

Finding The Glimpse Of happiness through puja

- Smritypriya Mistry

Durga Puja is a famous Hindu festival mostly celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal in the states of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Odisha and Bihar. It is believed that this festival exemplifies the victory of good over evil, as Goddess Durga killed the demon Mahishasur. Durga Puja holds great significance for the Bengali community. However, it is also celebrated, with much pomp, in other states like Odisha, Assam, Tripura, Bihar and Jharkhand. People begin their preparations to welcome the goddess on Mahalaya, which was celebrated on October 6.

The festival ends with Vijaya Dashami or Dussehra, marking the end of Durga Puja and the nine-day long Navratri celebrations. Vijay Dashami marks the triumph of Goddess Durga over the demon king Mahishasura. On the other hand, Dussehra or Dasara celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Brahma had given the demon Mahishasura a boon of

invincibility, which meant that no man or god could kill him.

Empowered by the boon, Mahishasura is said to have chased the gods out of heaven. According to scriptures, it is after this that all gods unitedly created Goddess Durga. This time Durga Puja 2021 dates were from 11th of Oct (Maha Sasti) to 15th of Oct (Vijaya Dashami) Officially , but as we all know that Officially it may start from 11th Oct but for Bengali once it starts for the Mahamaya which for this year was dated on Mahalaya: Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

But as we all are aware of the fact that every year we are pretty sure that there will be a very huge rush during these days. And as there is a pandemic outbreak through out world , so to make the puja to a great success and not allowing or stoping the further spread of the virus and increase in the active cases our honourable high Court and our state government have taken some decision and passed some special guidelines for this puja.

Government in accordance with the High court instructed every administrating department to strictly follow these guidelines at every parts of the state. Some of the guidelines are :-

- No visitor will be allowed inside a pandal
 - Areas within 10m of a big pandal and 5m of a small pandal to be barricaded and demarcated as a no-entry zone
 - Only 25 people – members of the respective puja committees – will be allowed inside big pandals. Only 15 such people will be allowed in smaller pandals
 - The list of the members who are allowed to enter a pandal has to be displayed outside
- To make these guidelines more illustrating or explanatory the higher authorities told that –

Cultural programme :- Cultural programmes in and near the puja pandal premises should not be allowed. The state immersion carnival should not be held this year and other melas and carnivals near pandals will not be allowed.

- Virtual processes :- Physical contact must be avoided in the permission-obtaining procedures also. Online systems for required permission should be arranged by the concerned authorities. Adherence to the physical distancing norms and other health safety measures that are required to be ensured during the current times may need

spacing out the festival over a larger number of days.

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• Sindoor khela :- One of the most important part of the Bengal's glory Puja the "Sindoor Khela" during the Vijaya Dashami ritual was not allowed to prevent possible spread of infection. was not allowed.

• Hand sanitiser must, volunteers to wear masks :- The state government has made the use and availability of hand sanitiser mandatory inside the pandals. Masks must be worn by all visitors and volunteers at all times. No one will be allowed inside the premises without a face covering. There should be arrangements made inside the pandals to distribute masks to anyone, without wearing one.

But as we all know that we Bengali people know how to manage we know well then others , so we all managed to follow the guidelines given by the government and decided to go out for pandal-hopping . But this time our media was also very active and really helped us to enjoy our puja for those who decided not to go out and also

for our old parents for whom it was not possible at all. Apart for other years where the coverage were not done in so details but this year the journalist were very much active as they were also aware that many people will be eagerly waiting for their coverages , but after all these the most import and impressing thing about them were they were also very active about the covid protocols and the telling the current situations about the pandemic. This was a very impressing and glorifying point about our media.

I will finish my writing by telling that we all have enjoyed this year after a year and that is On cloud nine thing for all of us and as we all know that time heals everything we will also overcome for the loses that we have made due to this pandemic with time and I am really thankful to our media and the government officials for making this puja happen ,I will end by telling the most important and the most admired phrase "Subho Bijoya to all".