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# Interfaith Insider Newsletter

Interfaith Centre, MC305, Stan Grad Centre

[sait.ca/interfaith](http://sait.ca/interfaith)



## Durga Puja - Hindu

### WHAT IS IT?

Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava, is a major Hindu festival celebrated annually by the Bengali community in the Indian states of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tripura, and the diaspora from these areas, predominantly. Honoring the goddess Durga, who is believed to have descended to Earth to battle the buffalo demon Mahishasura, epitomizing the victory of good over evil, it's a four-day festival celebrated on the last five days of the nine-day Navratri festival.

Marking the goddess's maternal homecoming with her children, the festival symbolizes the goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura. Explore to learn more about Durga Puja 2024.

### CELEBRATING DURGA PUJA STUDENT'S GUIDE

Durga Puja is a vibrant Hindu festival celebrating Goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura. Here's how students in Calgary can celebrate:

**Local Events:** Join celebrations by the Calgary Bengali Association or Indian Cultural Association. Volunteer if possible.

**Home Celebration:** Set up a small altar, cook Bengali dishes, and share the festival's meaning with friends.

**Cultural Learning:** Attend workshops or connect with people from India or Bangladesh to learn more.

**Virtual Options:** Watch live-streamed ceremonies and join online forums.

**Personal Reflection:** Reflect on the festival's themes and stay in touch with family.

## Upcoming Events

02-04 - Judaism

**ROSH HASHANAH**

03 - Hindu

**NAVARATRI (OCT 3-12)**

04 - Catholic Christian

**FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

06 - Orthodox Christian

**ST. THOMAS DAY**

06 - Judaism

**FAST OF GEDALIAH**

09-13 - Hindu

**DURGA PUJA (OCT 9-13)**

11 - Judaism

**YOM KIPPUR**

14 - Canada

**THANKSGIVING**

16 - Judaism

**SUKKOT (OCT 16-23)**

18 - Christian

**ST. LUKE, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

20 - Sikh

**INSTALLATION OF SCRIPTURES AS**

**GURU GRANTH**

23 - Judaism

**SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH  
(OCT 23-24)**

28 - Christian

**MILVIAN BRIDGE DAY**

31 - Christian

**ALL HALLOWS EVE**

31 - Protestant Christian

**REFORMATION DAY**

31 - Wicca/Neo Pagan

**SAMHAIN**

# INSTALLATION OF GURU GRANTH SAHIB

## INSIGHTS INTO THE FESTIVAL

### What is the meaning of it?

The Installation of Guru Granth Sahib marks the anniversary of the day in 1604 when the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism, was formally adopted and installed at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. This event is significant because the Guru Granth Sahib is considered the eternal Guru in Sikhism, succeeding the line of human Gurus.

### Light on its Historical Context

Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak in the late 15th century. The Guru Granth Sahib is the central religious scripture of Sikhism, consisting of hymns and writings by the Sikh Gurus as well as some Hindu and Muslim saints. It was compiled by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, and the installation on this day in 1604 was a pivotal moment in Sikh history.

### Importance of the Day

The Installation of Guru Granth Sahib is celebrated with various religious activities, including processions, readings from the scripture, and devotional music. It underscores the shift from relying on human Gurus to relying on the sacred text as the spiritual guide for Sikhs.

### Cultural Significance of this Day

The celebration involves vibrant processions and ceremonies at Sikh temples, especially the Golden Temple in Amritsar, where the installation originally took place. It is a time for Sikhs worldwide to reaffirm their faith and connection to their spiritual heritage, with their god which is Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

## NOTABLE FACTS

- **Granth Sahib:** The term "Granth" refers to a book or scripture, derived from the Sanskrit word "granth," meaning "a tying together." "Sahib" is an honorific term meaning "master" or "friend."
- **Legacy of Guru Gobind Singh:** The 10th Guru, Gobind Singh, declared the Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru, thus ending the line of human Gurus.

## RELATED TERMS

- **Sikhism:** The religion founded in the Punjab region, centered around the teachings of the Gurus.
- **Guru:** The Guru is God's messenger, is both a divine guide and the embodiment of spiritual wisdom, leading followers from ignorance to enlightenment through teachings that reveal the nature of God and righteous living.
- **Gurudwara:** A Gurudwara (Gurmukhi: ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ) is a Sikh place of worship where the Guru Granth Sahib is central, emphasizing communal service and spiritual education. Gurudwara literally means Guru's House or Door.

