



# Pragati's Fall Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

WWW.PRAGATI.ORG

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Durga Puja**  
October 16 & 17,  
2010

**Laxmi Puja**  
October 23, 2010

**Kali Puja**  
November 6, 2010

**Location: Colonial  
Elementary School  
in Plymouth Meet-  
ing, PA**

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## Announcing New Quarterly Newsletter!

Welcome to Pragati's 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly online newsletter! In this modern world, we have the benefit of being able to connect with our community in the comfort of our home. Pragati's new electronic newsletter is the first step in that direction so that we can keep in touch with the latest news, milestones, achievements, charity initiatives, and our community's general progress with

the click of a button.

Hope you enjoy this new format of communication as we take an exciting step forward!

— Pragati Communications

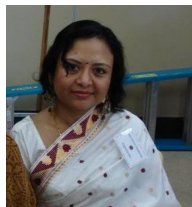
### Pragati Executive Committee:

Top photo (left to right): Sushmita Samanta, Sankar Basuthakur, Mousumi Khan, Sutapa Bakshi, Manjari Basu, Dipanwita Roy, Anand Awasthi, Sonali Ghosh

Bottom photo (second left): Paramita Sinha



## Editorial by Pragati President



At Pragati we sincerely believe that communication is essential for progress. As

such, it is my great pleasure to announce that for the very first time, Pragati will be publishing a quarterly electronic newsletter! I am sure that members and families of Pragati will be as thrilled as I am with the opening of this new channel of communication. For now, the newsletter will feature:

1) **Community announcements** (announcements of birth, graduation, engagement, marriage, etc).

2) **Information about past events** (pictures and descriptions to share with members)

3) **Updates about future events** (announcements of dates and venues of future Pragati events and ways to participate in them)

I believe that these features will help all Pragati members stay connected and feel like one big family!

The present Pragati Executive Committee is very proud of creating positive interest and enthusiasm through our recent events, which have acclaimed lots of praise. I hope the newsletter will create even more interest. To make this effort worthy of its purpose, we request your active participation in spreading the

news, providing information, and most importantly, coming up with new ideas and suggestions for improvement!

Finally, here is a challenge for everyone: we still have not decided on a name for the newsletter, and we would love to hear your suggestions! We are looking for something simple, yet clever and catchy. Our committee will select the best name by vote. The newsletter will be named after the winning selection and the winner's name will be announced in the future issue! This is your chance to leave your mark on Pragati for years to come! We look forward to hearing your ideas!

Please stay connected.

Sincerely,  
Dipanwita Roy



*The Pragati Executive Committee is happy to announce that we have formed a partnership with Dish Network! Dish Network will be one of Pragati's major sponsors this upcoming year, and in return, Pragati will help promote Dish Network's Prabasi Bengali Pack.*

## Appreciation for Past Events

Pragati's 2010-2011 Executive Committee's initial ventures included Saraswati Puja celebration in January and Poila Boishak in May. Both events have been credited by our members as a great success.

*"Congratulations to Pragati! Good team work and job well done. We look forward for the upcoming events."*

-Sarkers

*"You and your Pragati Team did a fantastic job for the Rabin-dra-Nazrul-Nababarsha celebration. Kudos to you all for all your hard work and a job very well done. The cultural programs were enjoyable; the cultural show with Dada-Boudi in traditional Bengali attire was fun; and the Odissi dance program was outstanding! The dinner was also very palatable and so were the snacks by Mrs. Paul. Thanks to you all and looking forward to more extraordinary work in the future."*

-Paromita C.

## Upcoming Cultural Program Highlights

### **Durga Puja Day 1**

"AGAMONI" SONGS – performed by our Pragati members

Dance performed by students of "Prerna" dance school under the direction of Smt. Lakshmi Raghavan

Featured artist of the day: Sri Arnab Chakraborty – Playback singer from Bollywood, winner of Sony TV's "K for Kishore"

### **Durga Puja Day 2**

"Dance that will surely rock you" Bollywood, Bhangra dance performed by Penn Masti

Adhunik gaan performed by Smt Anindita Sengupta (local artist)

### **Laxmi Puja**

Classical Bharatnatyam and Devotional dance on Goddess Lakshmi performed by Mon-

alisa and Kristy Ghosh

Fun games and competition for all the Pragati members

### **Kali Puja**

Natak "E Kaler Roop kotha" performed by our Pragati members under the direction of Shri Soumen Kundu

Light Classical, Ghazals, Old and Modern Bengali and Hindi songs performed by Smt Mitali Saha of Baltimore.

