



Croydon Bengali Connection

ক্রয়ডন বাঙালী সংযোগ

SARASWATI PUJA & VASANT PANCHAMI 2026



“বরষা ধরা মাঝে শান্তির বারি
শুষ্ক হৃদয়ে লয়ে আছে দাঁড়ায় উর্ধ্বমুখে
না থাকে অঙ্গকার, না থাকে মোহ পাপ
না থাকে শোক পরিতাপ
হৃদয়ে বিমল হোক, প্রাণ সবল হোক
বিঘ্ন দাও অপসারি”

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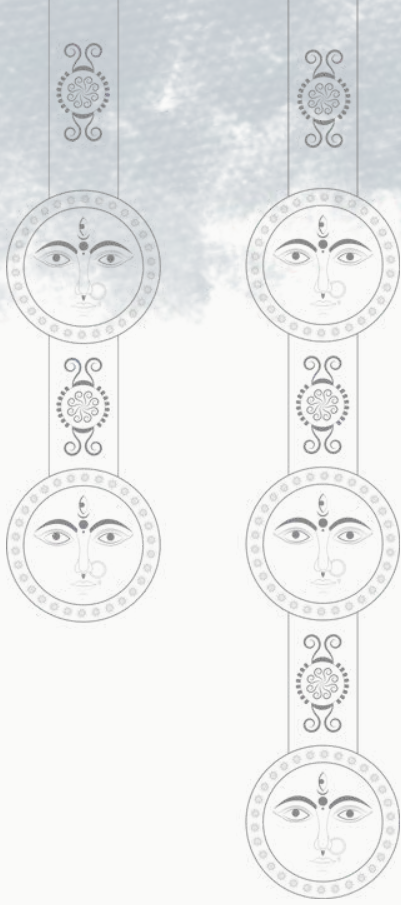


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Autism Awareness with Autism Moms



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Croydon Bengali Connection

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ক্রয়ডন বাঙালী সংযোগ



সম্পাদকীয়

শ্রী শ্রী সরস্বতী নমঃ

শীত এখনো পিছু ছাড়েনি। ভোরের কুয়াশায় ঢাকা রাস্তা, ঠান্ডায় জমে যাওয়া বাতাস, আর নিস্তব্ধ দুপুর—সব মিলিয়ে মনে হয় সময় যেন থমকে আছে। অথচ প্রকৃতির গভীরে কোথাও এক নীরব প্রস্তুতি চলছে। মাটির তলায় কুঁড়ি জেগে উঠছে, গাছের ডালে অদৃশ্য ভাষায় বসন্তের ডাক শোনা যাচ্ছে। মানুষ বুকুক আর না বুকুক, পরিবর্তন আসছেই।

এই পরিবর্তনের টানেই আবার ফিরে আসে শ্রীপঞ্চমী—মা সরস্বতীর আবাহনের দিন। শীতের বুক চিরে জেগে ওঠে বিদ্যার উৎসব, স্মৃতির উৎসব, শিকড়ের উৎসব।

এই আবহেই ক্রয়ডন বেঙ্গলি কানেকশনের সদস্যরা শুরু করেছেন মা সরস্বতীর আরাধনার প্রস্তুতি—কারণ এ বছর আমাদের উদযাপন আরও বিশেষ। এই বছর **Croydon Bengali Connection** তার গৌরবময় ১৫তম বর্ষে পদার্পণ করেছে, আর সেই উপলক্ষেই সরস্বতী পূজা হচ্ছে আরও বৃহৎ, আরও বর্ণিল, আরও আনন্দময় রূপে।

শ্রীপঞ্চমী মানেই বাঙালির হৃদয়ের উৎসব। শৈশব থেকেই এই দিনটাকে ঘিরে থাকে আলাদা উত্তেজনা—নতুন জামাকাপড়, নাচ-গান-নাটক, সাজগোজ, আর সব শেষে দেবীর চরণে পড়ার বই, দোয়াত-কলম রেখে আশীর্বাদ প্রার্থনা। এই স্মৃতিগুলোই আমাদের সারাজীবনের সঙ্গী হয়ে থাকে।

