



BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGHA



DURGA PUJA 2025



2105 Codlin Crescent Toronto ON M9W 5K7 PH: 416-679-0967



BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGHA

DURGA PUJA GREETINGS

FROM:



*His Holiness Srimat Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj
President, Bharat Sevashram Sangha*



*His Holiness Srimat Swami Biswatmanandaji Maharaj
General Secretary*

DR. SANJIB MUKERJEE LIBRARY

Bharat Sevashram Sangha Canada announces the creation of a beautiful library in the Ashram. In the same breath or vein too, we are pleased to inform you that a genuine and most generous soul has come forward and made it all possible. He is no other than Dr. Sanjib Mukherjee after whom this library will be appropriately named. It will be called the **Dr. Sanjib Mukherjee Library**.



That's not all that this wonderful gentleman has done for the Bharat Sevashram Sangha. Dr. Mukherjee is now tied with three other bhaktas as the highest donors in the history of the Ashram. These four benevolent souls belong to the exclusive Hundred Dollar Club. The names of these philanthropists are: Mr. Monish Sarker, Dr. Sanjib Mukherjee, our Accountant Mr. Mike Sookhoo and Savitri and Dr. Lake Singh.

The library signals our intention. We embrace education as a key factor at Bharat Sevashram Sangha Canada. In India our motto says it all: "To nurse the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and educate the underprivileged children." But none of this apply in Canada. Our main struggle here in this part of the world is to keep body and soul together. We have to find ingenious ways and means to hold on to our culture and identity. We must strive to inculcate into the young minds not only the ideals of our religion but also our sublimed way of life.

Our aspiration was not only to build a Mandir or Temple. You will note that there are no domes in our building. What we sought to build was an institution of higher learning. I invite you to pay special attention to next article entitled "Sangha Bani or the Ten Divine Messages." Here our illustrious Founder spoke about the lofty goal of life which is "Self (soul) or God realization." That's precisely what this institution teaches you: How to evolve a god (or goddess) out of man.

We pray to God to bless Dr. Mukherjee for taking this wonderful initiative to donate this library. His name will now be etched in this Ashram so that posterity may judge. It will be here now and forever more. It is the verdict of our Shastras – the fact that daan or charity is one of the cornerstone principles of our Hindu religion. In that famed dialogue between Bhagwan Vishnu and Garuda, the Lord is quoted saying: 'Garuda, as a man approaches the penultimate stage of his life, his passport to the other world lies in him doing two things: the first is to do a major yagna and the other is to give daan or charity.'

We salute and applaud Dr. Mukherjee for his resolve to do this ennobling act. May God bless him now and forever more. By the way, there are other items that you may sponsor too if you so wish. If you do, we shall have your engraved and prominently displayed for everyone to see. There are the items for which sponsorships are open:

- The Gift Shop
- Reception Area
- Kitchen
- Elevator
- 3 Stainless Steel Gates



SRI SRI SANGHA BANI

TEN DIVINE MESSAGES

What is the Goal of Life?

Self (Soul) or God-realization,
& Universal Emancipation

What is Religion?

Self-sacrifice
(Self-abnegation),
Self-disciple,
Adherence to
Truth &
Continence

What is Real Death?

Forgetfulness of the Self

What is Real Life?

Self-realization, Self-remembrance,
& Self-consciousness

What are Real Virtues?

Heroism, Virility, Manliness,
& Aspiration for Emancipation



What are Real Sins?

Weakness, Fear (Defeatism),
Cowardice, Meanness,
& Selfishness

What are Real Sources of Strength?

Patience,
Fortitude,
& Endurance

What are Real Assets?

Self-confidence,
Self-reliance & Self-respect

What are Real Enemies?

Indolence, Slumber
Inertia, Procrastination,
& Lustful Senses & Passions

What are Real Friends?

Energy, Enthusiasm & Perseverance



Secretary Report

The Canadian Chapter of Bharat Sevashram Sangha is on the cusp or threshold of prolific growth. It has not only met but also surpasses its material and spiritual goals for 2024. Our success is undoubtedly attributable to the blessings of the presiding deity of our Ashram—the illustrious Patriot Saint and Prophet of the New Hindu Age Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.

Money is rightly said to be the root of all evil. But when it is righteously spent for proliferation of spirituality and amelioration of the lot of humanity, it is truly a blessing. Whereas the spiritual mission of the Sangha is to evolve a god out of man (devolve men and women into veritable gods and goddesses), its mundane objectives read:

“To nurse the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and educate the underprivileged children.”

