09.2015.

Ajoy Biswas, 21-B/88, C. R. Park left for his heavenly abode on 09.10.2015.

R. R. Goswami, M - 7, C. R. Park left for his heavenly abode on 12.10.2015.

Sachi Bhushan Ghosh, D - 592, C. R. Park left for his heavenly abode on 24.10.2015.

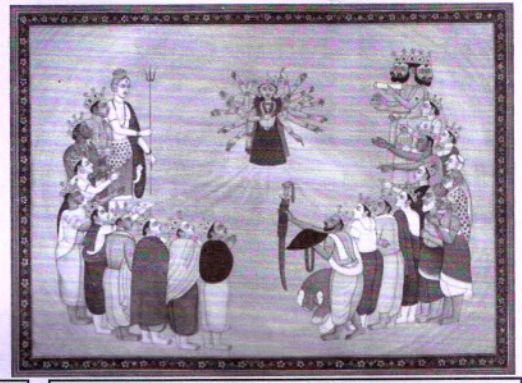
We offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for eternal peace of the departed souls.

Glimpses of Durga Puja 2015





**WEAPONS
BESTOWED
TO
DEVI DURGA**



MAHISHA, THE ASURA'S KING, OBTAINED FROM BRAHMA A BOON : NO PLANT, HUMAN, ANIMAL, DEMON OR GOD COULD KILL HIM.

ACCORDING TO MARKANDEYA PURANA, THE FORM OF DURGA WAS CREATED AS A WARRIOR GODDESS TO FIGHT THE DEMON MAHISHASURA. HIS FATHER RAMBHA, KING OF THE DEMONS, ONCE FELL IN LOVE WITH A WATER BUFFALO, AND MAHISHASUR WAS BORN OUT OF THIS UNION. HE IS THEREFORE ABLE TO CHANGE BETWEEN HUMAN AND BUFFALO FORM AT WILL.

ALL THE GODS GAVE THEIR DIVINE WEAPON TO THE SUPREME POWER.

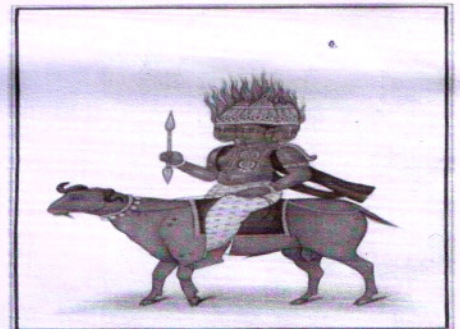


SURYA GAVE QUIVER & ARROW

MAHADEV GAVE HIS TRISHUL



EVENTUALLY, SINCE ONLY A WOMAN COULD KILL MAHISHASURS, THE TRINITY BESTOWED A DAZZLING BEAM OF ENERGY UPON UMA/PARVATI, THE WIFE OF SHIVA, TRANSFORMING HER INTO THE GODDESS, DURGA. HER FORM WAS BLINDINGLY BEAUTIFUL WITH 3 LOTUS-LIKE, BLOOD-BORDERED EYES, TEN POWERFUL HANDS, HAIR IN THE FORM OF BLACK PEARLS, GOLDEN GLOW FROM HER SKIN. HER FACE WAS SCULPTED BY SHIVA, TORSO BY INDRA, BREASTS BY CHANDRA, TEETH BY BRAHMA, BOTTOM BY THE EARTH, THIGHS AND KNEES BY VARUNA (WIND), AND HER THREE EYES BY AGNI, SURYA & CHANDRA. FROM THE LIGHTS OF OTHER GODS AS WELL, THE AUSPICIOUS GODDESS WAS BORN.