সুদূর প্রবাসে, শীতের আমেজে সরস্বতী পূজা উদযাপন শুধু ধর্মীয় আচার নয়—এ এক আবেগের উৎসব। বড়দের শৈশবের স্মৃতি ফিরে আসে, আর আমাদের নতুন প্রজন্ম ধীরে ধীরে পরিচিত হয় ভারতের কৃষ্টি, সংস্কৃতি আর ভাষার সঙ্গে। বাংলা ভাষায় কথা বলা, গান গাওয়া, কবিতা আবৃত্তি বা নাটকে অভিনয়ের মধ্য দিয়ে তারা নিজেদের শিকড়কে চিনতে শেখে।

এই বছর **Croydon Bengali Connection** আরও বৃহত্তর পরিসরে সরস্বতী পূজার আনন্দ উৎসবে ভাগ নিতে চলেছে। মাসাধিক কাল ধরে চলছে প্রস্তুতি—দৈনন্দিন ব্যস্ততা আর নানা সমস্যার মাঝেও সবাই সময় বের করে নিয়মিত বৈঠক, পরিকল্পনা আর কাজ ভাগ করে নিচ্ছে। উদ্দেশ্য একটাই—সবাই মিলে এমন একটা দিন তৈরি করা, যেখানে আনন্দ, সংস্কৃতি আর ঐতিহ্য একসঙ্গে মিশে যাবে।

উৎসবের দিন কমিউনিটি হল সাজবে দেশ থেকে আনা আর নিজের হাতে বানানো সাজসজ্জায়। শিশুদের কোলাহল, বড়দের ব্যস্ততা আর সবার মুখের হাসি মিলিয়ে তৈরি হবে এক উষ্ণ পরিবেশ—যা আমাদের মনে করিয়ে দেবে, দূরে থাকলেও আমরা আমাদের শিকড় ভুলে যাইনি।

Croydon Bengali Connection সারা বছর নানা সাংস্কৃতিক ও সামাজিক কর্মকাণ্ডে যুক্ত থাকে—কালীপূজো, সরস্বতী পূজো, পয়লা বৈশাখ, বিজয়া দশমী ইত্যাদি। এই সব আয়োজন আমাদের শুধু আনন্দ দেয় না, আমাদের সমাজের প্রতিও দায়িত্বশীল করে তোলে।

যদিও ক্যালেন্ডারে বসন্ত এসেছে, পৃথিবীর বহু প্রান্তে আজও অশান্তি। যুদ্ধ, সংঘাত আর বৈষম্যে অসংখ্য মানুষের জীবন বিপন্ন। এই দিনে আমাদের প্রার্থনা—মা সরস্বতী যেন সবাইকে সুবুদ্ধি দেন, যেন শিশুরা নিরাপদ পৃথিবীতে বড় হতে পারে, আর মানুষ জ্ঞান, শান্তি ও সহমর্মিতার পথে এগিয়ে যায়।

আমরা কৃতজ্ঞ আমাদের সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ী, স্বেচ্ছাসেবক ও স্পন্সরদের প্রতি, যাদের সহযোগিতায় এই পথচলা সম্ভব হয়েছে। আপনাদের সমর্থনেই আমাদের উদ্যোগ এগিয়ে চলেছে।

ক্রয়ডন বেঙ্গলি কানেকশনের পক্ষ থেকে সকলকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা।

শুভ সরস্বতী পূজো। সবাই ভালো থাকুন।



Editorial

Śrī Śrī Saraswatī Namaḥ

Winter still refuses to loosen its grip. Mist-covered mornings, frozen air, and silent afternoons make it feel as though time itself has paused. And yet, deep within nature, something stirs. Beneath the soil, buds awaken. On bare branches, an unseen message of spring is being written. Whether we notice it or not, change is on its way.

Drawn by this quiet transformation, Śrī Pañcamī returns—the sacred day of Goddess Saraswatī's arrival. From the heart of winter rises a festival of knowledge, memory, and roots.

In this spirit, members of the Croydon Bengali Connection have begun preparations for Saraswatī Pūjā—made even more special this year, as CBC proudly celebrates its grand 15th year. This is not just another festival; it is a milestone, marked with greater color, deeper emotion, and shared joy.

Founded in Croydon, South London, by passionate members of the Bengali diaspora, CBC has long been a guardian of language, culture, and tradition. Even during the hardest days of the pandemic, when the world stood still, we kept our rituals alive through virtual celebrations.

Śrī Pañcamī is close to every Bengali soul. From childhood, this day carries a special magic—new clothes, songs and dances, plays and decorations, and finally placing books, pens, and inkpots at the Goddess's feet, praying for wisdom. These memories never fade; they grow with us.

