

Maa Siddhidatri – The Ninth Aspect of Goddess Durga

Maa Siddhidatri is the ninth form of Goddess Durga worshiped in Navaratra. The last among the nine forms of Maa Shakti is Goddess Siddhidatri who is worshiped on the ninth or final day of Navratra. ‘Siddhi’ is a Sanskrit term which means ‘perfection’. Goddess Siddhidatri has four arms. She holds a Chakra in her right lower hand and a mace in the upper. In the left lower hand there is a conch and in her upper left hand a lotus flower. She is seated on a lotus flower with the lion as her mount.

The Goddess Siddhidatri is capable of giving all sorts of occult powers and is also the possessor of 26 different wishes to grant her worshipers. All these achievements [Siddhi], which according to the Markandaye Purana- Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakaamya, Ishitva and Vashitva are eight 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, Shrishiti, Samharkaransaamarthya, Amaratva, Sarvanyayakatva, Bhavana and Siddhi.

Legend has it that the Supreme God Shiva got all these Siddhis by worshipping Maha Shakti. With her gratitude the half body of Shiva became that of the Goddess Shakti and therefore he also came to be called as 'Ardhanarishvar'. Dev, Danav, Gandharva, Kinnar, Yaksh, Manav, all worship Maa Siddhidaatri and attain achievements. Maa Durga removes ignorance and she provides the knowledge to realise That or Brahman. That is why She is surrounded by Siddhas, Gandharvas, Yakshas, Demons and Gods who are worshipping her. The Siddhi that she provides is the realisation that everything is Supreme Being or Brahman. If a Sadhaka worships in the prescribed manner with his full faith he acquires all Siddhis and nothing remains unattainable from him in the universe.

Dedicated to Goddess Siddhidatri form of Maa Durga the day is also observed as Mahanavami in many parts of the country. This form of Goddess Durga showers knowledge which makes each soul pure. People can wear Red, White colour on this day. On the ninth day Pujan, Archan, Havan, etc of Mataji are performed. The Conch shell, Chakra, Mace and lotus in the four hands of Maa Siddhidaatri signifies that she is always anxious to help us.



NAVRATRI SPECIAL RECIPE Vrat Ka Halwa



Ingredients

- ½ cup singhare ka atta
- ½ cup kutta ka atta
- 3 tbsp ghee
- 2 cups water
- ½ cup sugar or as required
- 2 cardamoms, crushed
- 8-9 almonds, sliced
- 8-9 pistachios, sliced

Method:

- Heat ghee in a kadai or pan.
- Add the flour and roast till they change color; texture and become aromatic.
- This roasting is similar to roasting semolina.
- Make sure you roast the flours very well with continuous stirring.
- Whilst the flours are roasting, add water and sugar in another pan and bring to a boil.
- Add the cardamom powder, almonds and pistachios to the flour and roast for 1-2 minutes.
- Add the boiling sugar solution in a steady stream continuously stirring to avoid the formation of lumps.
- Keep on stirring and cook till the mixture thickens and starts to gather around itself.
- While stirring break the lumps with the spoon or spatula.
- Remove from the pan and serve the vrat ka halwa hot or warm.

Maha Navami - the day before 'vijaya'(victory)



The ninth day of Shardiya Navratra, also known as Maha Navami, is a highly significant Hindu festival celebrated with fervent worship, rituals and festivities in honour of Goddess Durga's victory over evil. It falls on the ninth day of Ashwin's Shukla paksha. Maha Navami, also known as Navami, marks the end of the nine-day fast of Navratra. This day is set aside for the worship of Maa Siddhidatri. It is believed that Durga Maa made her final attack on the demon Mahishasura on the ninth day of the festival and defeated him the next morning, on Vijayadashmi.

Maha Navami is celebrated on the Navam i.e. the 9th day of Shukla paksha. This year, Shardiya Navratra is celebrated from October 15 to October 24 and the last day of Sharad Navratra is revered as Maha Navami of Durga Navami. Therefore, the Navami will be celebrated on Monday, October 23. According to Drik Pachang, the Navami tithi will begin at 7:58 pm on October 22 while it will end at 5:44 pm on October 23, 2023.

Rituals of Maha Navami

On this day, Goddess Durga is worshipped as Saraswati—the deity of knowledge and wisdom. In Southern India, Ayudha Puja is arranged and along with the Goddess, tools, machineries, musical instruments, books, equipments of all kinds including automobiles are decorated and worshipped. This day is considered vital before starting any new work on Vijaya Dashami. Children start going to school on this day in many places in Southern India.

In North and East India, Kanya Puja is done on this day in many places. According to this ritual, nine young virgin girls are worshipped as nine forms of Goddess Durga. Their feet are washed, kumkum and sandalwood paste is applied over them; they are offered new clothes to wear and then they are worshipped with mantras and incense sticks. Special food is cooked for them and they are offered gifts as tokens of love and respect by the devotees.

