



DURGA PUJA 2016

DAKSHINI BENGALI ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
TORRANCE CIVIC CENTER, OCTOBER 7,8 & 9

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Dakshini Executive Committee and the **2016 Puja organizing committee**, I welcome you all to our annual Durga Puja festivities in Los Angeles, California. At the onset, I like to remind you that this celebration is entirely yours, please make it a success by your all-out participation so that the selfless service provided for countless hours by our hardworking volunteers become meaningful.

We eagerly wait for a year for this auspicious occasion to celebrate our heritage, culture and spirituality. Devi Durga is the symbol of victory of good over evil, unity over fragmentation, accomplishment over inaction, and hope over despair. Let's reflect on the symbolism of the festival so that each of us become friendlier and helping towards other human beings.

This is the 32 anniversary of the Dakshini's Durga Puja. We respectfully acknowledge those of our community members who envisioned Dakshini and worked relentlessly to make it a reality. We also recognize our past leaders and volunteers of Dakshini, who guided the organization to become inclusive, vibrant and socially responsible. On this day of happiness and celebration, as we welcome visitors and new members to our Puja, we also remember those who have left us after being part of our lives and our community. We will always cherish their memories.

I thank each of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to become part of these revelries, and for your generous financial support which made this program possible. I also request you to appreciate and recognize all our volunteers, who are tirelessly providing service and support to make your Durga Puja experience pleasant. My recurrent requests to all of you: please make our visitors and new members feel welcome to our Puja, and please discuss the significance of our customs and festivals to our next generation and pass our heritage to them so that they become the future leaders of our organization to celebrate our traditions.

Now, let's forget all our drudgery, boredom, sorrows and despairs, let's rejuvenate ourselves in spirituality, friendship, food and cultural programs. Let's enjoy.

Sincerely,

Bidhan Ray

President, Dakshini



Dakshini Executive Committee 2015-2017

President	Bidhan Ray
Vice President	Mohua “Piu” Roy
Secretary	Soumitra Banerjee
Treasurer	Shubharoop Ghosh

Executive Members

Abir Chakraborty	Saradindu Dolui
Avijit Bhunia	Sibabrata Ray
Madhumita Basu	Siddhartha Dattagupta
Sampurna Dube	

**Welcome to
Durga Puja October 7, 8, 9, 2016**

**Dakshini
Bengali Association of California
Torrance Civic Center**

Durga Puja 2016 Teams

Priest	Kamalendu Ganguly
Puja Sub-Committee	Anup Goswami, Rupashree Goswami, Ranjit Das, Rupa Das, Kamalendu Ganguly, Pratima Ganguly, Rini Ghosh, Biswarupa Dube, Karabi Dube, Sulata Banerjee, Siddhartha Ghosh, Sumita Das, Arin Ghosh, Jayanti Dasgupta, Ritu Bhattacharya, Rita Datta, Malay Das, Arati Das, Ahana Bhunia, Ankita Sarkar, Apala Bhunia, Samiksha Mukherjee, Srijita Ghosh, Sonali Chakrabarti, Pratishruti Bhunia
Fundraising Sub-Committee	Bidhan Ray, Shubharoop Ghosh, Arnab Chatterjee, Maitrayi Majumdar, Ajoy Dube, Sarnath Chattaraj
Adv. / Booth Sub-Committee	Shubharoop Ghosh, Sampurna Dube, Sourav Roy, Rini Ghosh, Nibedita Laha, Ajoy Dube, Sharmila Dasgupta, Kalpana Chakrabarty, Sarnath Chattaraj, Rupak Chatterjee
Registration Sub-Committee	Sibabrata Ray, Shubharoop Ghosh, Keka Ray, Dipankar Basu, Swapna Ray, Suparna Chakladar, Bidhan Ray, Sangita Chattaraj, Kaushik Sarkar, Sweta Bhattacharya, Puja Pal, Debasmita Chatterjee
Entertainment Sub-Committee	Saurav Ghosh-Roy, Chameli Biswas, Reshmi Ghosh Chowdhury, Mohua Roy, Ananya Dattagupta, Padmaparna Chatterjee, Arnab Chatterjee, Siddhartha Dattagupta, Shawli Roy, Barna Saha, Mili Chatterjee, Bhaswati Moulik, Dipankar Basu, Kalachand Seal, Partha Pratim Mondal, Suman Saha, Poly Chatterjee, Soumen Ghosh, Surya Mukherjee, Riddhi Chakraborty, Sourabhi Sen, Swapna Ray, Sweta Bhattacharya, Sudipta Ghosh, Rajasri Chakraborty, Madhumita Basu, Mrinal Kanti Ghosh
Banquet Sub-Committee	Abir Chakraborty, Avijit Bhunia, Sajal Debnath, Anupam Sukul, Pranjit Saha, Siddhartha Biswas, Ananya Dattagupta, Keka Ray, Arpita Mukherjee, Arnab Chatterjee, Biswajoy Basak, Chandana Sarkar, Daipayan Sen, Kaushik Biswas, Mrinmay Sarkar, Padmaparna Haldar, Riddhi Chakraborty, Sanjib Mukherjee, Sibabrata Ray, Sourav Roy, Shawli Roy, Soumen Ghosh, Suchismita Ghosh, Suprabha Ray, Swagoto Ghosh
Puja Decoration Sub-Committee	Subhendu Roy, Mohua (Piu) Roy, Dhruva Bhattacharyay, Saswati Bhattacharyay, Pushkar Ghosh Chowdhury, Reshmi Ghosh Chowdhury, Dipankar Basu, Madhumita Basu, Atis Das, Malobika Das, Bidhan Ray, Swapna Ray, Soumitra Banerjee, Popy Banerjee, Ritwik Chattopadhyay, Joe Fernandez, Supratik Champati, Rajesh Mishra, Munia Mishra, Sandip De Sarkar, Chumki Sen, Arnab Chatterjee, Riyam Roy, Megha Roy, Notonesh Bhattacharya
Stage Management Sub-Committee	Sarnath Chattaraj, Sampurna Dube, Sujata Dube, Rajasri Chakraborty, Arin Ghosh, Madhumita Basu, Anindya Chatterjee, Nibedita Laha, Saurav Ghosh-Roy, Jayeeta Ghosh, Swapna Ray, Chumki Sen
Brochure Sub-Committee	Soumitra Banerjee, Popy Banerjee, Sampurna Dube, Ajoy Dube & members who submitted write-ups for brochure
Cover Page	<i>Cover page was developed and designed by Subrata Ghosh</i>