None of these endeavours would have been possible without your support. Therefore, I wish to cease this opportunity to pay gratitude and say thanks to each and every one of you—our donors, sponsors and advertisers. Swami Vivekananda once posed this question: Whom should we thank, the giver or receiver? This is what the saintly one had to say which is today deemed sacrosanct: It is the giver who is to be thanked for it is a God-given privilege to be allowed to give. The act of giving helps the individual to exercise his benevolence. It also allows him an opportunity to show his compassion which is vital for his self-development.

I am pleased to present our 2024 yearend financial report which is admittedly robust. Our revenues has again surpassed the half-a-million dollar mark. We are pleased to report that it reaches the staggering amount of \$505,480. The reported expenses stood at \$302,300 which was mainly attributable to our large mortgage encumbrment. The monthly mortgage payment alone is around \$20,000, plus another \$10,000 or so for carrying all 3 properties. Fortunately though, approximately \$10,000 per month (\$120,000 per year) has been applied directly to the principal. In the last 5 years for example, we have already reduced the mortgage by over half-a-million dollars. The present balance now stands at \$2,750,000.

Carrying our Ashram is easier said than done. It is a daunting task to raise this kind of money year after year. That is why we are appealing to you for your continued help. We need all the financial help and blessings we can muster. Our holy shastras lavishly praise *daan* or almsgiving. It is said that whatever one gives in charity, it is multiplied a thousandfold.

2024 has been a great year. Trust that 2025 will bring us greater opulence and reward. I pray that may the benign blessings of Guru Maharaj be with you all. Thank you and God bless.

PS: I wish to commend our brother Mike Sookhoo for all of his wonderful efforts. He has been discharging his duties as our accountant for the last decade without remuneration. In addition to that, he is our fourth largest donor on record. Blessings to him.

Submitted by General Secretary Dr. Lake Singh.

First Inheritance by virtue of a Will



The late Sri Monish Sarkerji

He is not only our largest donor on record but also the first bhakta (devotee) to have ever named the Ashram as a primary beneficiary in his Last Will and Testament. Pursuant to the provisions contained therein, the first sums of money to be paid out are as follows: \$10,000 to the Canada Ashram and \$6,000 to our Head Office. The probate is already granted by the courts. So, all that we are waiting for now is the disposition of some of his holdings before funds can be disbursed.

But that's not all what we are entitled to. There's a further provision in his Will whereby our Ashram will receive a certain percentage of the residue of his estate. I am in touch with his nephew Ronjit Sarker who is one of the Executors / Trustees of his Estate. We have both concurred that the Canada Ashram is in line for a further sum amounting to tens of thousands of dollars.

Sri Sarkerji never ceased to amaze me. He always spoke about giving. He once even presented me a book on the topic that speaks in laudable terms about giving. Apart from his 13 near-and-dear blood relatives, there are over 20 other charities unto whom he gave, devised and bequeathed his entire lifesavings, assets and holdings.

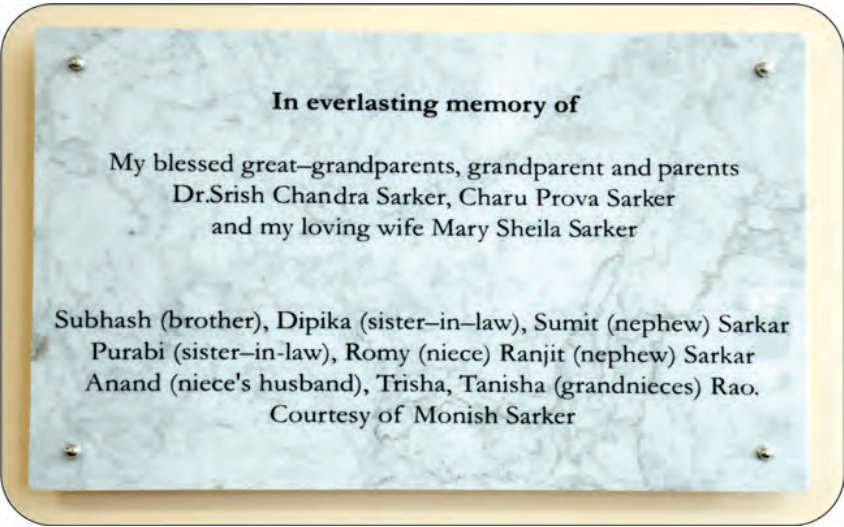
Born out of selfless devotion, this just goes to show his immense benignity—a quality he demonstrated several times in his life. Mr. Sarkerji was truly an altruist or philanthropist at heart. But even more striking is the honourable manner in which he conducted himself. This saintlike one did so without the reciprocity or expectation of reward, name or fame.

The point of this article is twofold. Firstly, it is done to demonstrate our deepest admiration, regards and gratitude to him. Secondly, we trust that others may be inspired to follow in his wonderful footsteps. I urge everyone to take advantage of this one-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Bharat Sevashram Sangha is a Divine Mission. Whatever you do or donate would not go unpaid. I know this to be so from my own personal experiences. Even though it is a token amount, please make the Ashram a beneficiary in your Will. You will not only feel blest and good about yourself, but ultimately compensated too by the Creator himself.

