Maa Maha Gauri Pooja on Ashtami in Navratra Festival

Maa Durga is worshiped as Maa Mahagauri on Eighth Navratra. Mahagauri is the eighth form of Goddess Shakti. Her color is white. Whiteners is shown by shell, moon etc. Mahagauri means one clean and bright like a ray of lightning.

This is the form of Goddess Parvati when she did penance to get Lord Shiva as her husband. It is believed that due to the intense Tapas performed by her without moving caused soil and dust to collect on her body. Lord Shiva cleaned her with water from Ganga that's why she got whiteners as shine and got the name as Maha Gauri. Purity is depicted in this form of Durga.

The Goddess is in the form of eight-year old child with complexion as fair as a conch, moon and jasmine. Her clothes and ornaments are white and pure. She has three eyes and four arms. Her right upper hand is in the pose of allaying fear and right lower hand holds a trident in it. The left upper hand holds a tambourine and the lower one is in the pose of blessing. All sins of devotees are washed away due to her worship. Her power is unfailing and instantly fruitful.

The eighth day of Navratra Pooja has much importance. Durga Ashtami Puja is held in many parts of India. If a human worships after fast he/she gets fruits immediately. In front of Portrait of Goddess Mother as in front of Parvati Mata in Lord Shiva Temple one can worship Maa Maha Gauri. She appeared in the form of Maa Ambaji, Maa Kalika, Maa Bahucharaji etc.

She stays in devotees' heart and gives best fruits if we worship any form. Wearing red, saffron, yellow, white, pink color would be auspicious for the devotees on this day. Maa Mahagauri can be seen in a temple at Kankhal near pilgrim center Haridwar.

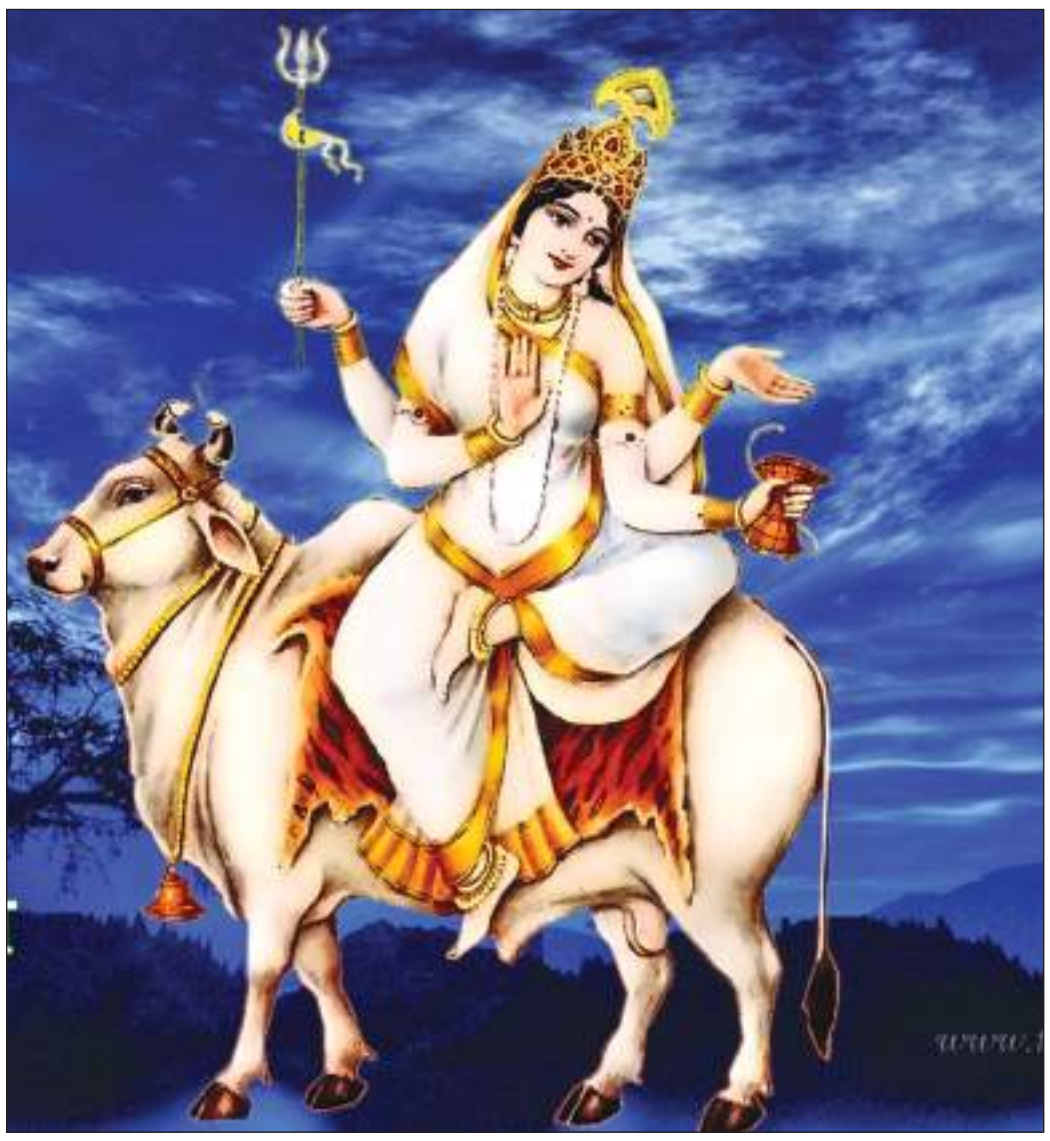
She is like an eight-year-old girl. She is intelligent and peaceful, possesses three eyes and four arms, and uses the bull as her vehicle.The Eighth swarup of Ma Durga is Ma "Maha Gauri." Her clothes and ornaments are white and clean. She rides on bull. The Ninth Swarup of Maa Durga is Mata Siddhidatri.