Note: This committee is comprised of members that have worked in different phases of the planning (initiated April 2016) and execution phase of Puja 2016. We apologize for any inadvertent omission. An updated list is posted at www.dakshini.org

2016 Mahalaya at Bharat Sevashram Sangha



Dakshini presented Mahalaya program at Bharat Sevashram Sangha on Saturday, 1st October, 2016.

Devi Vandana - an instrumental and vocal music ensemble on Indian classical raga based compositions, directed by Suman Laha, performed by students of Suman Laha and community members.

The compositions are invocations to Devi Durga on the commencement of the Matri Paksha.

Music composed & directed by : **SUMAN LAHA**
Tabla accompaniment by: **JYOTIPRAKASH**

Instruments Shekhor Bhattacharya, Alan Cohn, Mark Switzer, Tuhinkana Das, Pervez Howladar, Lata Damle, Dinker Patel, Ruhani Patel, Mamata Behera, Trupty Mistry, Sonali Date, Hemendra Trivedi, Nainesh Solanki

Vocals Suprabha Biswas, Dr Purnima Thakran, Joita Bose Mandal, Dr Soma Shil, Mitali Dutta, Monolina Shil, Noel Shil, Rafiq Dossani, Jessie Wren, Aditi Sengupta, Anushka Sengupta, Arushi Biswas, Apurva Mandal, Dishan Biswas

Friday Highlights

Mohishashur Mardini & Rangabati by Odissi Dance Circle, Cerritos

Students of Odissi Dance Circle, under the tutelage of Smt. Nandita Behera will be performing "Mohishashur Mardini", a dance drama that depicts the epic battle between Goddess Durga and Mahisha, the buffalo demon.



A group of younger dancers will be performing a folk dance to the tune of "Rangabati", a very popular folk song in Odisha.

Mohishashur Mardini

Diya Chakraborti, Titash Biswas ,
Pourobi Saha,
Tia De Sarkar, Riya Banerjee,
Hea Chowdhury,
Aaryaki Tripathy, Tandra Mistry, Monalisa Pattnaik
Priyanka Ghosh Choudhuri, Oishi Das,
Anusha Basak



Rangabati

Paroma Ganguly, Anusha Kohli, Pushpita Roy, Ally Ramirez, Alisba Tareque, Simran Pattnaik

Rupankar Bagchi



Rupankar is a Bengali singer from Kolkata, West Bengal, India. At an early age he learned classical vocal from his father Ritendra Nath Bagchi and Rabindra Sangeet from his mother Sumitra Bagchi. He was trained in classical music from Sukumar Mitra and in modern songs from Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay. His first stage performance was at the age of eleven.

Rupankar has sung many famous songs in recent Bengali films like Chalo Let's Go (2008), Baishe Srabon (2011), Aparajita Tumi (2012), Hemlock society (2012), Dutta Vs Dutta (2012), Jaatishwar (2014) and Chotushkone (2014). He was awarded the National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for the song "E Tumi Kemon Tumi" from Jaatishwar.

For Rupankar it is like a voyage through the ocean of music which has engulfed his days and nights. Now the music studio is his home – the musicians are his family members.

Saturday Highlights



ACADEMY OF ARTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

SAAT BHAII CHAMPA

the Rise of the Prince

Saat Bhai Champa is the story of seven Champa flowers and their elder sister Parul. These flowers have been nurtured by Mother Nature or Bonodebi who has made every single effort to ward them from the evil eyes and protect them with all her motherly instinct. Loved and adored, they grow up in a forest away from the human eye where they speak a thousand words, sing and dance to the ethereal tune of Mother Nature. One day the prince arrives and steps into this enchanted forest where he finds the forest elements conversing with each other like one big happy family.



However, he felt that there was a pensive mood hidden behind all happiness and laughter. He came to know that these flowers are actually human beings who have been left alone by evil Suo Rani and cruel partner Kunji Buri. The prince decides to confront the king where he promises to let the king know what went on in his kingdom. The prince and his friend take an oath to do what is right and just. The king oblivious of the fact that Suo Rani and Kunji were cooking up evil plots to kill the children of Duo Rani, was confronted by the prince and his friend. Is it so easy for the king to believe that? Will Suo Rani and Kunji Buri acknowledge their defeat so easily? Something to think about.....

