



দুর্গাবাড়ী
Durgabari

DURGABARI HISTORY

The history of Durgabari Temple is a testimony to the devotion, perseverance, and collective efforts of its founders and devotees. From a modest beginning as a venue for Durga Puja celebrations, Durgabari gradually evolved into a prominent religious, cultural, and social institution. The following chronology highlights the significant milestones in its development.

Year 1958 – The Beginning

Bengali residents of Andrews Ganj, Lajpat Nagar, National Park and Kailash Colony started celebrating Durga Puja in Andrews Ganj

Year 1960 or 1961 – Same Durga Puja shifted to National Park, near Vikram Hotel, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi

Year 1963 – Durga Puja shifted to Kailash Colony Market. For the next few years, it was celebrated at different places in Kailash Colony.

Year 1966 – At the present location residents of Kailash Colony and Greater Kailash-1 started Kali Puja. Then, from subsequent year onwards DURGA Puja was also celebrated at this present location.

1969 – The Grand Inauguration

The first Durga Puja at Durgabari was organized in 1969. This historic event marked the birth of an institution that would go on to become a spiritual and cultural centre for the Bengali community and devotees from all walks of life.

1970 – Establishment of Durgabari Identity

In 1970, the first Durgabari signboard was erected through the efforts of Shri Manas Ganguly, formally identifying the premises as Durgabari and giving recognition to the growing institution.

During the same year, additional land situated between the Gurdwara and Durgabari was secured and fenced, ensuring protection of the property and providing scope for future expansion.

1972 – Securing the Premises

Foundation stone of Durgabari was laid down by establishing Shiv Murthy and Shiv Linga under a temporary structure.

During Kali Puja in 1972, barbed-wire fencing was installed around the Durgabari premises under the leadership and guidance of Shri Shyama Prasad Banerjee and Shri B. C. Dasgupta. This was one of the earliest infrastructural developments undertaken to safeguard the temple property.

1973 – Construction of the First Temple Structure

A brick-and-mortar structure with a tin roof was constructed in 1973 to house the Goddess. The bricks required for this construction were generously donated by Shri Nicky Majumdar. This humble structure served as the first permanent temple of Durgabari and became the focal point of religious activities for the community.

1974 – Early Years of Worship

In the absence of a regular priest, the responsibility of conducting daily worship and rituals was undertaken by Shri Shyama Prasad Banerjee and Shri Subodh Banerjee. Their dedicated service ensured that the sacred traditions of worship continued uninterrupted until a permanent Purohit was appointed.

1975 – Registration of Durgabari Society

A major milestone was achieved in 1975 with the formal registration of the Durgabari under Societies Registration Act 1860. Now Durgabari is called Durgabari Society (Regd.). This provided the organization with a legal framework and laid the foundation for structured administration and future development.

1975 – First Governing Body Elections

The first elections for the Governing Body were conducted in 1975. Shri Nilmoni Sinha was elected as the first President of the Society, ushering in a new era of organized governance and community participation.

1976–1977 – Expansion of Facilities

As the activities of Durgabari expanded, additional facilities were created during 1976 –77, including a small Dharamsala, Library, and Priests' Quarters. These facilities enhanced the institution's ability to serve devotees and support cultural, educational, and religious activities.

Year 1980 – Durgabari Temple got renovated & redeveloped and Maa Kali's idol was installed.

Formation of Durgabari Charitable Trust and Major Expansion

To undertake large-scale developmental projects and realize the vision of a comprehensive Temple Complex, the Durgabari Charitable Trust was constituted in 1993.

Under the aegis of the Trust, a major phase of development was undertaken during 1992–93, resulting in the creation of:

- * A full-fledged Temple Complex
- * Permanent Kali Temple

- * Durga Dalan
- * A much larger Dharamsala
- * Auditorium
- * Bhog Kitchen
- * Various supporting facilities and infrastructure

This marked a transformational phase in the history of Durgabari and significantly enhanced its capacity to serve devotees and the community.

Year 2000 - Ganesh Idol was installed, and new Lakshmi Narayan temple was inaugurated. Since then, Durgabari is in present state.

2008 – Adoption of the Present Constitution

In 2008, Durgabari adopted its present Constitution, introducing a Two-tier Management system comprising the Board of Trustees (7 Members) and the Governing Body (14 Members). This governance framework provided greater clarity in roles and responsibilities and strengthened the institution's administrative structure.

Legacy and Vision

From the first Durga Puja held in 1969 to the establishment of a vibrant temple and cultural complex, the journey of Durgabari has been shaped by the dedication, vision, and selfless contributions of countless devotees, office bearers, trustees, and well-wishers.

Their collective efforts have transformed Durgabari into a beacon of faith, culture, service, and community welfare. As the institution continues to grow, it remains committed to preserving its rich heritage while serving future generations with the same spirit of devotion and dedication that inspired its founders.