

DELHI
DURGA PUJA
CHARITABLE &
CULTURAL
SAMITI (Estd 1910)

Kashmere Gate





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Brief History

- Delhi Durga Puja Charitable & Cultural Samiti (DDPS), popularly known as the Kashmere Gate Puja.
- Started in 1910, it has celebrated its Centenary during 2009.
- Celebrating 113th year of Durga Puja this year.
- After being held in various locations viz, Roshanpura Kali Mandir, Laxminarayan Dharamshala in Fatehpuri, Delhi Polytechnique Kashmere Gate, it finally settled in Bengali School Alipur Road, which itself is a century old institution in the year 1968.





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Brief History

- The oldest puja of Delhi is celebrated with full traditional gaiety and rich cultural fervour and is considered to be a heritage puja of Delhi.
- It is a must for every Bengali to visit this puja irrespective of distance to be covered.
- Its is a popular belief that one needed to be seen in this pandal for its nostalgic, prestigious and traditional importance.





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Famous Visits:

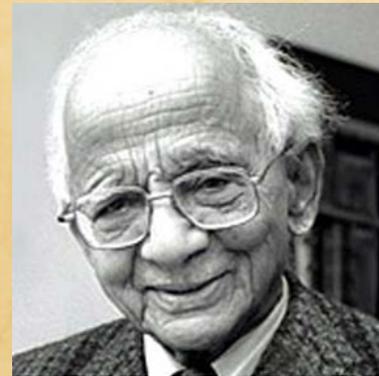
There are many famous personalities who visited this Durga Puja. However, the most prominent among them are:



Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose (1935)



Smt Indira Gandhi,
then Hon'ble Prime
Minister of India (1969)
offered Ashtami Puja



Dr Nirad C Chaudhuri
(Famous Author, Sahitya
Akademi Awardee,
Duff Cooper Memorial
Awardee) also happened
to visit our Durga Puja
quite frequently



Smt Sheila Dixit
(2009), then Hon'ble
Chief Minister of
Delhi offered Puja
and had a glimpse of
our "Sandhya Aarti"



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Centenary Celebration 2009 – Glimpses





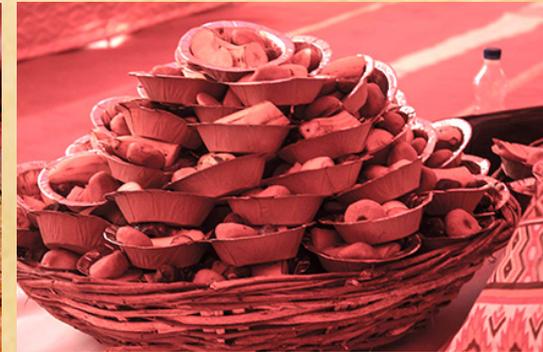
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Prasad & Bhog / Bhandara

- Prasad and Bhog are distributed to all the devotees.
- Huge gathering of 6000-7000 visitors from all sphere of society throng the Pandal during distribution of Bhog.
- To have Bhog during these three days of Puja is must for every Bengali.
- The distribution is done in a very simple but in a unique way. One has to visit to get on-hand experience.





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Footfalls

- The 113 year old Kashmere Gate Puja is the most popular puja of Delhi because of its traditional fervour.
- More than one lac visitors visit the pandal during puja days.
- Most strategically located venue between old secretariat and prestigious IP College, is also surrounded by famous residential area like Northend Road, Flag Staff road, Rajpur road, Shriram road etc.
- It provided huge opportunity for the Advertisers/ Sponsors to showcase / display their products/ services.
- The opportunity can be provided in following ways :
 - ❖ **Main Gate Sponsorship;**
 - ❖ **Publicity Octonorm Stalls;**
 - ❖ **Publicity Banners;**
 - ❖ **Side panels near stage;**
 - ❖ **Stage Background Banners;**
 - ❖ **Sponsorship of Cultural Programmes;**
 - ❖ **Other Sponsors, Advertisers, Donors etc.**





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Some of the Sponsors who have contributed and have continued patronage over a period of time to help us to continue this heritage and most popular puja, the list includes the following:





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Cultural Extravaganza

- Various renowned artist from Bengal and Delhi performed during these three days.
- We provide great platform where the artists showcase their talent.
- The cultural extravaganza includes Classical Music and dances of various form, Rabindra Sangeet, Bengali folk music, Band, Ballet, Mime Show and Modern Song, Magic shows are performed.