CAST: Aarohi Kar, Aarya Moulik, Aditya Mukherjee, Adrian Sen, Ahana Bhunia, Aishani Dasgupta, Aishik Chakraborty, Anusha Ghosal, Anusri Purkayastha, Apala Bhunia, Areeb Howlader, Arjun Ghosh, Arushi Bagchi, Arushi Purkayastha, Aviraj Ghosh, Avish Banerjee, Ayushi Dattagupta, Ayush Goswami, Bhaswati Moulik, Debayon Roy, Deshan Biswas, Ipsita Bhattacharya, Priyanka Ghosh Choudhuri, Ritu Ganguli, Riyam Roy, Rohan Ganguli, Rohan Ghosh Choudhuri, Ronjini Chatterjee, Samiksha Mukherjee, Sampurna Dube, Saunak Ghosh, Shayon Roy, Shirom Mukherjee, Simran Bhattacharya, Soham Sarkar, Spandan Ghosh, Srijita Ghosh, and Sweta Bhattacharya

Written, directed, and composed: Riddhi Chakraborty, Program Manager: Ananya Dattagupta, Choreography: Debapriya Bhattacharya & Sourabhi Sen, Lighting: Reshmi Dutta, Costumes & Decor: Mohua Roy, Music Control: Rupasree Goswami, Lapel and Sound: Arnab Chatterjee, Sound Assistant: Rajasri Chakraborty, Prop Management: Notonesh Bhattacharya & Jayanta Purkayastha, Makeup: Sweta Bhattacharya, Narration: Chameli Biswas, Stage Management: Sonali Chakrabarti, Soma Howlader, Poulomi Chatterjee, and Arpita Mukherjee, Support: Padmaparna Chatterjee, Barna Saha, Swapna Ray, Lali Banerjee, & Shubharoop Ghosh, and Program Advisor: Siddhartha Dattagupta

Saturday Night Musicals



Vishwajeet Borwankar, started taking lessons in music at an early age under the guidance of his father Milind Borwankar.

With a supportive musical background Vishwajeet was introduced to the intricacies in talim under guru-shishya parampara by Dr. Ram Deshpande, who is one of the leading Vocalists of today's generation and a torch bearer of Hindustani Shastriya Sangeet. Vishwajeet was under his guidance for a good eight years in which he obtained a great control on Gwalior gayaki. Vishwajeet received rigorous talim of Gwalior Gharana during this period. Vishwajeet has completed his Master's degree in Music from Mumbai University. Vishwajeet has to his credits

numerous first prizes from various prestigious organizations. Vishwajeet is the winner of Zee Marathi's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa in 2011.

Laxmi Puja Highlights



Nirmalya Roy is an inspirational vocalist whose passion in music was recognized by his mother at early age. It was she who inspired him to cultivate his talent in music. He began training in classical music with Prof. Sunirmal Bhattacharya from Bishwa Bharati University. He was also trained in khayal by the late Govinda Prasad Debnath, a disciple of Pandit Chinmoy Lahiri. Later Nirmalya came under the guidance of Pandit Amiya Ranjan Banerjee, a renowned vocalist of Vishnupur Gharana.

In 2000 Nirmalya was awarded the National Scholarship from the Government of India for his skill in performance.

Nirmalya became a scholar at the prestigious Sangeet Research Academy of Kolkata under the guidance of his guru Pandit Arun Bhaduri. Nirmalya's performances continue to be aired regularly on All India Radio as well as various television networks. He has equal expertise in light classical music, devotional songs, Hindi and Bengali film songs, ghazals, modern songs, etc. Nirmalya's first audio cassette, "Nijere Harai," was nominated for Ananda Bazar Patrika's Bengali music Award in Ananda Purashkar. Nirmalya regularly participates in vocal recitals and conducts music workshops extensively throughout India, United States and Canada.

FEATURED ARTIST AT DAKSHINI

YEAR	ARTIST
1987	Sutapa Datta Gupta (Dance), Tarun Roy, Debraj Roy, Dipannita Roy (Drama)
1988	Pandit Chitresh Das (Dance), Biswajit Chatterjee (Actor/Drama)
1989	Nanda Banerjee (Vocal), Pandit V.G. Jog (Violin)
1990	Utpalendu & Uttara Choudhury (Bengal Folk Songs), "Chetana Group" (Drama), Nandita Behra (Dance), Gopal Marathe (Vocal)
1991	Late Salil Choudhury (Music Composer & Vocal), Sabita Choudhury & Antara Choudhury (Vocal) Ustad Imrat Khan (Sitar)
1992	Anuradha Nag (Dance), Pramit Sen (Rabindra Sangeet), Pandit Debu Choudhury (Sitar)
1993	Arundhuti Home Choudhury (Bengali Adhunik), Shibaji Chatterjee (Vocal), Apsara (Cambodian Dance)
1994	Banasree Sengupta (Bengali Adhunik), Alok Das Gupta (Guitar), Dhiren Bose (Nazrul Sangeet), Pandit Swapan Choudhuri (Tabla)
1995	Babu Parameswaram (Vocal), Mrinal Chakrabarti (Bengali Adhunik, Rabindra Sangeet, Folk Songs), Sandhya Mukherjee (Vocal), Sabitri Chatterjee (Actress/Drama), Lolita Chatterjee (Actress/Drama), Laboni Sarkar (Actress/Drama)
1996	Tarun Bhattacharya (Santur), Bikram Ghosh (Tabla), Banani Ghosh (Rabindra Sangeet), Anup Kumar (Drama)
1997	Sipra Bose (Vocal), Gobinda Bose (Tabla), Debashish Ghosh (Bengali Folk Songs), Soumitra Chatterjee (Actor), Anup Ghosal (Bengali Folk Songs)
1998	Aparna Sen (Actress/Drama), Biplab Chatterjee (Actor/Drama), Nadikar Group (Drama), Supriya Choudhury (Actress/Drama)
1999	Dwijen Mukherjee (Vocal), Partha & Gauri Ghosh (Dramatic Actor), Pramita Mallick (Vocal), Rezwana Choudhury – Banya (Vocal, Rabindra Sangeet)
2000	Lopa Mudra Mitra (Vocal), Pramita Mallick (Vocal), Anup Ghosal (Nazrul Sangeet)
2001	Usha Uthup (Pop Songs), Arati Mukherjee (Vocal)
2002	Bappi Lahiri & Group (Pop), Dulal Bhowmick (Bengali Adhunik), Jagannath & Urmimala Bose (Dramatic Orator)
2003	BHOOMI The Band (Kolkata) – Surojit Chatterjee, Soumitra Roy, Sanjoy Mukherjee, Abhijit Ghosh, Abhijit Bose, Wingloong Robin, Hemanto Goswami; Tarun Chakraborty (Songs/Shruti Natok/Recitation); Baul Samrat PURNA DAS/Chottan Das (Baul Songs)
2004	Somdatta Basu (Modern Songs), Sanjay De (Modern Songs), Alok Roychoudhury (Puratani Gaan), Ruprekha Chatterjee (Modern Songs)
2005	ABHIJEET (Bollywood's Playback Singer with Live Band), Pandit Santanu Bandhyopadhyay and Neel Adhikari – kolkata (Classical & Western Fusion)
2006	Babul Supriyo (Bollywood's Playback Singer) and Debojit (Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Challenge Winner & Playback singer)
2007	Amit Kumar & Sumit Kumar (Bollywood Playback Singers) Chandreyee & Samit Tyagi (Young rising playback singers)
2008	Usha Uthup (Bollywood Playback Singer), Aneek Dhar & Keka Ghoshal (Young rising playback singers)
2009	Amit Paul (Bollywood Playback Singer), Nirmalya Adhikary