VISHNU GAVE HIS CHAKRA

AGNI GAVE FLAMING DART



VARUN GAVE SHANKHA

INDRA GAVE BAJRO & GHANTA



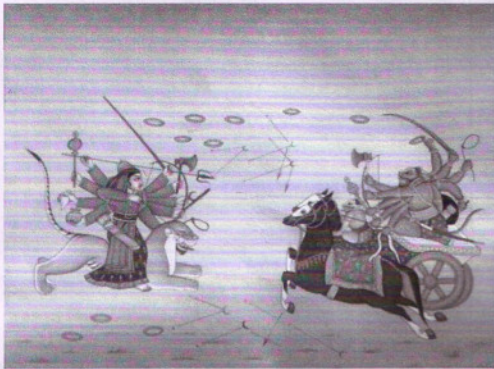
VAYU GAVE HIS DHANUK



VISHWAKARMA GAVE AXE & ARMOR



HIMAVAT GAVE HIS LION



DURGA RODE INTO THE BATTLE FIELD & CHALLENGED DEMONS FOR BATTLE

EACH OF THE WEAPONS HOLDS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE TRISHUL SYMBOLIC OF THE THREE HUMAN QUALITIES - SATWA, RAJAS AND TAMAS. THE 'SUDARSHANA CHAKRA', DENOTES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD SPINS AROUND HER AND SHE IS COMMANDER OF ALL THAT IS HAPPENING. GODDESS DURGA HOLDS A SWORD IN HER HAND, SIGNIFYING KNOWLEDGE, AS SHARP AS THE BLADE. THE BOW AND ARROWS SYMBOLIZE ENERGY, BOTH POTENTIAL (BOW) AND ARROW (KINETIC). THE THUNDERBOLT SYMBOLIZES FIRMNESS, LIKE THAT REQUIRED IN CONVICTIONS. THIS CONVEYS TO THE DEVOTEES THAT THEY NEED TO ATTACK THEIR FEARS AND CHALLENGE IT WITH A FIRMNESS THAT IS UNYIELDING AND FULL OF CONFIDENCE. BESIDES THESE WEAPONS, THE CONCH EMANATED THE SOUND OF 'OM'. THE LOTUS BUD MEANS THAT THE OUT OF THE WORLD OF MURKINESS EMERGES THE TRUTH OF LIFE AND THAT HER DEVOTEES CAN ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL AWARENESS AMIDST ALL THE SINS AND EVILS SURROUNDING THEM.

ON THE END OF THE 8TH & BEGINNING OF THE 9TH DAY OF WAXING MOON, CHANDA AND MUNDA CAME TO FIGHT THE GODDESS. SHE TURNED BLUE WITH ANGER AND GODDESS CHAMUNDA LEAPED OUT OF HER THIRD EYE. HER FORM WAS THE MOST POWERFUL ONE WITH 3 RED EYES, BLOOD-FILLED TONGUE AND DARK SKIN; WHO FINALLY KILLED THE TWIN DEMONS WITH HER SWORD. THIS FORM OF THE DIVINE GODDESS IS WORSHIPPED DURING THE SANDHIKSHAN OF DURGA PUJA FESTIVAL, AS SANDHI/ CHANDI PUJA.



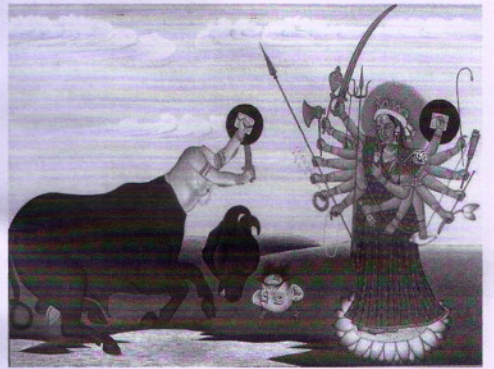
YOMRAJ GAVE HIS IRON ROD



BRAHMA GAVE HIS WATER-POT.



KUBER GAVE HIS GADA



ON THE 10th DAY OF WAXING MOON, GODDESS DURGA KILLED ASURA WITH HER TRIDENT.

Concept & Designed by : Suhan Basu & Aritra Das

মা মনুয়া

বর্ষান্তে সাদা মেঘের ভেলা উড়ে যায় এক অজানা দেশের উদ্দেশ্যে। শরতের বাতাস ঢেউ খেলে যায় কাশবনে, শিউলি ফুলের গন্ধ চারদিকে ম ম করে, তখনই আমাদের মনে এক আনন্দের জোয়ার বয়ে যায় মা আগমনীর আগমনের বার্তায়। মা আসছেন, আসবেন, আবার আসবেন বারবার আসবেন।

মন্দির প্রাঙ্গণে মায়ের আগমনীর প্রস্তুতি শুরু হয়ে যায় আগাস্ট মাস থেকে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ থেকে কারিগররা এসে শুরু করে দেয় মেরাপ বাঁধার কাজ। গৌবিন্দ তার দলবল নিয়ে শুরু করে প্রতিমা গড়ার কাজ। মহিলারা ভীড় করে শাড়ীর মেলায়, ফুচকা বিক্রেতারার রাস্তার কোনায় কোনায় বসে যায় তাদের সামগ্রী নিয়ে, আর শিশুরা নেচে নেচে তাদের ছড়া শুরু করে - "চাই কুর কুর, চাই কুর কুর, বাদ্যি বেজেছে, ফুলের গন্ধ এসেছে.....।"

সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিযোগিতা - পূজোর সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিযোগিতার কাজ শুরু হয় এক মাস আগে থেকে। অফিস থেকে ফিরে, পোষাক বদলিয়ে বাবুরা তাদের পরিবারদের নিয়ে পৌঁছে যান মন্দির প্রাঙ্গণে অনুষ্ঠান উপভোগ করার জন্য, সাথে থাকে গরম গরম কফি, পকোরা, আর জমিয়ে আড্ডার আসর। ৬ বছর থেকে নিয়ে ৮৬ বছর পর্যন্ত প্রতিযোগিতারা অংশ গ্রহণ করেন বিভিন্ন বিভাগে - আবৃত্তি, সঙ্গীত, নৃত্য, বেশরঙ্গ, সুরসঙ্গম, অন্তাঙ্করী, আলপনা, ধনুচিত্তে। প্রতিযোগিতা চলে পঞ্চমীর দিন পর্যন্ত। তারপর দেখতে দেখতে আনন্দ মুখের চারদিন কেটে যায় দশমী বিহিত পূজা সমাপনে। কালিন্দীকুঞ্জে যমুনার সৈকত সলিলে প্রতিমা নিরঞ্জনের পর, উপস্থিত অগণিত ভক্তবৃন্দ হাত তুলে উদাত্ত কণ্ঠে বলেছিলেন "আসছে বছর আবার হবে।"

