



Golden Jubilee Navratri Unites Thousands of Garba Lovers in London



Year-Long Charity and Social Initiatives Launched to Celebrate Historic Milestone



VOICE OF DAY - NORTH LONDON

Lohana Community North London, which has kept the traditions of Gujarat and Gujarati culture alive on foreign soil for the past 50 years, celebrated Navratri Mahotsav 2026 with great joy, enthusiasm, and a family-oriented atmosphere. During the nine-day festival, community members, from children to senior citizens, participated in Garba while worshipping Mataji and enjoying the festive spirit. Along with traditional Garba, the event also featured energetic performances of modern Raas. "LUNARO" Financial Services Ltd. was the sponsor of the Garba event.

Lohana Community North London President Ronak Paun, Secretary Jeet Rughani, and Executive Committee member Sanjay C. Rughani explained the festival's journey, stating that the community has been celebrating Navratri traditionally for years. Around 40 years ago, community members would gather at each other's homes to celebrate Navratri and worship Maa Adhyashakti. Over time, this tradition has expanded significantly. Today, the community has its own spacious community hall, where more than 800 Garba enthusiasts can dance together. Thus, what began as a celebration in individual homes has evolved into a collective festival, carrying the identity of Gujarati culture to the younger generation.

Keeping the community's needs in mind, a spacious three-storey Dhamecha Hall was built 12 years ago. The hall is not merely a venue for social programmes but has also become a cultural centre that brings community members together. This year, Lohana Community North London is celebrating 50 years of its proud journey, marking its Golden Jubilee. To make this historic occasion memorable, various charitable and social activities will be organised throughout the year.



The enthusiasm surrounding Navratri was particularly special during this Golden Jubilee year.

Anuradha and Kiran of the Strings Group, who have been making Garba enthusiasts dance to their tunes for the past 32 years, once again enthralled children, youngsters, women, and senior citizens with their music and Garba rhythms. The nine-day festival, held every night, showcased a beautiful blend of tradition and modernity. The programme began with prayers and Aarti dedicated to Mataji. This was followed by traditional Garba and Raas performances. Modern Garba was also organised to encourage the younger generation, especially Gen Z, to connect with Gujarati Garba culture.

Various competitions were organised during the festival to boost the enthusiasm of participants. These included categories such as Best Player, Best Dandiya Raas, and Best Dresses. In addition, the president presented special prizes to encourage participants. This year, separate special Garba sessions were also organised for children and parents, as well as for women.



Apart from Navratri, the community will also organise a grand Raas festival on the occasion of Sharad Purnima. At the event, Nikesh Parmar, along with the Rajvi Raja Entertainment Group, will lead Garba enthusiasts onto the dance floor.

With more than 2,700 member families, Lohana Community North London collectively celebrates not only Navratri but also various religious and cultural festivals throughout the year. Festivals such as Ram Navami, Shivratri, Hanuman Jayanti, Jalaram Jayanti, Diwali, Holi, and Dhuleti are celebrated together by community members. Such activities play an important role in preserving the Gujarati language, culture, religious traditions, and spirit of social unity among Gujaratis living abroad. Organised during the Golden Jubilee year, the Navratri Mahotsav of Lohana Community North London was not limited to Garba and entertainment. It became a celebration dedicated to keeping Gujarati culture alive, connecting the younger generation with its roots, and strengthening the bonds of affection and unity among community members.