➤ Prominent artists visited are :

- ❖ Uday Shankar & Group (Ballet);
- ❖ Shovana Narayan & Group (Kathak);
- ❖ Dwijen Mukherjee (Rabindra sangeet);
- ❖ Sagar Sen (Rabindra sangeet);
- ❖ Jogesh Dutta (Mime);
- ❖ Birendra Krishna Bhadra (of Mahalaya fame);
- ❖ Krishna Chattapadhyay (Dwijendrageeti songs);
- ❖ Dhiren Basu;
- ❖ Manoj Mitra (Theatre Stalwart);
- ❖ Shreya GuhaThakurta (Rabindrasangeet);
- ❖ Justin McCarthy (Bharatnatyam);
- ❖ Lopamudra Mitra (Modern Songs);
- ❖ Purnadas Baul (Baul Songs);
- ❖ Amar Pal (Bengali Folk);





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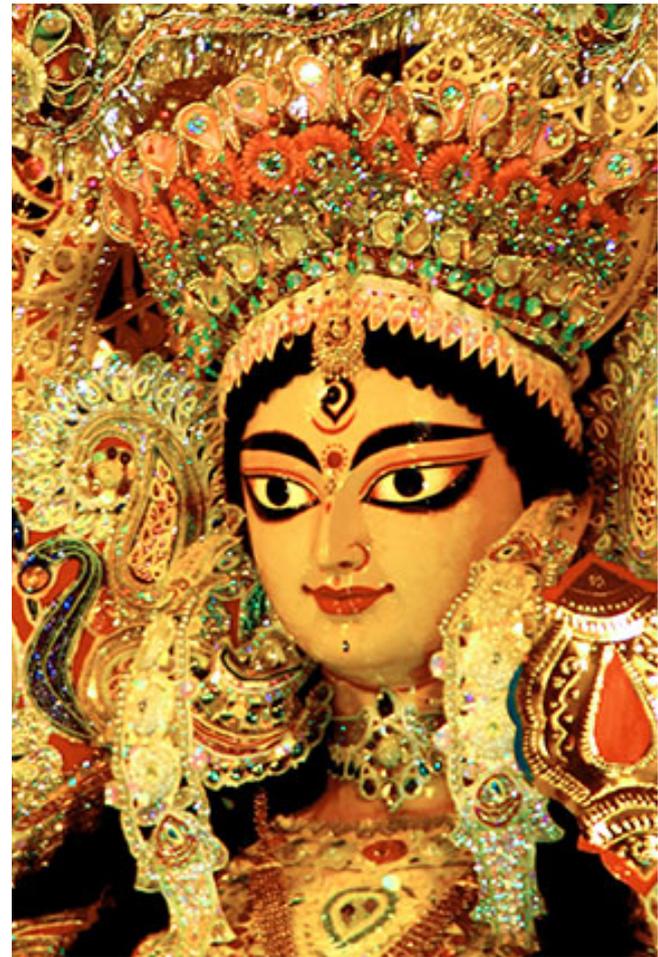
Kashmere Gate



Information about our website, Contact etc.

The official / correspondence
address of our Puja Samiti is:

Delhi Durga Puja Charitable & Cultural Samiti
316, Main Bazar Road
(Near Robin Cinema)
Subzi Mandi, Delhi – 110 007
Ph : 011-2385 4058
E-Mail: ddpskg@gmail.com
Website: www.ddpskgate.org





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Media coverage of our Puja:

THE HINDU

THE HINDU • FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009

Delhi puja turns 100 this year

Special arrangements made for five-day festival

Urvasi Sarkar

- Attire of the Goddess to be made of reed
- "Ananda Mala" expected to be a big draw

NEW DELHI: To commemorate its hundredth year of Durga Puja celebrations in the Capital, the Delhi Durga Puja Samiti has made special arrangements for the five-day festival beginning September 23.

"Since it is the centenary of the Kashmere Gate puja, which is one of the oldest pujas in Delhi, it will be unique," said Samiti president Kamaleshwar Sen at a press conference here on Thursday.

Mr. Sen said certain features seen at previous Durga Puja celebrations would be retained in this year's puja as well. "The structure of the idol,

which is traditionally one piece, has been retained. The size or height too cannot be changed because of logistic difficulties. The attire of the Goddess will be made of reed which is close to Egyptian papyrus and is a bio-degradable material," he added.