YEAR	ARTIST
2010	Anwasha, Trijoy, Bandita (rising stars), Swagatalakshmi Dasgupta, Haimanti Sukla
2011	Aneek Dhar, Dipanwita Choudhury, Abhijit Ghosal (Rising stars) Jayati Chakraborty Sivaji Chattopadhyay Arundhuti Holme Choudhury, Pramita Mallick
2012	Lopamudra Mitra, Sahaj Ma, Utpal Fakir, Pt. Kushal Das, Torsha Sarkar
2013	Jasraj Joshi, Sounak Chattopadhyay, Robi O Nobin, Parnava Banerjee
2014	Bappi Lahiri, Dohor, Sougata Banerjee
2015	Manomoy & Rajeeb

**Past and Present President(s)
Dakshini Bengali Association of California**

Year	Name
1985 - 1987	Dr. SAMAR SIRKAR
1988 - 1990	Dr. MALAY DAS
1990 - 1992	Mr. AJIT RAKSHIT
1992 - 1994	Mrs. MAITRAYI MAZUMDAR
1994 - 1996	Mr. AJOY DUBE
1996 - 1998	Dr. KAMALESH SOM
1998 - 2000	Mr. MOHIT CHATTERJEE
2000 - 2002	Mrs. JAYASHREE DAS
2002 - 2004	Mr. RANJIT DAS
2004 - 2006	Mrs. PRATIMA DATTA
2006 - 2008	Mr. SAJAL K. DEBNATH
2008 - 2010	Mr. ANUPAM SUKUL
2010 - 2012	Dr. SARNATH CHATTARAJ
2013-2015	Mr. ARNAB CHATTERJEE
2015-2017	Mr. BIDHAN RAY*

* Current President

Puja and Cultural Schedule

Friday, October 7th., 2016

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Pushpanjali, Bhog & Arati (Shashti Puja)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Dinner
8:15 PM – 8:45 PM	Nandita Behra & Troupe
9:20 PM – 11:20 PM	Rupankar Bagchi

Saturday October 8th., 2016

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Pushpanjali, Bhog & Arati (Saptami Puja)
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Pushpanjali, Bhog & Arati (Ashtami Puja)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Sandhi Puja, Bhog, Arati
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Pujor Jalsha & Fashion Fiesta
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Sat Bhai Champa – presented by the children of AACE.
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Dinner
9:00 PM – 11:20 PM	Visvajeet Borwankar

Sunday October 9th., 2016

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Pushpanjali, Bhog & Arati (Navami Puja)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Sindoor Utsav/Visarjan (Dashami Puja)
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Mishtimukh

Laxmi Puja : Saturday, October 15th., 2016

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Pushpanjali, Bhog & Arati
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Nirmalya Roy

In Search of the Science behind Religious Traditions

Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee



The relationship between religious traditions and science has been a subject of study since ancient time that have been driven by scholars, researchers, and others from time to time. Perspectives from different geographical regions, cultures and historical epochs are diverse, with some characterizing the relationship as one of conflict, others describing it as one of harmony, and others proposing little interaction.

If we try to dig deeper, we will see that science recognizes reason, induction, and proof, while religions incorporate disclosure, confidence and holiness whilst likewise recognizing philosophical and powerful clarifications as to the investigation of the Universe. Neither science nor religion are constant, immortal, or static in light of the fact that both are complex social and cultural endeavors that have changed through time across languages and cultures. This has been suggested by Mikael Stenmark in his book 'How to Relate Science and Religion: A Multidimensional Model'. [1] Most experimental and specialized advancements before the scientific revolution were accomplished by social orders sorted out by religious customs.

In this context Hinduism has verifiably grasped reason and observation, holding that science brings legitimate knowledge of the world and thus it is probably based on that idea that our ancestors had formulated our religious traditions that have deep rooted scientific basis.