Here is an invitation for you to leave your mark in the Ashram. This one single act of yours will pave your way to vaikuntha (the heavens). Remember, the only thing that goes with you is your meritorious deeds or punyas. We are prepared to make a plaque and have it displayed in your esteemed honour in the Ashram. Please call me at 416-825-2700 for further details.

Finally, it is only befitting that we present Mr. Sarkerji with a Posthumous Award or Plaque. This we intend to mount right next to the one he already has in the Ashram. We pray that may he become a primary beneficiary himself in the Kingdom of Heaven. May God make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him. God bless. I wish to append the following footnotes:

1. Mr. Sarkerji's father was a doctor. And he always reminisced with pride how the monks would visit him at their home in Kolkata. He recalled one monk in particular. It was Brahmachari Ranjan Maharaj—the monk who is today our revered president Srimat Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj. He would speak fondly too of his mother who once said to him: “Son, never must you turn your back on these monks. Always try to help them.” Lastly, when I informed our Head Office of his Will, Srimat Swami Biswatmanandaji Maharaj (our CEO and General Secretary) straightaway began recounting the virtues of this blessed Sarker's family.
2. With the help and support of the devotees of the Ashram, Mr. Sarkerji has been feeding nearly 60 unfortunate youths without shelter once-a-month for the past several years. He was also supplying groceries and new clothing to Ernestine Shelter for Battered Women once-a-month. And now that he is no more, we feel it is our bounding duty to uphold these great humanitarian initiatives of his. It is our settled intension to continue so doing under his good name. Feeding the hungry and sheltering the afflicted fall right within the ambit of our Ashram's mandate.
3. This was not a coincident but the direct will of our beloved Guru Maharaj. By divine intervention and guidance, it so happened that Swami Purnatmanandaji Maharaj was here to attend his viewing. Yes, God does not come but he sends his messenger. It was indeed a good omen and sign of benediction. May his Atman rest in eternal peace. Jai Guru!



A New Beginning

By Dr. Lake Singh



We are exceedingly pleased and delighted to make this grand announcement. A blessed family has voluntarily come forward and made one of the most treasurable gifts of all. They have donated a beautifully sculptured Murti of Maa Durga along with her four divine progenies: the blessed quartet Saraswati, Lakshmi, Ganesh and Kartik.

We must admit that the Chatterjee family possesses a heart of gold. Dr. Munmun Chatterjee admitted to me that it was her husband Dr. Diptendu's idea. Suddenly, one day out of the blue, he decided that they would undertake this noble endeavour. Their dream has today become a reality. These exquisitely beautiful murties have now arrived in Canada and we will be unveiling them on Saturday September 27, 2025 at 6 pm. Everyone is invited.

We intend to celebrate this year's incredible Durga Puja Festival with devotion, pomp and grandeur. The homecoming of the revered Goddess Maa Durga and her divine offsprings will be truly memorable. The new-look pandal will be spectacularly mounted upon a brand-new mandap also. That too, along with bright flashing lights, will only serve to enhance the aura of the Divine Mother and her celestial entourage.

The magnanimity of this gracious couple did not stop there. I now invite you to read the following article to see what else they have in mind. It is not the wish or intention of the Chatterjees' to do any of this. I assure you that this is all my doing which I did on purpose and deliberately so too. How else would we be able to motivate or inspire others to undertake suchlike laudable and exemplary acts of charitableness? This is your Ashram and whatever you do for it will open heaven's doors for you. God is our sakshi or witness. He knows his children who are pure at hearts.

Engrave the Names of your Deceased Loved Ones Here



Munmun bahin and Diptendu bhai intend to carve out a new niche. But before I get into that, I would like to draw your attention to our Donors Recognition Wall. First of all, it was designed for the purposes of recognizing devotees' monetary and in-kind contributions. In-kind is a term used by Canada Revenue Agency to include any and everything other than money. Good examples of that are donations such as murties, equipment or any other items and/or services rendered.

It is interesting to note that this most thoughtful and considerate couple has come up with yet another grand idea or proposal. They want us to make provisions for engraving the names of deceased loved ones in the Ashram. This idea has straightaway grabbed my attention and curiosity. Yes, there is absolutely no question regarding the virtues of so doing.

Our Shastras pay glowing tribute to those who undertake certain noble projects and gestures. Good examples are “digging Wells to provide drinking-water for animals and man; building foster homes for unfortunate and Godforsaken kids; construction of hospitals and mandirs.” Speaking of home of the Lord, making charitable donations to temples in the name of near-and-dear deceased family members work wonders for them. These blessings shall accrue directly to them in the hereafter or great beyond. Satisfied and pleased with your efforts or thoughtfulness, they shall in turn shower upon you torrential blessings.