In distant lands and winter's chill, celebrating Saraswatī Pūjā is more than a ritual—it is an emotional homecoming. Elders rediscover their childhood, and the next generation learns the rhythm of India's culture. Through Bengali words, songs, poems, and performances, they hold tightly to their roots.

This year, CBC's Saraswatī Pūjā will be larger and brighter than ever. For over a month, amidst daily struggles and busy lives, members have met, planned, and worked tirelessly. One dream unites them—to create a day where joy, culture, and tradition flow together as one.

On the festival day, the community hall will glow with decorations brought from India and crafted by loving hands. Children's laughter, adult conversations, and smiling faces will fill the space—reminding us that distance can never erase who we are.

Throughout the year, CBC remains active with cultural and social work—from Kālī Pūjā, Saraswatī Pūjā, Poilā Boishakh, and Bijoyā, Christmas. These efforts bring joy and also teach responsibility toward society.

Though spring has arrived on calendars, much of the world still lives in darkness. War, conflict, and inequality threaten countless lives. On this sacred day, we pray that Goddess Saraswatī grants humanity wisdom—so children may grow in safety, and the world may move toward knowledge, peace, and compassion.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters, volunteers, and sponsors whose generosity keeps this journey alive. Your support is the strength behind our dreams.

From the Croydon Bengali Connection, we send our warmest wishes to all.

Happy Saraswatī Puja!





The Executive Mayor's Office
12th Floor
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon
CR0 1EA

19th January 2026

Dear Croydon Bengali Connection

I am delighted to send my best wishes to all those who are coming together to celebrate Saraswati Puja and Vasant Panchami.

This auspicious occasion, which marks preparation for the arrival of Spring, is an important event in the calendar, and it is always wonderful to see our diaspora community here in Croydon marking and celebrating its culture and heritage.

Croydon Bengali Connection in particular plays a valued role in our borough, bringing friends and family who are part of the Bengali community together to celebrate, while also providing opportunities for younger generations to learn and participate. This work is vital in sustaining strong community connections across Croydon, and it is wonderful that this year marks the 15th anniversary of the group celebrating Saraswati Puja and Basant Panchami.

I wish everyone involved in this years Saraswati Puja & Basant Panchami a joyful and successful celebration, and thank you for the positive contribution you continue to make to our borough.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Perry".

Mayor Jason Perry
Executive Mayor of Croydon



A Message from The Worshipful The Civic Mayor, Cllr Richard Chatterjee



As Civic Mayor of Croydon, I extend my heartiest congratulation to Croydon Bengali Connection as they celebrate their 15th successive year of Saraswati Puja.

I am delighted to convey my message for their Souvenir 'BenuBeena: Tuning Together' being published on this occasion and distributed to all the guests. This festival is celebrated by Indians as Basant Panchami or Saraswati Puja to offer their humble prayers to the Goddess of Learning and Wisdom. I too hope and pray that such occasions evoke goodness among individuals, helps the wider community to embrace the path of knowledge, learning, education to stay in the path of righteousness and truth.

CBC has worked effortlessly towards the Indian community enriching and empowering young generations with the Bengali culture and heritage so that along with staying connected to the roots they also learn to value other cultures equally. Such an event and festival provide us opportunity to meet and greet community members of all ages, cultural diversities under one roof and provides a platform for our children to showcase their talents.

I share Croydon Council's and the Local Government's good wishes for this event and cannot wait to see the inclusivity and tradition in the festival.

I once again commend our community's pride for Croydon Bengali Connection as they continue with their noble work and grow leaps and bounds, making a mark with every passing year for striving to infuse culture into the local community and bringing people together through faith and tradition.

The Worshipful The Civic Mayor, Cllr Richard Chatterjee

Marvellous Mercury & Poem - A World We All Give

Marvellous Mercury



Mercury is the closest planet to our Sun. It is a terrestrial planet, which makes it the first of four planets. It is 48 million miles away from Earth. One year on Mercury is 88 Earth days but 59 Earth days to spin around its self. This is because it takes faster for Mercury to orbit around the Sun because it is closer to the Sun. However, it takes longer time to spin around its self. Its day – and – night cycle is 187 Earth days. Interested? Read on to find out more!

Astonishing Appearance!

The surface of Mercury is very different to our home planet. The surface of Mercury is heavily scarred by impact craters from billions of years of with asteroids and comets. The largest, Caloris Basin, is 1550 km (960 miles) is large enough to hold the entire state of Texas. Massive cliff – like ridges up to 3 km high and hundreds of miles long, criss-cross the planet. These formed as the planet's large iron core cooled and contracted, causing the surface to pucker like a drying fruit. While much of the surface is rugged, there are smooth extensive plains of volcanic origin similar to lunar maria that filled ancient depressions.



