

Durga Puja

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Much awaited “Durga Puja” is knocking at the door. Durga Puja is the greatest of all the festivals of West Bengal. The natural beauty of the autumn season is highly enjoyable in this time. The clear blue sky, the beautiful Nyctanthes flower (Sheuli Flower), the beautiful Cotton Rose (Sthal Poddo), the white Kans Flower, (Kaas Flower) the cool breeze are really amazing aspects of this season. They all invite Durga Maa to come in this world.

Most of us are busy in buying outfits, ornaments etc. and are busy in planning how to spend the puja days respectively.

Mainly Durga Puja starts on Panchami and ends on Dashami. Durga Puja means to get together

and Bhuribhoj (Eating out).

Traditional Bengali women generally prefer sarees to wear in puja and men prefer dhoti Panjabis. People organize club pujas (Barwari Pujas) and Family Pujas also. Asthami bhog and Nabami bhog are provided after every day puja offerings. The delicious bhogs (prasad) are really amazing for us to have it.

The melodious drum (Dhaak) sound with Kansor (Brass musical Gong) Ghonta (Metallic Bell) especially in the evening is one of the greatest enjoyments of Durga Puja to the Bengalis. The beating sound makes everyone to dance. On dashami the married women participate in the traditional ‘Sindoor Khela’ (Playing with vermilion).

People during this time visit their relatives and neighbors and exchange happiness and regards. This is a tradition called Bijoya. Since, this happens just after the immersion of Goddesses Durga so its also known as Bijoya Dashami. It is said that during this time Durga Maa leaves for her in – Laws (Sasur bari in Mt Kailash) with a promise to come again next year for new hope and happiness. It is also said that Durga Maa comes every year to us for rescuing us from the ‘Asura’ (Evilness) of the Earth. This Asura is the symbol of sadness, vices and wickedness. Devi Durga is the symbol of ‘Maha Shakti’ created by Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva. Every year she comes in this mundane world and invites all of us to live in the world of hope and happiness. However, we tend to forget the inner meaning of the Durga Puja and embrace the earthly pleasures. That’s alarming.