The Chatterjees' are proposing we make Marbled Plaques measuring 6” X 9” on which the deceased names will be inscribed and displayed on a designated wall in the Ashram. This is certainly a splendid idea for which they should be heartily commended. But best of all is what's

to follow. In order to initiate or get the ball rolling, the couple wants to kickstart it all with their own deceased parents names.

They are prepared to donate the sum of \$10,000 for two plaques which translate to \$5,000 each. We would like to thank them for this virtuous act of theirs. We trust that others will follow in their fine example and do likewise. To their noble parents, we wish to offer this Shanti Path in their names and sweet memories:

ॐ द्यौः शान्तिरन्तरिक्षं शान्तिः
 पृथिवी शान्तिरापः शान्तिरोषधयः शान्तिः ।
 वनस्पतयः शान्तिर्विश्वेदेवाः शान्तिर्ब्रह्म शान्तिः
 सर्वं शान्तिः शान्तिरेव शान्तिः सा मा शान्तिरेधि ॥
 ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

**Om Dyauh Shaantir-Antarikssam Shaantih
 Prthivii Shaantir-Aapah Shaantir-Ossadhayah Shaantih |
 Vanaspatayah Shaantir-Vishve-Devaah Shaantir-Brahma Shaantih
 Sarvam Shaantih Shaantireva Shaantih Saa Maa Shaantir-Edhi |
 Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ॥**

*Oh Almighty God, we pray that may they all grant peace unto the departed souls:
 the sky, the heavens, the earth, the waters, the herbs, the trees, the creepers,
 the gods, the goddesses, including Lord Brahma and all other celestial beings.
 May that eternal peace be bestowed upon them now and forever more!
 OM peace, peace, peace.*

PS: To Dr. Munmun Chatterjee who has recently loss her beloved mother, we pray to God to bless her and make her whole again.

We also wish to pay our respect and pray for all the names appearing under the category *In Loving Memor of*. We dedicate our Shanti Path Prayer to them as well. Their names are all follows:

Padmani and Baichu Sangram Singh
 Bhagrati and Sarabjit Singh
 Phulmat and Sugrim Sookhoo
 Bhawani and Younarain Sankar
 Dr. K.K. Goswami and Dr. Juthika Goswami
 Monisha Ramgahan
 Hookumchand (Bud) Persaud
 Dr. Don Gayadeen
 Ganesh (Gano) Chatterpaul
 Premankur Paul
 Sarama Mukherjee
 Sangita Acharjya
 Pandit Prabhat Mukherjee

মাকে মনে পড়ে আমার
মুনমুন, কানাডা, ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৫



এসেছে শরৎ,
আকাশে বাজছে মায়ের আগমনী,
আসছেন জগৎ জননী, মহিষাসুর মর্দিনী, শান্তি দায়িনী
বাজিয়ে তার রাতুল চরণের শিজিনি।

মা, আজ আমার হৃদয় বিদীর্ণ করা শূন্যতা,
প্রতিটি রক্ত কণিকাতে রনিত
তোমাকে চিরতরে হারিয়ে ফেলার গভীরতা।

কি করে কাটাব তোমায় ছাড়া দুর্গা পূজা।
ভাবলেই চোখ ভরে যায় জলে সর্বদা।

সুদূর থেকেও ভিডিও কলে মা মেয়ে দিতাম পুষ্পাঞ্জলি
এবার আমার পূজো হবে
দিয়ে তোমায় আমার অন্তরের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি।

দুর্গা পূজোর
আমায় সব কাজের উৎসাহ দেবার ছিলে তুমি শক্তি,
দক্ষিণেশ্বরে থেকেও, আনন্দ পেতে তুমি
দেখে মায়ের আরতি।

বলো না মাগো,
আজ কার সাথে এইরকম করে কাটাব এই শারদোৎসব।
প্রতিটি মুহূর্তে সব কিছুর মাঝেও
তোমার অনুপস্থিতির অনুভব।

আজ শ্যামলে শ্যামল তুমি
নীলিমায় নীল, আমার নিখিল।

তাই এখন তুমি ছবি হয়ে গেলেও -
আমার অন্তরে রইবে তুমি হয়ে চির প্রজ্বলিত রবি।

শোকাহতা তোমার মেয়ে মুনমুন



ওঁ শান্তি



নয়ন সম্মুখে তুমি নাই
নয়নের মাঝখানে
থাকবে সদাই

Bharat Sevashram Sangha Head Priest



Shree Pandit Samir Banerjee

We are truly blessed to have a Pandit of his calibre. Shree Pandit Samir Banerjee is a great example of what a Pandit is meant or ought to be. A Pandit is a learned and scholarly person who is beyond reproach—someone who has found favour with God. I am proud to say that Pandit Samir Banerjee was deputed to fill this role as head priest. Our beloved Guru Maharaj permits only seekers of truth in its inner sanctum.