Is there life on Mercury?

The answer to that question is that there can not be life on Mercury because of: the lethal radiation that comes from the Sun, unbreathable atmosphere and there is no liquid water.

Did you know?

- Mercury travels at 29 miles per second.
- Mercury was named after the swift Roman messenger because of the speed.
- Mercury's core elements are shrinking because of scarps (cliffs) that are 100 miles long.
- The Sun would look three times larger than how we see it.
- Scientists found frozen water deep inside its craters that will never get warm!

In conclusion, Mercury is a very fascinating planet and scientists have discovered many facts but some questions still remain a mystery and you never know when facts change due to recent research.

- by Nilanshi Dey (9 Years)

A world we all give



How long will it take to open our eyes,
To see, to feel, to live.
When will we see through deceit and lies,
and appreciate the world we all give?

From the fiery explosion of autumn leaves,
carried in the gentle wind.
And the sweet birdsong that we daily receive,
so happy that despair seems to be thinned

The quilted blanket of shimmering snow,
a small miracle in life.
To the sweet scent of cookie dough,
for Santa's famous visit tonight.

Oh! How blissful it is,
to experience the colours of spring.
Blues, reds and greens abuzz,
what a gift this season brings!

And finally, the azure summer sky,
A blanket for the smiling sun.
The celebrations that can be seen from a high,
a magical sensation for everyone.

So, since life is joyous and sacred,
I hope you will agree,
We should let go of our hatred
and embrace the feeling... of being free.

- By Anushka Sen (11 years)

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Poems - Friendship & The Monster

Friendship

A friend is a fire
A friend is a like an ocean that gently flows
They are the bridge between love and foes
It is the special bond
As fragile as glass
As strong as steel

Friends stay with you forever
They never let you go
They are not always going to be with you
They will always be there for you like an ocean that
gently flows
The keep you in check
They are always there for you

- By Nilaksh Dey (14 years)



The Monster



You might think monsters have claws,
Sharp teeth and clenched jaws,
You might believe monsters have spotted fur,
And at night they come and go in a blur,

Sometimes I check under my bed and hold my breath,
Wondering if that's where I find the monster of death,
My monsters come when smoke and fire appear,
When my friends and family are at their greatest
points of fear,

My monsters don't care when we feel scared,
In fact, they are the reason that the air siren is blared,
It takes my friends and family and even my school,
It teaches us about war's cruel rules,

Gunshots, bullets, blood on the ground,
I sit there, helpless and dumbfound,
My hands trembling with fear,
I already know the monster is near,

I once thought that monsters were scaly with hair,
But they are the reason that war is everywhere,
But this monster, plain to see
Looks like everyone and looks like me.

- by Rianna Pathak (11 Years)

CBC Account Summary 2025

Saraswati Pujo 2025			
Incomes		Expenses	
CBC Balance c/f from past events	£2,906.00	Venue Hire Expenses	£1050
Membership Subscription	£3,190.00	Pujo Related Expenses	£700.59
Sponsorship	£1,000.00	Bhog/Dinner Expenses	£730.00
Event Day Collection	£300.00	Logistics (e.g. Idol Transport, Bin pick up, Helper)	£300.00
		Brochure/Flyer & Website expenses	£215.00
		Event Insurance	£0.00
		Decoration, Program & Miscellaneous	£619.38
Total Income for Saraswati Pujo 2025	£7396.00	Total Expenditure of Saraswati Pujo 2025	£2,564.97
CBC Bank A/C Balance as of Sep, 2025 - £ 4831.03			
Kali Pujo 2025			
Incomes		Expenses	
CBC Balance c/f from past events	£2,867.79	Venue Hire Expenses	£624.00
Membership Subscription	£1,720.00	Pujo Related Expenses	£585.66
Sponsorship	£850.00	Bhog/Dinner Expenses	£1,368.14
Event Day Collection	£700.00	Logistics (e.g. Idol Transport, Bin pick up, Helper)	£475.00
		Brochure/Flyer & Website expenses	£95.00
		Event Insurance	£284.49
		Decoration, Program & Miscellaneous	£476.38
Total Income for Kali Pujo 2025	£6,137.79	Total Expenditure of Kali Pujo 2025	£3,908.67
CBC Bank A/C Balance as of Jan 16th, 2026 - £ 4718.54			

Glimpse of CBC Events



Glimpse of CBC Events



Shine Walk Charity Walk

Well done to Team CBC for proudly participating in the Shine Walk in London—an inspiring night-time charity walk that brings thousands together to raise funds for people affected by cancer. Walking through the city's iconic landmarks, the Shine Walk is not just about distance, but about courage, compassion, and community spirit. Your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to making a difference truly reflect the heart of CBC. Congratulations on being part of a cause that shines hope into so many lives.