Let's take a look into some of our religious traditions and the hidden significance behind them.

Should we throw coins into rivers or holy waters:

For years it has been a practice to throw coins into rivers or at water reservoirs and it has been said to be way to brings Good Luck. Now if we try to divulge into the scientific perspective we come to see that the scriptures that has first reference of such thing was written during early Vedic period that started from 1500 BCE which was during Indian Bronze Age [2] and was well before Iron Age started in India (probably around 1200 BCE onwards). During those days, most of the currency (not only currency but also regular utensils) used to be made of copper. Copper is an essential trace mineral present in all body tissues. According to a recent research publication by U.S. National Library of Medicine [3], human need copper in their diets. The metal is an essential trace mineral, crucial for forming red blood cells. The research also suggests that if touch surfaces are made with copper alloys, the reduced transmission of disease-causing organisms can reduce patient infections in hospital intensive care units (ICU) by as much as 58% [4]. Now it is easy to see that based on experimental proof our ancestors postulated that storing water in pots made of copper and copper alloy is good practice for purification of water. Throwing copper coins into the holy rivers was one of the ways our fore-fathers made to ensure that we consume infection free water, as rivers were the primary source of drinking water. Making it a custom ensured that all of us follow the practice. If coins remain in rivers for a long

time then it becomes beneficial for those who drink it. However, this may no longer be the practice of our generation as do not consume river water any more.

Should women really wear silk sarees during religious festivals:

This has become a fundamental practice for women to wear silk sarees during religious festival. While trying to make sense of this practice we need to analyze what silk clothes are. Silk clothes have the ability to draw in and store electro-magnetic energy [5]. With the friction between the body and the silk garments, electric energy is created, which gives rise to electro static attraction. According to scriptures, this energy would act on the mind of the devotee. It is also said that the vibrations, which are generated while worshipping, are also stored by wearing the silk clothes. The external clothing, which prevents the loss of these vibrations, would work on the mind to sustain the much needed concentration. And in any worship, concentration is the key focus and thus the silk sarees help women to get aligned with the focus. Hence all over India, silk garments are favored amid Poojas, be it a Maharashtrian woman in Ganesh Puja, or a Bengali woman in Durga Pooja or a Gujarati woman in Laxmi Pooja amid Diwali.

Should all women wear banlges:

The tradition of wearing bangles in India started way back in ancient times. However, even today, women love to wear bangles to enhance their feminine grace and beauty with the help of bangles that are available in various colors and models. The word bangle has been derived from the hindi word Bangri or Bangali, which in Sanskrit means “The ornament which adorns the arm”. The system of wearing bangles originated based on a scientific requirement. In Ancient days men used to go out and work in farms and forests which involves lot of muscle work , while women used to do all the household work. Though house hold involves lot of work but compared to men’s work out in the field it’s kind of small. Since most of the women in ancient India used to sit at home and were not exposed to much physical work, their blood pressure used to increase resulting in impatience. Now the wrist of hand is in constant activation on any human. Also the pulse beat in this portion is mostly checked for all sorts of ailments. The Bangles used by women are normally in the wrist part of one’s hand and its constant friction increases the blood circulation level [6]. Furthermore the electricity passing out through outer skin is again reverted to one’s own body because of the ring shaped bangles, which has no ends to pass the energy outside but to send it back to the body. In order to put this in control, or in a way we can say to avoid such impatience problem from occurring, women were asked to wear bangles and some other ornaments including waist belt, anklets, armllets.

We can logically conclude that our religious practices are not some hard and fast rules framed by one individual and his followers or God’s words in somebody’s dreams. All the rituals, all the practices are, in reality, well researched, studied and scientifically backed thesis which form the ways of nature to lead a good healthy life.

About the Author: Being an engineer-turned-scientist by profession, the author is currently involved with research in bio-medical informatics under federally funded institution. Apart from his profession, the author has vast training and experience with Hindu rituals with a number of publications in international journals.

প্রবাসী মন

বন্ধু ক্ষমা করো আমায়,
তোমার চিঠির সাড়া দিতে পারিনি সময়ে;
বিদায় বেলায় করেছি উপেক্ষা তোমায়,
এসেছিলো দূরে যাবার ডাক,
তবু মনে রেখো, চিঠি লিখো,
অনুরোধ এইটুকু থাক।

মনে আজ সংসয়, বড়ো দেরি হয়ে গেল কি আজ,
তুমি কি মেনে নেবে আমার এ অপরাধ,
কিভাবে বোঝাই তোমায়,
বিদায় বেলায় ছিল না সময়।
ছিল ব্যস্ততা, ছিল ছুটে চলার ছল।
আজ মনে বিস্তর ব্যবধান
তাই নেমেছে মনে স্মৃতি ঘেরা বন্যার ঢল।

দূর দেশে, নির্জন পরবাসে,
নেই কেউ, কোনো আপনজন,
একাকী আজ, সম্বল স্মৃতিটুকু।
হয়ত আছে আজ জীবনের সব উপাদান,
তবু পারছি কি ভুলতে তোমার কথা?
পারছি কি ভুলতে তোমার সাথে গাওয়া গান।

বন্ধু, দৃষ্টি থেকে দূরে,
মানে কি মনের বাইরে যেতে হয়,
একাথা বোলোনা করতে বিশ্বাস;
আমরা আছি থাকবো হৃদয়ে,
রেখ এই ভরসা আশ্বাস।

তাই শুধু অনুরোধ রেখে যাই
উপেক্ষা করোনা বন্ধুত্বের চাওয়া পাওয়া,
উপেক্ষা করোনা আমার আহ্বান।
সারা দিও, বাড়িও তোমার হাথ,
জেনো আজো মনে মনে গাই তোমার-ই গান।

আবার হবে তো দেখা
আবার হাথে হাথ দিয়ে
মনের সাথে প্রান মিশিয়ে
হবে তো আবার গল্পো লেখা?