There are eight Siddhis or accomplishments, they are- Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakamya, Iishitva and Vashitva. Maha Shakti gives all these Siddhis. It is said in 'Devipuran' that the Supreme God Shiv got all these Siddhis by worshipping Maha Shakti.

With her gratitude the half body of Shiv became of Goddess and there fore his name 'Ardhanarishvar' has became famous. This Swarup is depicted as seated on a lion and has four hands. She is the giver of all forms of accomplishments[Siddhis].

As per the Brahmavaivart Purana there are 18 types of achievements which are Anima, Mahima, Garima, Ladhima, Prapti, Prakaamya, Ishitva,Vashitva, Sarvakaamaal, Saadhita, Sarvagynatva, DurShravana, Parkaayapraveshan, VakaSiddhi, Kalpavrushatva, Shrishti, Samharkaransaamarthya, Amaratva, Sarvanyayakatva, Bhavana and Siddhi.

Seated upon a lotus, most commonly, is the possessor of different Siddhis /accomplishments to grant her devotees. Mata Siddhiratri's famous pilgrim centre, is located in Nanda Parvat in the Himalayas.



NAVRATRI SPECIAL RECIPE

Halwa Poori Chana

For Chana

Kala Chana (boiled) – 2cups, Oil – 3 tbsp, Cumin seeds – 1 tsp, Green chilli – 1no, Ginger chopped – 2tsp, Turmeric powder – ½ tsp, Chilli powder – 1 tsp, Salt, Ghee – 1 tbsp

For poori

Wheat flour – 2 cups, Salt – ½ tsp, Water – as required, Oil **For Syrup**

Water – 3cups, Sugar – ¾ cup

Cardamom powder – ½ tsp

For Halwa

Ghee, Suji – 1cup, Dry fruits chopped – handful

Method:

For Halwa

In a pan mix together water, cardamom and sugar. Bring to a boil and stir till the sugar dissolves. Turn off the heat and keep aside. In a separate pan heat ghee and add suji. Cook on low heat till golden brown. Add the sugar syrup to the suji. Be careful as the suji will let off a lot of heat & steam when you add the syrup. Stir and cook the suji on medium heat till it thickens. Remove and serve hot.