Mr. Sen said the puja pandal would be designed along the lines of places of worship in the houses of zamindars in the Kolkata of old. "Though we are not in favour of commercialisation of pujas, it cannot be

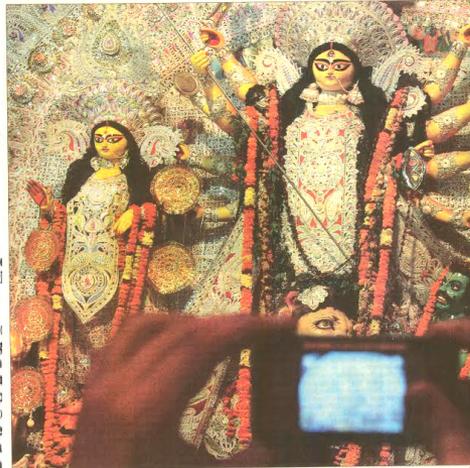
avoided," said Mr. Sen, adding "Stalls will be encouraged to sell cultural items such as books and CDs."

In addition to the regular "anjali", "bhog" and "aarti", plays, music and classical dance performances will also be held. Another attraction will be the Dhunuchi dance which is performed in front of the Goddess while holding containers emitting smoke and head with charcoal, husk of coconut and incense.

The "Ananda Mala" in

which home-cooked delicacies are sold to the public is also expected to be a big draw.

He outlined the long history of the pujas organised by the Samiti since 1909. The periodic struggle to find a place to hold the celebrations result in a change of venue every few years. The Samiti found a permanent place on the grounds of the Bengali Boys' Higher Secondary School in 19 where the puja celebrations have been since. The nature of celebrations was also determined by external events such as the shifting of British raj capital to Delhi, the Partition at Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.



A HUNDRED YEARS OF DEVOTION

pujatile
DELHI'S OLDEST
Durga Puja will celebrate its centenary with the beginning of festivities later this week

Delhi's oldest Durga Puja, better known as the Kashmere Gate Durga Puja, celebrates its centenary this year. A hundred years is always an important milestone and in this case, it is evidence — if any were needed — that Bengal has a long, long association with Delhi.

In a way, the history of this puja is the history of the Bengali community in Delhi. The Kashmere Gate (the organisers stick to the anglicised spelling) began in 1909, two years before the British shifted the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. Presumably, the first lot of Bengalis accompanied this

THE ASIAN AGE

September 10, 2009

How Delhi's oldest Durga Puja got started at Kashmere Gate



With this year's Durga Puja just two weeks away, the organisers of Delhi's oldest puja at Kashmere Gate, which dates back to 1909, are preparing for the centenary celebrations. The writer takes a walk down memory lane...

AWAY FROM the dhama of the rock-fused Durga Puja, which tradition has had often taken a back seat and the celebration puja is no longer a multi-faceted event, the centenary Durga Puja which introduced by the Samiti in 1909, was a simple puja to honour the goddess and celebrate the community's cultural identity. Many elderly employees still remember the puja as a time to become a citizen of Bangladesh and their spiritual support continued in the city.

As one steps through the busy and noisy lanes of the Kirti Kisan area, one can see the public community spirit alive in the streets where the public community spirit is preserved in distinct cultural character. Ananda Mala, the annual Durga Puja, is a time to connect and forget the world for a moment. It is a time to take a walk down memory lane.

It was some 100 years ago that the first Durga Puja was organised in Delhi. The first Durga Puja was organised in Delhi as a woman's work. The first Durga Puja was organised in Delhi as a woman's work. The first Durga Puja was organised in Delhi as a woman's work.

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This year's Kashmere Gate Durga Puja will have lots of old and new features.

The Durga Puja is a festival of devotion. It is a festival of devotion. It is a festival of devotion. It is a festival of devotion.

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The Statesman

KOLKATA NEW DELHI SILIGURI BHUBANESWAR LC 10+4+4 Rs 3

Kashmere Gate Puja reaches milestone

By Mahender S Manral

NEW DELHI, 23 SEPT. Durga Puja festivities in the Capital take on a special hue this year as the Kashmere Gate Puja organised by Delhi Durga Puja Samiti (DDPS) celebrates its centenary.

On this momentous occasion, the DDPS has decided to celebrate the Puja in the traditional manner, but in keeping with environmental concerns, the organisers have incorporated some 'green' elements. The Pratima (idol) has been built with fast-dissolving khari mati (dissolving clay) and the flowers that will be used on all the Puja days will be handed over to an NGO to be recycled into organic colours.

DDPS vice-president Dipayan Mazumdar said, "We started organising Durga Puja since 1909 and this year we are completing 100 years. This time we have decided to celebrate in a more traditional manner. For that we are starting our Puja with a Mahayagna that all the Maharaj of



Preparations are in full swing at Kashmere Gate pandal. ■ SNS

Bharat Seva Ashram will be attending."