CBC on Media

টেক্স প্যাডে, লন্ডনের আকাশে
আলোর জোয়ার, প্রবাসে
কালীপূজা-দীপাবলি যেন মিলন
উৎসব

টেক্সের প্যাডে কালীপূজা ও দীপাবলির আলোয় সেজে উঠেছে
ক্রয়ডন।

সারদা বসু
শেষ আপডেট: ০৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ ১৫:০৭

উৎসব ২০২৫

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এই সময়টা বড় অন্ধুত। শেষ শরতের ঝরা পাতা, হিমেল হাওয়া, — প্রকৃতি যখন ধীরে ধীরে শীতের দরজা খুলছে, তখনই টেক্স নগরী মেতে ওঠে আলোর খেলায়। শুধু দীপাবলি বা কালীপূজা নয়, এইখানেই মিশে যায় গাই ফক্স নাইটের ধুমধাম। প্রবাসে থাকা বাঙালিরা যেন এই তিন উৎসবকে এক সুতোয় বেঁধে ফেলে, আর সেই বাঁধনের প্রাণকেন্দ্র হয়ে ওঠে লন্ডনের দক্ষিণের ক্রয়ডন শহরতলি।

ক্রয়ডন বেঙ্গলি কনেকশনের পূজো মণ্ডপ। চরকিবাজির মতো ঘুরতে থাকা প্রবাসী বাঙালিদের ভিড় এসে থমকে যায় ইস্ট ক্রয়ডন ইউনাইটেড রিফর্ম চার্চের বিশাল হলঘরে। কুমোরটুলি থেকে জাহাজে চেপে এসেছেন শ্যামা মা।

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Kali Puja Celebration In Croydon Church: প্রবাসী বাঙালি সংস্কৃতিকে ধরে রাখতে ক্রয়েডন বেঙ্গলি কানেকশন আয়োজন করেছে 'সিবিসি কালীপূজা ও দেওয়ালি'। ২০ অক্টোবর, ইস্ট ক্রয়েডন ইউনাইটেড রিফর্মড চার্চে এই উৎসব অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে, যার লক্ষ্য নতুন প্রজন্মকে ঐতিহ্য ও সংস্কৃতির সঙ্গে যুক্ত রাখা।

জি ২৪ ঘণ্টা ডিজিটাল ব্যুরো: আলোর উৎসব দীপাবলির সঙ্গে কালীপূজার সেই চিরাচরিত বন্ধন এবার লন্ডনের মাটিতেও নতুন মাত্রা যোগ করতে চলেছে। প্রতি বছরের মতো এবারও প্রবাসী বাঙালি সংস্কৃতি 'ক্রয়েডন বেঙ্গলি কানেকশন' আয়োজন করেছে তাদের জন্মজন্মট 'সিবিসি কালীপূজা ও দেওয়ালি'।

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জি ২৪ ঘণ্টা LIVE TV কলকাতা বাংলাদেশ রাষ্ট্র দেশ দুনিয়া বেলা বিনোদন দাপ্তরিক খবর আন্তর্জাতিক ALL...

শুক্র ১০ ডিসেম্বর ১০:০০ Kali Puja: চার্চেই ধুমধাম করে কালীপূজা! বিলেতের ক্রয়েডন দাপাচ্ছে বাংলা-বাজি...