For Poori

Mix together atta, salt and water and knead a stiff dough. Apply oil on top of the dough and give it rest for 10mins.

Divide into small pedas. Flatten them and roll out thin and deep fry in hot oil till it puffs and gets cooked. Remove and serve hot.

For Chana

In a pan heat oil and add cumin, green chilli slit, ginger and saute them. Add turmeric, coriander and chilli powder, stir and add a dash of water from the boiled chana. Now add chana along with all the water cook them till water evaporates and oil surfaces. At this stage add a dollop of ghee and mix. Remove and serve hot.

Why is Ashtami the most important day of Navratri?

Durga Puja, also known as Navratri, stands as one of India's major festivals, dedicated to celebrating the triumph of Goddess Durga over the formidable buffalo demon, Mahishasura. Among the various significant days of this festivity, Mahashtami, the eighth day, holds a place of profound sanctity and is observed with great reverence across the country. Elaborate ceremonies, encompassing special prayers and offerings, are meticulously conducted on this day to invoke the blessings of Goddess Maha Gauri, beseeching for strength, courage, and protection. It's a time when spiritual fervor soars, and communities come together to showcase the rich tapestry of their cultural and religious heritage during this nine-day extravaganza.

Durga Ashtami 2023 Date and Day

This year, Maha Ashtami falls on Sunday, October 22. It also coincides with the eighth day of Navratri, devoted to the worship of Mother Mahagauri.

Durgashtami Date	**Sunday, October 22, 2023**
Ashtami Tithi Begins	**09:53 PM on Oct 21, 2023**
Ashtami Tithi Ends	**07:58 PM on Oct 22, 2023**

Maha Ashtami 2023 Time and Muhurat

The Ashwin Shukla Ashtami Tithi is observed from 9:53 PM on October 21, 2023, to 7:58 PM on October 22, 2023. This window offers an auspicious period for celebrations and prayers dedicated to Goddess Durga.

Durga Ashtami: History

In certain regions, it is believed that on this day, the goddess Chamunda emerged from Mother Durga's forehead and vanquished Chanda, Munda, and Rakthabija, who were the demons allied with Mahishasura. The Durga Puja rituals on Mahashtami include the veneration of the 64 Yoginis and the Ashta Shakti or Matrikas, which are the eight fierce forms of Goddess Durga. These Ashta Shakti, also known as the Eight Shaktis, hold various interpretations in different parts of India, but they all ultimately represent different manifestations of the powerful Divine Feminine energy.

The Ashta Shakti revered during Durga Puja are Brahmani, Maheswari, Kaumari, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Narasinghi, Indrani, and Chamunda.

Durga Ashtami: Rituals

On Mahashtami, nine small pots are consecrated, and the nine forms of Durga, representing her various powers, are invoked into them. All nine manifestations of Goddess Durga are venerated during the Mahashtami Puja. Young unmarried girls, regarded as embodiments of Goddess Durga, are also worshipped on this day, a practice known as Kumari Puja. In many regions, Kumari Puja is observed throughout the nine days of Durga Navratri, but it is particularly emphasized on Mahashtami.

Significance of Ashtami Puja

Mahashtami holds profound significance within Hindu culture. It's believed to be the day when the energy and power of Goddess Durga peak, commemorating her fierce battle and ultimate victory over the buffalo demon, Mahishasura. Devotees pay homage to the goddess in her formidable warrior form on this day.

Conducting rituals and prayers on Mahashtami is seen as a means to invoke the strength, courage, and blessings of Goddess Durga, while seeking protection from malevolent forces and life's obstacles. Many choose to fast on this day and participate in special pujas, offering symbolic items such as flowers, fruits, and other sacred offerings to the deity.

Significance of the Number 108

The lighting of over 108 diyas or lamps symbolizes the arrival of light triumphing over darkness. Devotees also produce ulu dhoni, a loud-pitched sound made by rolling tongues, as a protective measure against negativity and the evil eye. Additionally, 108 lotus flowers are offered to Maa, symbolizing beauty and the essence of life. The number 108 bears immense significance as it corresponds to the 108 names of Durga Maa, and as such, it is woven into the intricate fabric of this sacred observance.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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Subject: Provisional Select List for the post of Assistant Professor, Dogri, in Higher Education Department.