এই প্রশ্ন নিয়ে ভাসিয়ে দিলাম এই চিঠি,
উড়ে যাক, ভেসে যাক চিঠিখানা
যেখানে আছে তুমি, খুঁজে নেবে তোমার ঠিকানা
নদীর স্রোতে, ক্ষেতের হাওয়ায়,
অভ্রবাসী মেঘের কোনায় কোনায়
রেখে গেলাম আমার এই শব্দজাল
জেনো, আমি তোমারি ছিলাম, আজো আছি, থাকবো
চিরকাল।

What Is India

By: Riyana Roy

India is a land of spices,
To enter such land,
Of freshly grown rices,
Oh joy if it beauty.

This land has meaning,
There is great tradition,
Life is beautiful for every being,
And nature may take its courses.

Everything is unique in its own way,
Colors and lights everywhere,
In this country smile you may,
The beauty is in the heart.

India is a land of spices,
This land has meaning,
Everything is unique in its own way,
This is India.

কৌতুক-কণিকা

দীপক বাগচী

কবিতা দুটি সিয়াটল থেকে প্রকাশিত *গ্লোবাল বেদান্ত* পত্রিকার শীত ২০১৫-১৬, খণ্ড ২১, সংখ্যা ১ এর “হিউমার দি স্পাইস অফ লাইফ” কলামের যথাক্রমে “কম্পিউটার সায়ানটিস্ট” ও “হোয়াট ইজ দি নেম” কাহিনী অবলম্বনে লিখিত

১। নির্দেশ-বিভ্রাট

কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞানীর বউ ফোন করে স্বামীকে বলেন ডেকে,
“অফিস ফেরত পথে আনবে আজকে বাজার থেকে,
একখানি রুটি, আর যদি ওরা মুরগির ডিম রাখে,
তাহলে আনবে একটি ডজন, মনে যেন এটা থাকে।
স্বামী বাড়ি ফিরে টেবিলের ‘পরে বারোখানা রুটি রেখে
‘ডিম রয়েছে গো ওদের দোকানে,” বউকে বলেন হেঁকে।

২। নামটা কী?

প্রবীণ-প্রবীণা এক দম্পতি গেছেন ডিনার খেতে,
সমবয়সের এক বন্ধুর বাড়িতে একদা রেতে।
ডিনারের পরে মহিলা দুজন উঠে তো টেবিল হ’তে
গিয়েছেন চলে পাশের রান্নাঘরে নানা কথা ক’তে।
একটি প্রবীণ বৃদ্ধ অপরে ক’ন, “মোরা কাল রাতে
খেতে গেছিলাম দুজনে একটি নতুন রেস্টোরাতে।
কী বা কব ভাই, রেস্টোরাটির নেইকো জবাব আর;
সেখা খেতে যেতে বলবো সবারে আমি আজ বারবার।”
অন্য বৃদ্ধ তাঁরে জিজ্ঞাসে, “কী নাম রেস্টোরার?”
বৃদ্ধ রন তো চিন্তা করতে ভুরু কুঁচকিয়ে তাঁর।
তার পরে ক’ন, “কী নামটা যেন সেই লাল ফুলটার,
যেটা দিয়ে থাকি ভালবাসি যাকে, হাতে তুলে দেই তার?”
বন্ধু বলেন, “‘কারনেশন’ কী?” জবাবে বৃদ্ধ কন,
“আরে, না, না, ওটা হবে কেন?” রক্তিম করে আনন।
বন্ধু বলেন আর একবার, “ফুলটা ‘পপি’ তো নয়?”

গর্জান বুড়ো, “লাল ফুলটার ডাঁটা ভরা কাঁটা রয়।”
বন্ধু বলেন, “তবে কী আপনি বলছেন ওটা ‘রোজ?’”
বৃদ্ধ বলেন, “ধন্যবাদ, ঠিক নামেরই দিলেন খোঁজ।”
রান্নাঘরের উদ্দেশে তিনি সজোরে ওঠেন ডাকি,
“রোজ, বল দেখি কালকের ঐ রোঁস্তোরার নামটা কী?”



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Few Fascinating Facts on Bengal and Bengalis

Aditya Mukerjee

There are many reasons why I am proud of myself. But, one very important one is that I am a person of Bengali origin. From the beginning of civilization around the Ganges delta, through the Bengali Renaissance to the 1971 war in Bangladesh, the Bengalis have displayed some remarkable achievements that change the course of history in Indian subcontinent and influence events throughout the world. I like to share with you some little known facts about Bengal and Bengalis which have far-reaching consequences.

First and foremost Bengalis contributed to a thriving culture and vibrant economy to become the largest ethnic group in South Asia. Also, do you know they are the third largest ethnic group in the world after Chinese and Arabs ?

Bengal had a long and complex history. The Pala dynasty is one of the early ruler of Bengal which was a dominant power in north India for a long time. However, one interesting fact is the founder of Pala Empire, Gopala was one of earliest known democratically elected ruler in India and for that matter anywhere in the world. The evidence shows all the elite leaders in a vast region anoint this person as king to end a period of anarchy.