Kali Puja Celebration In Croydon Church: প্রবাসী বাঙালি সংস্কৃতিকে ধরে রাখতে ক্রয়েডন বেঙ্গলি কানেকশন আয়োজন করেছে 'সিবিসি কালীপূজা ও দেওয়ালি'। ২০ অক্টোবর, ইস্ট ক্রয়েডন ইউনাইটেড রিফর্মড চার্চে এই উৎসব অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে, যার লক্ষ্য নতুন প্রজন্মকে ঐতিহ্য ও সংস্কৃতির সঙ্গে যুক্ত রাখা।

রাজক মন্ডল | Updated By: Oct 20, 2025, 05:37 PM IST

Finding Strength Within: Swami Vivekananda Quotes

In today's fast-moving world, it's easy to feel unsure about who we are or what we want to do. That's when the words of Swami Vivekananda can really make a difference. His powerful thoughts about confidence, courage, and finding your purpose speak directly to young minds ready to dream big and take on challenges. Personally, I've found deep inspiration in his words — they've guided me to think bigger, stay strong, and believe in myself — and I felt compelled to share that same spark with others. This article brings together some of his most inspiring quotes, each one a reminder that true strength lies within you, waiting to be discovered.

- **The greatest sin is to think yourself weak.**
- **Anything that makes weak — physically, intellectually and spiritually, reject it as poison.**
- **He is an atheist who does not believe in himself. The old religion said that he was an atheist who did not believe in God. The new religion says that he is an atheist who does not believe in himself.**
- **To succeed, you must have tremendous perseverance, tremendous will. "I will drink the ocean," says the persevering soul, "at my will mountains will crumble up." Have that sort of energy, that sort of will, work hard, and you will reach the goal.**
- **What I want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel, inside which dwells a mind of the same material as that of which the thunderbolt is made. Kshatravirya and Brahmateja**
- **Proclaim the glory of the Atman with the roar of a lion, and impart fearlessness into all beings by saying - "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached'.**
- **It is thought which is the propelling force in us. Fill the mind with the highest thoughts, hear them day after day, think them month after month.**
- **Live for an ideal, and that one ideal alone. Let it be so great, so strong, that there may be nothing else left in the mind; no place for anything else, no time for anything else.**
- **Who loves all beings, without distinction, he indeed is worshipping his God the best.**

জীবে প্রেম করে যেই জন, সেই জন সেবিছে ঈশ্বর



It is a reminder to us to never doubt our inner strength. Swami Vivekananda's words echo the truth that everything we need to succeed already lies within us — we have to believe, act, and rise above our fears. His timeless messages encourage us to stay strong, face challenges with courage, and keep moving forward towards our highest ideals.

- by Arundhati Paul

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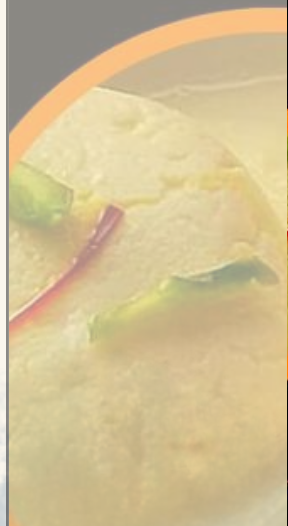
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- by Auleen (4 Years)



Waves in Sunset

- by Tanisha Sen (9 years)

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Ghats of Varanasi - by Anoushka Pathak (16 years)



Swan in a Lake - by Rianna Pathak (11 years)



Madhubani Art - by Arundhati Paul

Come Walk With Us: A Look at Our Latest Adventures

At CBC, we offer more than just a walk—we offer a genuine connection, a place where the noise of the modern world finally fades.

Our nature walks are intentionally designed to bring together a wide-ranging spectrum of participants. From the spirited energy of **teenagers** to the focused vitality of those in their **prime years and 50s**, our trails become a shared sanctuary and a living classroom.

In an age of constant connectivity, we facilitate a rare "unplugged" environment and an exchange of perspectives. For our younger walkers, it's an opportunity to trade screens for scenery. For our adult participants, it provides a dedicated hour to breathe, reset, and step away from the demands of professional life.



Our challenging 200+ mile routes offer a shared, playful accomplishment, strengthening the body. Sharing the trail across generations enriches the experience, offering fresh and experienced perspectives.

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While our nature walks provide an opportunity for quiet reflection, our **CBC Community Badminton Day** last year showed we can also generate a lot of energy! It was a vibrant indoor event, successfully transforming the local sports hall into a centre for friendly competition and fast-paced fun.

The summits reached, the trails explored, and the games played—everything featured here is a testament to the vibrant spirit of our members. Join **CBC (Croydon Bengali Connection)** today! The journey is always better shared, and by becoming a member, you can make the next adventure your own.

- by Pitam Choudhury

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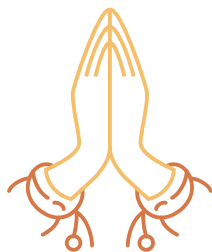
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