Notification No. 76 -PSC (DR-S) of 2023
Dated: 17.10.2023

Whereas, the Higher Education Department, vide letter No. HE/Coll/Coord/Apptt/A.P./2021 dated 05.07.2021 and No. HED-GAZ/85/2022-04 dated 13.04.2022, referred **Five (05) posts (OM: 03, RBA: 01, SC: 01) of Assistant Professor, Dogri,** to the J&K Public Service Commission, for selection of suitable candidates; ***and,***

Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission, vide Notification No. 06-PSC (DR-P) OF 2023 dated: 01.03.2023, advertised the said posts for selection; ***and,***

Whereas, written test was conducted on 10.09.2023. The result of the written test was declared vide Notification No. PSC/Exam/S/2023/58 dated: 05.10.2023, in pursuance of Rule 42 of J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022 and Rule 31 of J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021, as amended up-to-date; ***and,***

Whereas, 25 candidates qualified for interview; ***and,***

Whereas, the interview/viva-voce of candidates was conducted on 13.10.2023 with the assistance of Experts from outside of the UT.

Now, therefore, on the basis of the performance in the written test, interview, and other related parameters, in pursuance of Rule 45 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021, the merit of the candidates who appeared in the interview is enclosed as **Annexure-"A"** to this Notification.

Consequent upon the details given here-in-above, the candidates whose particulars are given in **Annexure-B**, are provisionally selected against the said posts.

Note:-

1. The Commission reserves the right to have certificates/documents of the candidates verified, if at any later stage found expedient to do so. The selection of the candidates is purely provisional and is subject to the outcome of writ petition(s) pending before any competent Court of law.
2. The selection is provisional and objections, if any, may be submitted to the Commission within five days for examination and disposal. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after five days from the date of issuance of Notification.

No. PSC/DR-HE/Assistant Prof/2023
Dated: 17.10.2023

DIP/J-10014/23
Dt. 21-10-23

(Bashir Ahmad Dar) JKAS
Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

Annexure-B
Provisional Select List for 06-PSC (DR-P) of 2023

SNO	BD NO	NAME	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	MERIT
OPEN MERIT					
1	11	DR AJAY SHARMA	MOHAN LAL	mallah po bharore kharah balli	62.88
2	22	PRITIMA SANGRA	PARSHOTAM LAL	WARD NO 8 NAGRIPAROLE NAGRI	60.10
3	1	DILBAG VERMA	TARA CHAND VERMA	84 Sai Kalan Suchetgarh	54.90
RBA CATEGORY					
4	2	MOHINDER SINGH	THAKUR DASS	vill galiote galiote panchari	53.35
SC CATEGORY					
5	15	NARINDER KUMAR	BIDHI CHAND	91 UTTER BEHANI BARI BRAHMANA	51.00