Service to humanity is the lifeblood of the Sangha. It is rightly said that: To serve man is to serve God. And this is precisely what I have noticed of Panditji. His call of duty is to give back to society. He has incorporated in his life the three principal branches or facets of yoga—the synthesization of gyaan, bhakti and karma yoga.

Though Panditji has been performing all aspects of puja for the general public, shraddha is by far more widespread. Perhaps I am the only person privy to the truth—the fact that every time he does a puja for someone, he makes sure the Ashram is compensated too. I am pleased to report that he

has contributed over \$15,000 last year. And by the looks of it, he is on course to surpass the \$20,000 mark this year.

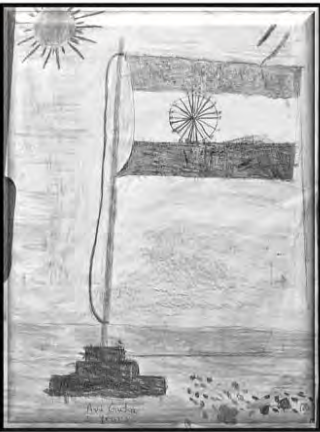
Monetary compensation aside, he also donates all gifts received such as grains, flour, rice and so on. How must we allow such acts of supreme sacrifice and kindness to go unnoticed! The least we can do is to pay due recognition and say thanks to him. There are many among you who do wonder how on earth we are able to carry such a huge financial burden. But it is because of wonderful people like Panditji.

Many at his age would have resorted or taken to a reclining or rocking chair. But this kind-hearted soul has elected otherwise. May God grant him the strength and courage to continue his good deeds. Right beside him is his dharam-patni bahin Roma di. She follows him like his shadow lending full support and encouragement. She books his appointments, plans and executes everything from start to finish. More often than not, she even accompanies him to the Ashram when he goes to officiate.

Last point. There is not so much need in Canada for charitable endeavours as it is in India. Here the need is different. What Panditji is doing here is fulfilling one crucial need Hindus are faced with in Canada. And as you know, Bharat Sevashram Sangha is all about seva or selfless activities. May God shower his choicest blessings upon him and his better-half Roma-di. Jai Guru!



Shree Pandit Samir Banerjee & Romaji



Painting &
Photography by
Arnab, Avi and
Gitashree Guha



Gita, for Children!

By Rhea Bahadur

(Age 14 yrs)

Bhagavad-gita is a practical guide. It teaches the art of living our physical life in harmony with the spiritual one. It teaches the art of self-discipline and self-perfection. We are a synthesis of matter and spirit and both work in harmony with each other. We must blend them in proper proportions, assigning their due importance to both. Gita is really a treasure-house holding one of the most precious pearls of wisdom. It offers an answer to all our personal problems, though they vary in nature from individual to individual. There lies the simplistic beauty of the **Bhagavad-gita**.

The Lord's divine song is in the form of a dialogue between two characters Arjuna and Krsna-Nara and Narayana - where Nara symbolizes man and Narayana represents the refuge of man, God. The God directs and guides the dejected, depressed, helpless and erring man

along the right path. This struggle in man between himself and the Lord of his heart and ultimately the Lord coming to his rescue when he surrenders to Him are quite common in our everyday life. However we fail to notice the play of God in our daily activities

One Liner of the Gita, summarizing the chapters..