RECEPTION - The first encounter that the large number of Visitors had on entering the sprawling Puja Mandap was the well decorated, aesthetic Backdrop, smartly dressed ladies and gentlemen in their traditional attire manning the Reception Centre. The Desk officials were always ready to provide information to the Visitors on all the four days. The entire Complex was under CCTV surveillance, closely monitored at the large TV screen installed at the Reception. VIPs like, Arvind Kejriwal, CM, Meenakshi Lekhi, MP, Ramesh Bidhuri, MP, Satish Upadhaya, President, BJP, Virender Kasana, Councillor and Sharmistha Mukherjee, Spokesperson - Congress, graced the occasion. They were greeted with flower bouquets, cup of coffees and escorted to Durga Mandap and Bhog area. They appreciated the

entire arrangements.

ANANDA MELA - The maiden event of the four day's festival was Ananda Mela, which was predominantly the region of the ladies. By 2.30 PM all the 120 tables were booked and the ladies started to bring their home made items thereafter. The colourful display of different tables made the Mela an attractive one. The Mela was inaugurated by Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, MP.

PUJA DIVISION - Inauguration Ceremony of Maa Durga was performed by Swami Shantatmananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission in the presence of large number of devotees on the evening of Mahasasthi. The Puja Division had started the preparation of performing different rituals in a disciplined, orderly and with religious fervour, and the expectations of the devotees were foremost in their minds. Special attention was paid by them to conduct the 'Sondhi Puja' in an orderly manner and to see that the devotees participated in a comfortable manner.

PRASAD DIVISION - After Pushpanjali, the devotees expected a spoon of charanamrita and a packet of Prasad. The Prasad Division had to make ready about 8000 prasad packets on the previous days tirelessly. About 30 volunteers worked in a factory like manner in Netaji Subhash hall. Each day, the prasad items were different. They also arranged sweet packets for the devotees on the Shantijal day after sprinkling of holy water.

BHOG DIVISION - At Kali Mandir, Bhog is distributed at four places on Mahasaptami, Mahaastami and Mahanavami days - General counter, Sr. Citizen arena, Special counter for the residents of Chittaranjan Park and the VIP enclosure. In all about 50,000 devotees partook Bhog Prasad on all the three days. In addition to this, 1200 special packed Thalīs were also handed over to the devotees. All these were handled by our Bhog and Thali Distribution Division meticulously.

CULTURAL DIVISION - The venue of the cultural programme is the back lawn where the Bhog is distributed. When the bhog distribution was over, the entire area was spruced up and chairs laid for the spectators to enjoy the cultural Programme. This year lot of thinking and efforts were made to cater to all age groups, for which the preparation started two months ahead. Noted artists like Iman Chakraborty, Shreya Guha Thakurta, Angshujit & Abhijit, Shounak Chattopadhyaya, Samik Pal, Manoj Murli Nayyar, Prabuddha Raha and dance drama 'Mirabai' and Folk Song Artists, all from Kolkata presented their programmes. A unique Jatra Pala - which is a

dying art, was also presented on the Navami day titled 'Pagla Thakur' by a well known Jatra Group from Kolkata. Well known local artists like Mihir Basu, Bishaka Basu, Kumar Lala and dance item by Spondon presented their items to the delight of the audience.

STALLS & BANNERS - Welcome Gates, Banners and colourful stalls added glamour to Puja Pandal. Pillars inside the Puja Pandal were wrapped with decorative flex sheets of Maa Durga face sponsored by S Y Associates & State Bank of India, Chittaranjan Park Branch in a big way. Two fully equipped Ambulances were stationed in the Mandir Complex to meet any exigencies, sponsored by 'Max Healthcare' and 'Saket City Hospital'.

SECURITY - During Durga Puja threat perception loomed large on whole of Delhi, hence KMS took it seriously and deployed Private Security Guards, Volunteers equipped with WALKIE-TALKIE in addition to police personnel from C. R. Park Police Station. On account of their strict vigilance, four criminals were apprehended while pick-pocketing. With the blessings of Maa Durga, Durga Puja went off without any untoward incident.

IMMERSION DIVN. - This year Fork Crane was engaged to lift the heavy idol of Maa Durga and other idols safely on the truck. About 1000 devotees, attired in Red T-shirts, donated by a well-wisher, participated in the colourful procession and danced merrily to the tune of Dhak and Kasor.

CULTURAL PANORAMA