ANNEXURE-"A" TO NOTIFICATION NO. 76– PSC (DR-S) OF 2023 DATED: 17.10.2023

SD NO	ROLLNO	NAME	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	CATEGORY	NET (1) /SET (2) /JRF (3) (Max:3)	Mphil (2) / PhD(6) / POST Doc (3) (Max:6)	Awards: National (5)	Awards: Gold Medal (5)	Experience (10)	Special Attributes Papers/ Books/ Projects (12)	VIVA VOCE (12)	Written Test (70 Points)	TOTAL (100)
1	1390005	DILBAG VERMA	TARA CHAND VERMA	84 Sai Kalan Suchetgarh	OM	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	08.00	43.90	54.90
2	1390007	MOHINDER SINGH	THAKUR DASS	vill galiote galiote panchari	RBA	03.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	10.00	38.35	53.35
3	1390008	RADHA DEVI SHARMA	JANAK RAJ	R/O MAIRA PO JOURIAN ASHNOOR JOURIAN	OM	03.00	07.00	00.00	00.00	02.00	01.00	08.00	32.52	53.52
4	1390009	RAJEET KUMAR	PEERU RAM	17 Bardoh Khour	OM	02.00	00.00	00.00	01.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	29.90	39.90
5	1390010	ATUL SHARMA	VISHAV KUMAR	Ward no.4 Bhatotalla/hathal Sunderbani	OM/PSP	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.50	31.06	41.56
6	1390011	SMILEY	ROMESH CHANDER	HOUSE NO 60 WARD NO 4 RAMNAGAR NEAR KUDYAR MANDIR RAMNAGAR RAMNAGAR	OM	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	39.08	49.08
7	1390012	ASHU SHARMA	CHAMAN LAL	H NO 23 NEW MOHINDER NAGAR CANAL ROAD JAMMU	OM	03.00	07.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.50	39.92	59.42
8	1390013	ANJU DEVI	OM PARKASH	RO GHORDI KHAS PO GHORDI TEH RAMNAGAR	RBA	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	29.90	38.90
9	1390014	JYOTI THAPPA	PATEL KUMAR	0 WARD NO 17 DURGA COLONY KATHUA	SC	03.00	07.00	00.00	01.00	00.00	02.00	08.50	29.02	50.52
10	1390016	RUCHI SHARMA	SARDARI LAL	SHAH BALORE SHAH BALORE SAMBA	OM	03.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	08.00	33.98	46.98
11	1390017	DR AJAY SHARMA	MOHAN LAL	mallah po bharore kharah balli	OM	02.00	07.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	11.00	42.88	62.88
12	1390020	KOSHMA RANI	NAROTAM SINGH	90 W no.7 MANIWALA Jourian	OM	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	08.50	27.42	38.92
13	1390021	SHALLU SHARMA	SANSAR CHAND	VILLAGE dAGHORE P/O GURHA SALATHIA VIJAYPUR	OM	03.00	07.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	01.00	08.50	29.90	49.40
14	1390028	EKTA	SHAM LAL	0 NANDWAL KHOUR	SC	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	34.13	44.13
15	1390030	NARINDER KUMAR	BIDHI CHAND	91 UTTER BEHANI BARI BRAHMANA	SC	03.00	07.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	09.50	31.50	51.00
16	1390031	HEENA CHOUDHARY	ASHOK KUMAR	ward no 4 jourian jourian	OM	03.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	10.00	34.88	49.88
17	1390033	PAWAN KUMAR	SHIV RAM	WARD NO-2 NAKKI MAJALTA	OM	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	26.98	36.98
18	1390041	VIJAY KUMARI	BALDEV RAJ	1059 near radhaswami satsang GHAR u Ward no.21 Udhampur	SC	03.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	36.46	48.46
19	1390045	MAMTA DEVI	RAJ KUMAR	VILLAGE GHO BRAHMANA P/O GHO BRAHMANA RAMGARH	OM	03.00	02.00	00.00	01.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	36.60	49.60
20	1390046	MUKESH KUMAR	THAKAR DASS	81 Romain Ramnagar	SC	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	36.02	46.02
21	1390047	MAKHAN	PARAM CHAND	VILLAGE MALI PO KAINTHGALI UDHAMPUR	RBA	03.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.50	39.38	49.88
22	1390050	PRITIMA SANGRA	PARSHOTAM LAL	WARD NO 8 NAGRIPAROLE NAGRI	OM	03.00	07.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	10.00	40.10	60.10
23	1390055	VIKI SHARMA	MOHAN LAL	3 DAGER PO-DAGER TEH-KHARAH BALLI KHARAH BALLI	RBA	01.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.00	24.50	32.50
24	1390056	RONIKA DEVI	FATEH SINGH	Ward no4 dhorsi forelain Forelain po Dhanni Kathua	RBA	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	Absent	31.65	Absent
25	1390057	NEEHU MANHAS	RATTAN SINGH	VILLAGE-PHAGWARI PO-PARGWAL PARGWAL	OM	03.00	02.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	07.50	38.73	48.23