These lessons and teachings are the main takeaways from the Gita chapters

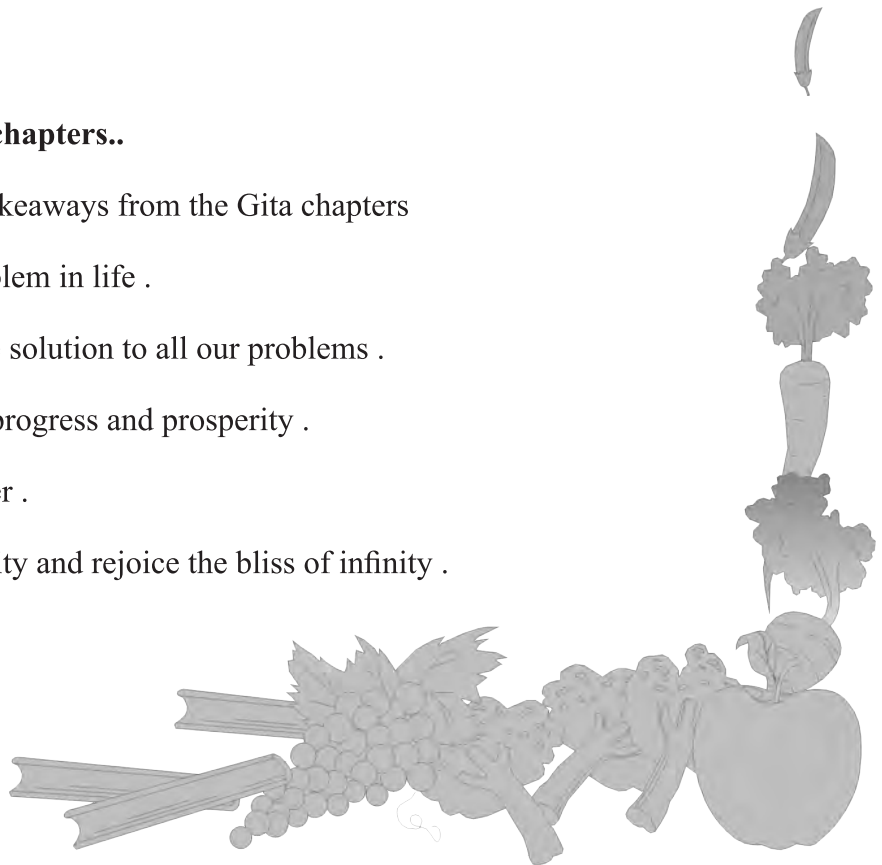
Chapter 1 - Wrong thinking is the only problem in life .

Chapter 2 - Right knowledge is the ultimate solution to all our problems .

Chapter 3 - Selflessness is the only way to progress and prosperity .

Chapter 4 - Every act can be an act of prayer .

Chapter 5 - Renounce the ego of individuality and rejoice the bliss of infinity .



Chapter 6 - Connect to the higher consciousness daily.

Chapter 7 - Live what you learn .

Chapter 8 - Never give up on yourself .

Chapter 9 - Value your blessings .

Chapter 10 - See divinity all around .

Chapter 11 - Have enough surrender to see the truth as it is.

Chapter 12 - Absorb your mind in the higher.

Chapter 13 - Detach from Maya and attach to divine .

Chapter 14 - Live a life- style that matches your vision.

Chapter 15 - Give priority to Divinity .

Chapter 16 - Being good is a reward in itself .

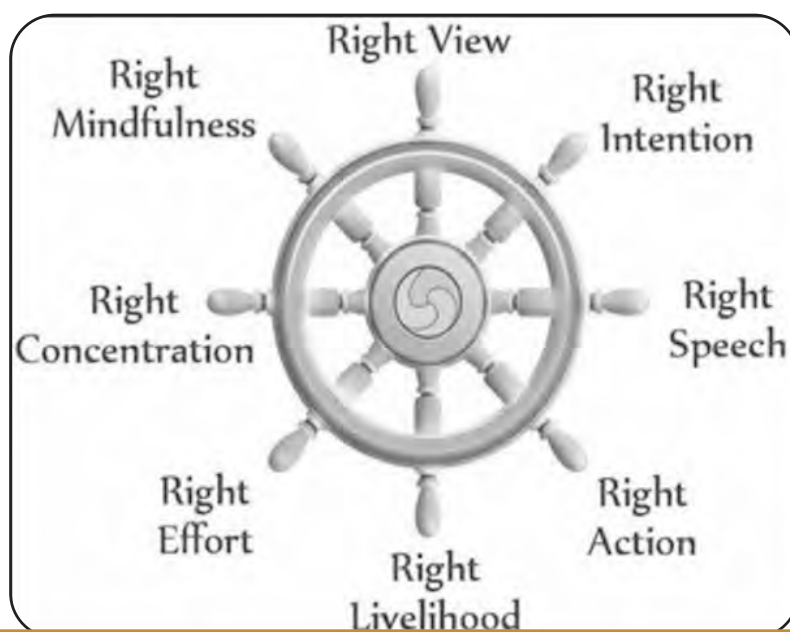
Chapter 17 - Choosing the right over the pleasant is a sign of power .

Chapter 18 - Let go, let us move to union with God.

Looking at these liners the other way, think opposite of what each one liner says about each chapter.. What do you find common in all chapters? **FEAR**

Gita is all about removing and replacing the FEAR from you which is present in various forms. If you've not yet read one of, or arguably, the greatest book on LIFE, you've NOT truly lived to your fullest possible potential. It does not stop with reading but living it every day. You'll have no FEAR. Hope the one liner summary of each chapter would inspire you to want to get started and dig deeper. From a young age, being introduced to the TRUTH about life and helping to answer the questions regarding the how's and why's of our lives, the **Bhagavad Gita** further deepens our knowledge of the world around us.