"This time the height of the idols of all the five deities - Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Anesh and Kartik - will be 19 feet and vegetable dyes are being used. Our budget is Rs 20 lakh. Before immersion the ornaments of all the deities will be removed," added Mr Ma-

zumdar. DDPS secretary Himangshu Bose said, "Our Durga Puja is a part of the heritage of Delhi. It was started in 1910 in a small Kalibari in Old Delhi's Roshanpura. Most of the organising committee members are from a heritage institution, Bengali Club, which is also more than 100 years old."

Poulomi Nag, a regular visitor, said, "Kashmere Gate Puja has its own ethnicity. I attend this Durga Puja every year despite the fact that I live in south Delhi where there are many pujas. The traditional programme of this Puja is very amazing and they also serve the best bhog."

Mr Mazumdar said, "We

have designed a special corridor, Thakur Dalan, 90 feet long which is inside the pandal adjacent to the Pratima (idol). Many have witnessed this unique feature in films featuring the old Raj Baris of Kolkata."

The organisers are focusing on cultural programmes that are to be held every evening on all four days of the Puja. Rock bands and big stars from Kolkata, generally popular imports during the Pujas in Delhi, have been given a miss. However, singers Shivaji Chatopadhyay and Arundhati Hom, actors Ksharaj Mukherjee and Manoj Mitta, a Bangladeshi troupe and a play by Chena Mukh (Known Face), one of Delhi's oldest theatre groups, are part of the cultural line-up for the Puja festivities.

Mr Bose said, "The centenary celebrations will bring back old memories with the staging of a play 'Bhushondir Math' by members of the Bengali Club. There are two other plays, one by the ladies and the other by children."

Roots run deep

FESTIVAL Delhi Durga Puja Samiti, which hosts the city's oldest Durga puja, is all set to celebrate its centenary this year. DIPAYAN MAZUMDAR traces its history

On September 23, Delhi and the National Capital Region will witness a historic event as the city's oldest Durga Puja, organised by Delhi Durga Puja Samiti (DDPS), marks its centenary. The festival, which is celebrated in the city's oldest neighbourhood, Kashmere Gate, is a unique blend of tradition and modernity. It is a time when the city's residents come together to celebrate the birth of the goddess Durga.

The centenary programme is being organised by the DDPS, which is a charitable and cultural organisation. The festival is a time when the city's residents come together to celebrate the birth of the goddess Durga. It is a time when the city's residents come together to celebrate the birth of the goddess Durga.

Delhi saw the first Durga puja in 1910. It was an event that was held in the city's oldest neighbourhood, Kashmere Gate. The festival was a time when the city's residents came together to celebrate the birth of the goddess Durga.

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TRADITION LIVES ON An artist giving final touches to an idol of goddess Durga last year. PHOTO: V. KRISHNAN

hindustantimes

HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009

Bangla beat in the heart of Delhi thumps to a century this year

Jatin Anand
jatin.anand@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI Arguably the Capital's oldest Bengali association, Bengali Club's Delhi Durga Puja Samiti located at Kashmere Gate celebrates its centenary this year.

"Established in 1910, the club has strived to maintain the ethos of Bengali culture down the ages," said Kamaleshwar Sen (78), the club's president. "A manifestation of this has been the Kashmere Gate Puja which the club has been organising since 1909."

Established in 1910, the club has strived to maintain the ethos of Bengali culture down the ages, said Kamaleshwar Sen (78), the club's president.

"The five-day festival begins with the traditional enclosure for idols to be placed at the pandal. "Not many in Delhi have witnessed this unique corridor, which can often be seen in films featuring the Raj Baris (traditional Royal Palaces) of old Kolkata," said M.M. Ghoshal, Chairman, Press and Publicity, Bengali Club. "The overall art and design work is being executed by members since early May."

procession of more than 800 idols loaded onto trucks with devotees and traditional dhak (or drum beaters) showering petals at the heritage pandal (traditional bamboo structure where prayer is conducted) at Kashmere Gate before immersion to the Yamuna for immersion on the day of Dashain/Dussehra. "The Sandhya Aarti (evening prayer) at Kashmere Gate will be the city's main attraction. We will attempt to relive the good old days as men dress in traditional dhotis and women in traditional red-bordered sarees."

announced the centenary edition of the Delhi Durga Puja on Thursday. "The five-day festival begins with the traditional enclosure for idols to be placed at the pandal. "Not many in Delhi have witnessed this unique corridor, which can often be seen in films featuring the Raj Baris (traditional Royal Palaces) of old Kolkata," said M.M. Ghoshal, Chairman, Press and Publicity, Bengali Club. "The overall art and design work is being executed by members since early May."