Bengal was also seat of lot of conflicts. You all probably know battle of Plassey in 1757 was a decisive victory of British East India Company and heralded the dawn of British Raj over India Now, most historian believe Britain became the most dominant world superpower after the Battle of Waterloo. But don't you think the seed was planted after the battle of Plassey because it is the colonization of India that makes Britain the economic powerhouse for the next two centuries?

Now, what could be most glorious period in recent history of India other than the Renaissance of Bengal ? This period started with ground-breaking work of Raja Rammohan Roy and saw the dazzling brilliance of many awe-inspiring stalwarts in Science, Arts, Literature, Economics and Politics till the death of poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. This could be all common knowledge. But do you know several religious and social reforms in India like women's education, widow marriage and banning of Sati ritual mainly by Rammohan Roy and Vidyasagar drastically changed the social landscape in the country in early nineteenth century?

Here is some mind-boggling information on greatness of Rabindranath Tagore. He is the first non-European to win a nobel prize. Also, do you know he is the author of National Anthem in three countries that is India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka ? This is an unparalleled achievement so far in the world.

On science front, Sir Jagadish Chandra. Bose made some fundamental breakthrough in radio microwave communication and used the shortest microwave to study radio optics in his time. But do you know J.C. Bose is the first person who use semiconductor junction to detect radio wave which is first known scientific work on solid-state electronics?

Any person aware of Indian history probably knows Indian independence movement in British India started in form of Indian Rebellion of 1857 or “Sepoy Mutiny”. But do you know the first person who stood up and started the rebellion is Mangal Pandey at Barrackpore near Kolkata?

On political front W.C. Bonnerjee was the first president of Indian National Congress. He is also the first non-European who contested for the seat of British House of Commons.

We all know the courage and contributions of Netaji Subhash Bose towards Indian freedom movement. But you should also know the first economic planning which culminated in form of Planning Commission of India was also initiated by Netaji on 1938 when he was president of National Congress.

Bengal and Bengalis are pioneers in many fields and faculties throughout the recorded history. The list can grow very long. Like Establishment of first IIT at Kharagpur to winning first international movie award by great director Satyajit Ray at Venice. But there is an element of greatness that blossom spontaneously in Bengal. This is the region where its fertile soil often and with tireless regularity give birth to geniuses who reach extreme greatness. The scope and depth of which always inspire me in journey of my life and should also enthrall you to make you a proud Bengali.

Thank You!

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পূজোর অপেক্ষা

দুর্গা পূজো দাঁড়িয়ে আছে
বাহির দোরে
কড়া নেড়ে এই এখুনি
তুকবে ঘরে।

ষষ্ঠী পূজোর ঢাকের বোলে
ঢ্যাম কুড় কুড় বাদ্যি,
লিখতে হবেই কিছু আমায়
কেমন করে বাদ্ দি।

অতএব লিখে যাও
মনটাকে খুলে দাও
চারপাশে দেখাচ্ছে যা
শুনছো যা
গুণে গেঁথে তুলে রাখো পাতাতে
মাথাতে
কি কি আছে পূজোতে

দুর্গা পূজোয় আগমনী গান আছে
মাঠে কাশফুল আছে
প্রকৃতির টান আছে
মন্ডপে প্রতিমা আছে
ঢাকের বাদ্যি আছে
পূজো সংখ্যা বই আছে
নতুন নতুন গান আছে
পুরোন বন্ধুদের আড্ডা আছে
ভালো মন্দ খাওয়া আছে
বন্ধ চোখে অঞ্জলি আছে
চোখ খুললেই রূপ আছে
নতুন দেখার চোখ আছে
মনকাড়া অনুভূতি আছে
বুকে ভাব ভালোবাসা আছে
স্বপ্নে ডায়ালটোন আছে
আড়াল আবডালের ছোঁয়াচ

আছে

নাগরদোলায় ঘোরা আছে

নতুন জামাকাপড় আছে
ধুতি শাড়ির ঢল আছে

পূজোয় সব আছে
কিন্তু কেন নেই পূজো শেষের আনন্দ
সেখানে কেন দুঃখ গুলো বাসা বাঁধে
মনটা কাঁদে
টন্টনিয়ে উঠতে থাকে বুকটা
থেকেই যায় মনের কোণে দুর্গামায়ের
বিদায় বেলার মুখটা।

এতখানি শুনে শেষে মত দেন অনেকে,
সুখের শেষে দুখটা এলে,
পরের সুখটা যখন মেলে
দ্বিগুন হয়, সে সুখের আনন্দ,
তাতে নেই কোন সন্দ।

অতএব,
দুর্গা পূজোয় সুখের সাথে দুঃখ আছে
সজল চোখের জল আছে
৩৬৫ দিনের অপেক্ষা আছে
অপেক্ষাতেই আনন্দ আছে।

- সুরত ঘোষ



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আমি আয়না স্বামী
 কাজ করছি, আনন্দ করছি, আর খাচ্ছি।
 স্বামী কল্পে আমি-
 মা ব্রহ্মদেবীকে, দিদি খাচ্ছি, আর ককা
 স্বামীর গোছাছে,
 স্বামী দুরগা চাকুরকে ব্রহ্মদেবী
 আর স্বামীর হিন্দুর খেলা
 করে।
 দুরগা পূজা শুভেন্দ্র
 কলে জিনিস হয় আর কলে লোক যায়।
 আমি আয়না স্বামী দুরগা পূজার জননী।

~Ahana Bhunia
9 years



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Shubho Bijoya

From

Kisholoy and Latika Goswami - An Entrepreneurial Couple



Kisholoy Goswami
President and CEO



InnoSense LLC
www.innosense.us



Latika Goswami
Chief Operating Officer

Kisholoy and Latika Goswami co-founded InnoSense LLC in 2002 in the Los Angeles area to advance the field of applied science for improving life on earth. Upon receiving his doctoral degree in Physical Organic Chemistry from Boston University, Dr. Goswami moved to Berkeley, CA, with his family (wife Latika and two sons - Suvro and Shanto) as a postdoctoral scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Working with a Nobel Laureate Scientist, Professor Melvin Calvin, Kisholoy pursued the theme of artificial photosynthesis by photocatalytically reducing carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas). In 1987, Kisholoy joined the arena of industrial research in a small business setting that led to the founding of InnoSense.