Finally, as **Hinduism** being more closely a Science of Self rather than a Religion, it is broken down to 8 steps to be free from suffering. It is called the **Wheel of Dharma**.



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Dr. Lake Singh 416-825-2700

Sister Kishori Prashad 647-268-8086

Bhai Amar Beharry 647-409-2743



SURYA

LAW

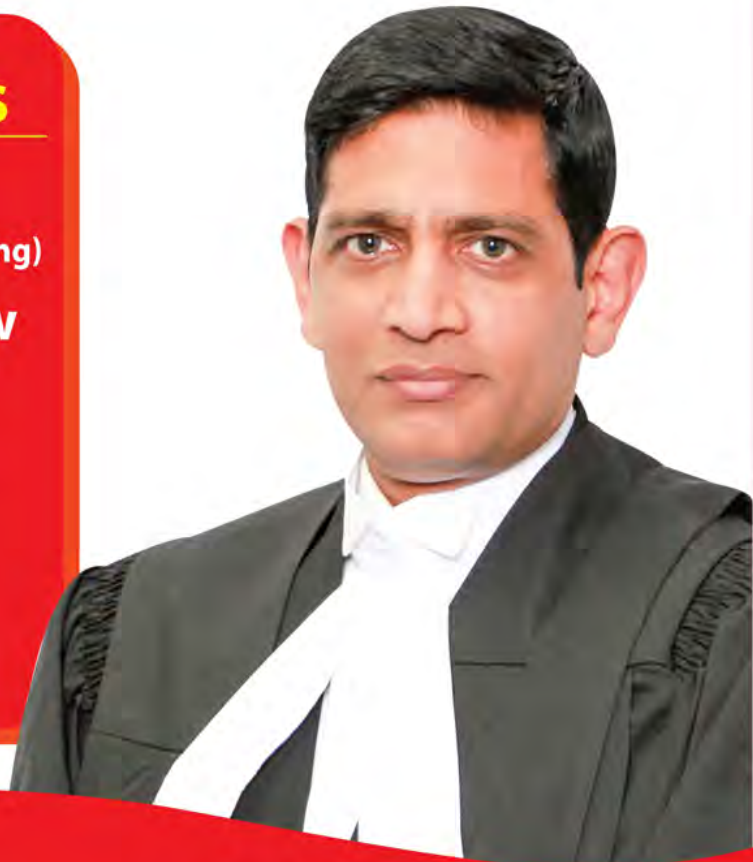
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DURGA PUJA TIMETABLES

Sasthi: Sep 28, Sunday

Bodhon, Amatran Puja & Arati: 7:00 pm

Cultural Program: 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm



Saptami:

Puja & Arati:

Pushpanjali:

Evening Arati:

Cultural Program: 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Sep 29, Monday,

10 am to 12 pm

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

6-7 pm

Astami:

Sep 30, Tuesday

Puja & Arati: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pushpanjali: 12:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Sandhi Puja: 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Evening Arati: 6-7 pm

Cultural Program: 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm



Navami:

Puja & Arati:

Pushpanjali:

Kumari Puja & Yagna: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Evening Arati: 6 - 7 pm

Cultural Program: 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Oct 1, Wednesday,



Dashami:

Oct 2, Thursday

Puja & Bisorjon: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Devi Durga Boron: 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

No Sindur Khela at Ashram. Kindly enjoy outside the temple at Shivtala





IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BHARATI MUKHERJEE
Who passed away on 29th JUNE 2022