## Report from Charity Committee

Thanks to the generosity of the Pragati members, we are beginning to make a difference in our Philadelphia neighborhood. The following are some of the activities we have been involved in the past year (2009-2010).

1. On Thanksgiving 2009 we

gave food worth \$600.00 to the homeless. The Philabundance organizers were so impressed with the Pragati giving that our members made front page news in the local newspaper.

2. Last winter we were able to donate \$500.00 for blankets for the homeless to Philabun-

dance.

3. Our members' generosity knows no limit; we were able to raise \$2500 for the Haiti Relief Fund.

4. For the summer of 2010, \$400.00 was given to feed the poor children in the Philadelphia school district area.



5. This spring we were able to form a partnership with Manna on Main Street, a soup kitchen in Lansdale that provides hot meals to the poor, needy and elderly. On



Mother's Day (May 9<sup>th</sup>), we had the satisfaction of cooking a hot and healthy meal for thirty hungry individuals. Our young members, with

great enthusiasm served, cleaned and mingled with the not so fortunate people who came to Manna. At the end of the meal, we all had the feeling of a job well done and knew we had to come back. We have been inviting members to join us in this new venture, and we are happy to inform, we are getting a good response. Those of you who are interested to volunteer, we still have weekends in October through December available. The soup kitchen will be partly sponsored by Pragati through the year.

This is the fourth year of Pragati Charity Committee, with your help we hope to give back to the community that has given us so much.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact:

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**“A society that has more justice is a society that needs less charity.”**  
**-Ralph Nader**

## Manna Volunteers

Thanks to those who have already offered to volunteer. We are still looking for volunteers for the dates mentioned below.

**We are especially in need of volunteers for Saturday, September 25.**

- Volunteers still needed for:
- Saturday 9/25 — 3:30 to 5:30 pm
  - Saturday 10/9 — 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
  - Saturday 11/6 — 3:30 to 5:30 pm
  - Sunday 11/28 — 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
  - Sunday 12/12 — 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Please call Mita Nandi at 610.993.9425 or email at [mita.sen@comcast.net](mailto:mita.sen@comcast.net) if interested in volunteering.

**“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”**

**-Rabindranath Tagore**

## Bangla School Closed

Pragati general members were informed couple of months back that a decision is being made to close the Bangla school temporarily due to lack of student enrollment. Options are being explored to see if the school can be revived. Currently, the Bangla Library is housed in the school space. We are thinking of utilizing the space to have book discussions, screen classic Bengali Movies, meet and greet place to unwind with Carom, Cards or other indoor games. Ideas are very much welcome and appreciated.

**“A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.”**

**-Mohandas Gandhi**

### Humor

**“The other night I ate at a real nice family restaurant . Every table had an argument going.”**  
**-George Carlin**



# Milestones & Achievements

**Congratulations to 2010 high school graduates.** We wish them all the best!

-Shohom Basuthakur son of Sanhita and Somnath Basuthakur will be attending University of Pennsylvania.

- Shourjo Chakravorty son of Pallabi and Sanjoy Chakravorty will be attending Emory University.



-Pratik Dasgupta son of Malini and Prasad Dasgupta will be studying engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

- Arnab Nandi son of Madhumita and Manish Nandi will be studying engineering at Drexel University.

- Amit Paul son of Srilekha and Chitta Paul will be attending George Washington University.

- Shinjini Bakshi daughter of Sutapa and Debojyoti Bakshi will be attending Schreyer honors college, Pennsylvania State University.

**Congratulations to the newlywed couples!**

- Ruby Majumder daughter of Arunima and Anup Majumder is married to Vijay Mehta son of Illa Mehta and Dr. Jitendra Mehta.

-Neal Mitra son of Kana and Pradip Mitra is married to Linyu daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Li of Beijing.



## Pragati

**Greater Philadelphia Area Bengali Association (estd. 1972)**

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