Latika (MS, Physics) decided to raise two sons (twin) putting her career growth on hold. When the Goswami family moved to Las Vegas in 1989, Latika joined Lockheed Martin and also pursued her MS in chemistry at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Later, she assumed a teaching position in the community college system of Las Vegas. In 1997, the Goswami family moved to the Los Angeles area when Suvro and Shanto entered into their undergraduate program. Latika took a position with Neutrogena Corporation (a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson) as a Senior Scientist in the Quality Assurance/Quality Control department, and in 2006 she took the full time position of COO with the company she co-founded.

InnoSense LLC concentrates its research in the areas of nanotechnology-based coatings and sensors for healthcare (e.g., detecting biomarkers indicative of the onset of Alzheimer's disease), defense (e.g., personal protective equipment), aerospace (e.g., component for SmallSat and CubeSat), energy (e.g., catchers of short-lived isotopes) and environmental (e.g., sensors for toxic pollutants in air) applications. With 20 technical staff and well-equipped laboratories in a recently expanded facility, InnoSense is well poised for growth.

The couple now faces a scenario that is all too familiar to the first generation Americans (grown up children living far away from their parents) from the Indian subcontinent. Suvro Goswami, MBA, is living in Chicago devoted to his own startup. Shanto Goswami, MBA, is developing his own firm in New York with investment banking experience as a guide. What this means is that no grand-children are coming couple's way anytime soon (*long sigh of anxiety!*)



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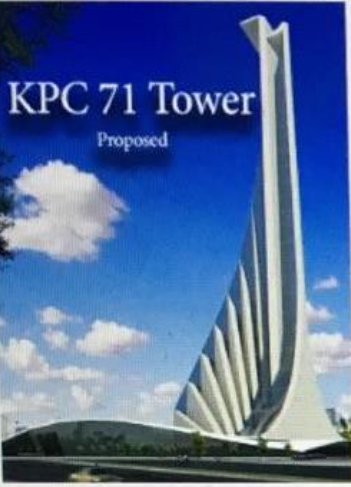
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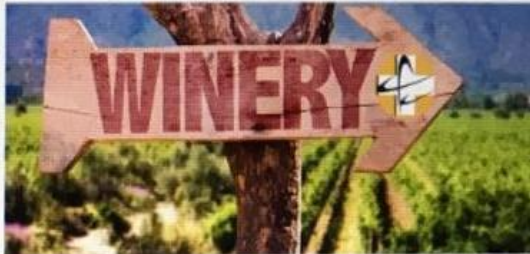
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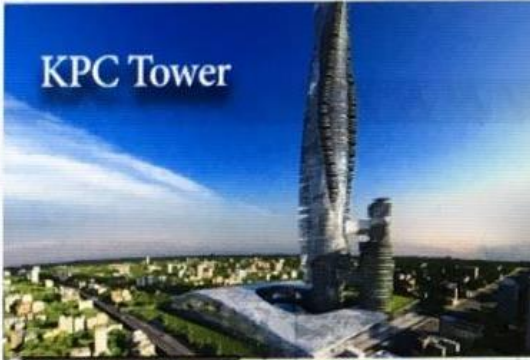
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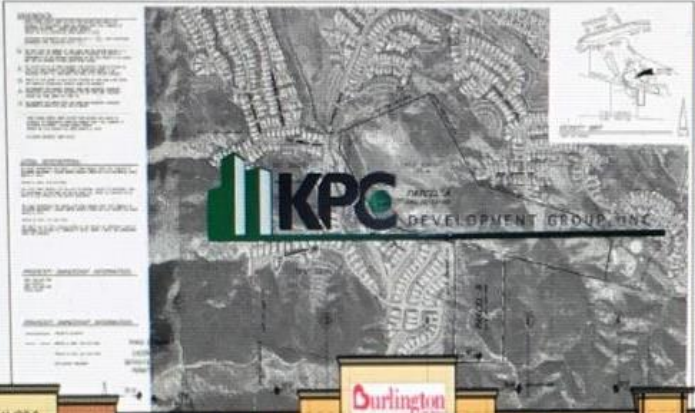
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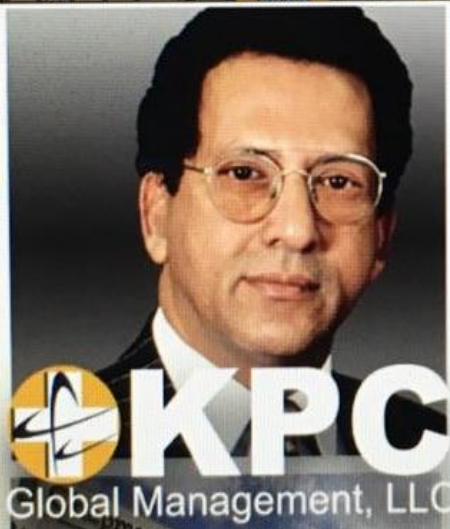
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