From:
Prodeep, Marrie and Devden Mukherjee
Dr. Sanjib Mukherjee

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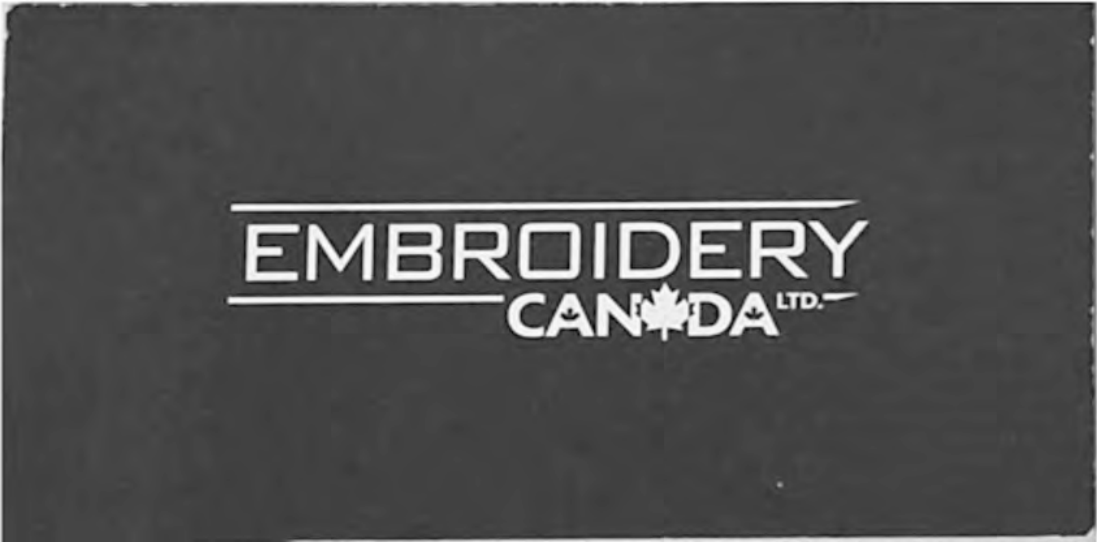
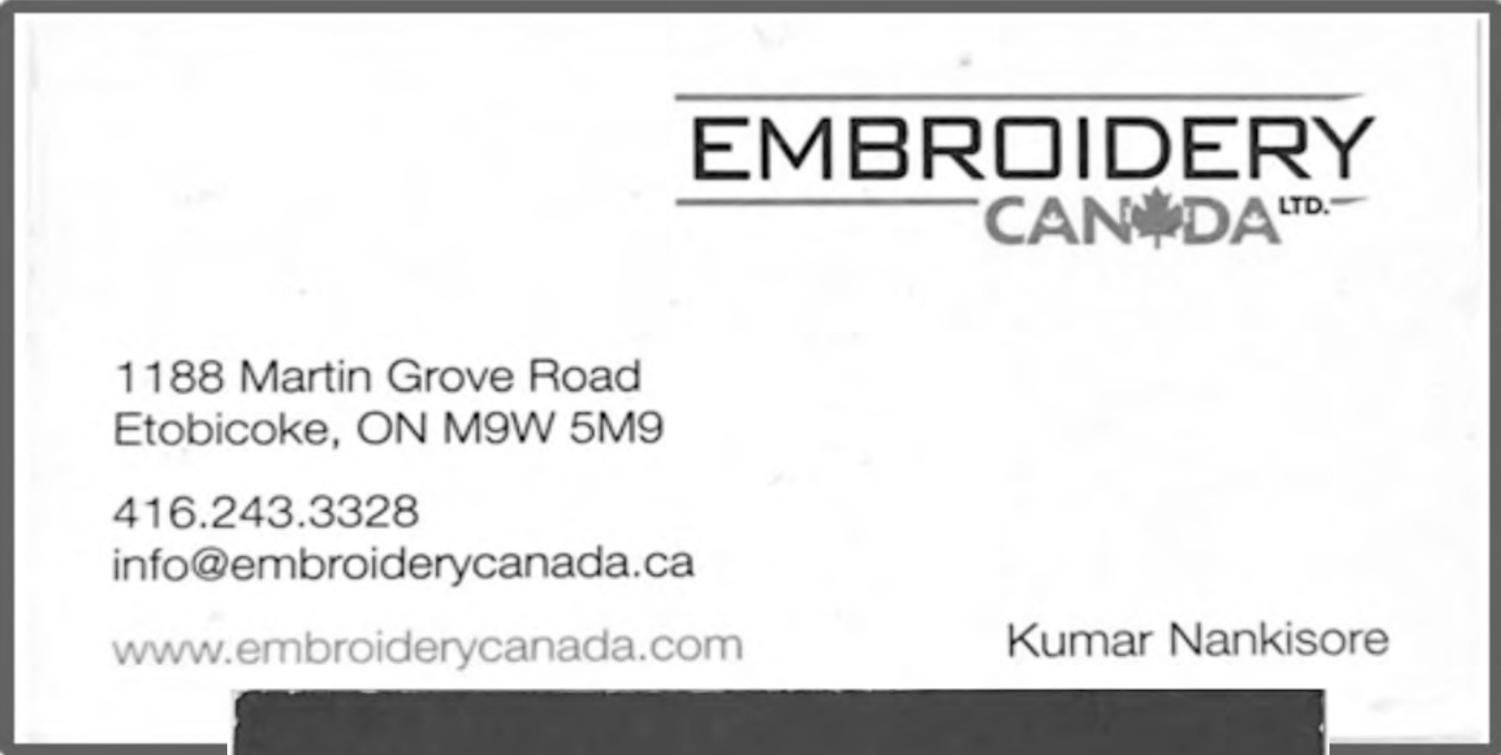
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF SANGITA ACHARJYA,
who passed away on Feb 29, 2024

From: Sugata, Kathakali and Gnanendra Acharjya

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- Cabinets \$4,000
- Lingam Housing \$4,000
- Fence Staining \$5,000

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President



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