In eastern India, Maha Navami is the third day of Durga Puja. This starts with a holy bath following which Shodhasopachar puja is done. On this day Devi Durga is worshipped as Mahishasuramardini, meaning the Goddess who killed Mahishasur; the buffalo demon. It is believed that on this day the demon was finally annihilated.

A special ritual of Navami hom is done at the end of Navami puja.

It is also believed that puja done on this day is equivalent to puja done on all the nine days of the Navratra festival.

In some places, ancient tradition of Navami bali or sacrifice of animals is still practiced.

In some areas of Andhra Pradesh, Batthukamma festival is held on Navami. The name is inspired by a beautiful flower. This puja is done by Hindu women and flowers are arranged in a typical seven layer form in a conical shape and is offered to Goddess Gauri—a form of Durga. This festival celebrates the glory and beauty of womanhood. Women wear new clothes and jewellery on this day. Other pujas that are held on this day are Suvasini Puja and Dampati puja.

In Mysore, on this day the Royal sword is worshipped and is taken out in processions on illustrated elephants and camels.

General Knowledge Question

1. Who discovered that when a current carrying conductor is placed in a magnetic field, a mechanical force exerted on the conductor makes it move?

- A. Hans Christian Oersted
- B. Michael Faraday
- C. Benjamin Franklin
- D. William Gilbert

2. The maximum force is exerted on a current carrying conductor when it is:

- A. Perpendicular to magnetic field
- B. Parallel to magnetic field
- C. Swings in backward direction
- D. All of the above

3. Which rule is applied to find the direction of force acting on the current-carrying conductor, if the direction of current and direction of magnetic field is known?

- A. Maxwell's right-hand thumb rule
- B. Born rule
- C. Hall Effect
- D. Fleming's left-hand rule

4. Which direction is indicated by the thumb in Fleming's left-hand rule?

- A. Current
- B. Magnetic field
- C. Motion of conductor
- D. None of the above

5. What does the forefinger represent in the Fleming's left-hand rule?

- A. Current
- B. Magnetic field
- C. Motion of conductor
- D. None of the above
- 10. Brushes
- 11. Pressure
- 12. Because they contain free electrons
- 13. Will not rise
- 14. Neutrons

- A. Magnetic field
- B. Current
- C. Motion of conductor
- D. None of the above

6. The direction of deflection of a current-carrying conductor indicates the direction of:

- A. Electric current
- B. Force acting on it
- C. Magnetic field
- D. All of the above

7. Which device converts electrical energy into mechanical energy?

- A. Motor
- B. Generator
- C. Windmill
- D. Transformer

8. In which of the following devices is the electrical motor used?

- A. Electric fans
- B. Washing machine
- C. Refrigerator
- D. All of the above

9. In an electric motor, which device reverses the direction of current through a circuit?

- A. Carbon brush
- B. Coil
- C. Commutator
- D. Permanent magnet

10. The carbon strips used to pass electric current to the coil are known:

rent to the coil are known:

- A. Commutator
- B. Magnet
- C. Battery
- D. Brushes

11. Which of the following is measured in Pa (Pascal)?

- A. Thrust
- B. Pressure
- C. Frequency
- D. Conductivity

12. What make the metals are good conductors of electricity?

- A. Because they contain free electrons
- B. Because the atoms are lightly packed
- C. Because they have high melting point
- D. All of the above

13. What will happen to the water when a thin capillary tube is replaced with another insufficient length of tube?

- A. Will overflow
- B. Will not rise
- C. Depressed
- D. Change its meniscus

14. Which of the following is not emitted by radioactive substance?

- A. Electrons
- B. Electromagnetic radiations
- C. Alpha particles
- D. Neutrons

ASTRO SPEAK

ARIES



MAR 21 - APR 20

Your words will cut below the surface as Mercury and Saturn share a sweet exchange in our skies. Use this energy to invest in your most valued relationships, opening the dialogue for emotional exchange and conflict resolution if necessary. Tensions could manifest within your community when the Aquarius moon squares off with Mars, targeting anyone who hasn't been operating with honor.

LIBRA



SEP 24 - OCT 22

Dress to reflect your mood today, dear Libra, as the moon enters Aquarius and the sector of your chart that governs self-expression. These vibes are also perfect for connecting with your bestie, as your soul craves the companionship of those who love your quirky ways. Romance may blossom later in the afternoon when Luna blows a kiss to Venus, elevating your charm and charisma.

TAURUS



APR 21 - MAY 20

Open your heart to new connections without compromising the boundaries that help you feel safe, as Mercury and Saturn share a sweet exchange. This cosmic climate is perfect for moving beyond pretenses, opening the gate for new relationships to flourish. Just be mindful to read the energy of your counterparts as the Aquarius moon squares off with Mars, which may cause you to come across as aggressive.

SCORPIO



OCT 23 - NOV 22

You'll be in the mood to mix things up at home today, dear Scorpio, as the moon enters eccentric Aquarius and the sector of your chart that governs domestic bliss. Meanwhile, a helping hand from Jupiter may inspire you to organize your space or cater to a loved one, as you're moved to embrace tidiness and servitude.

GEMINI



MAY 21 - JUN 20

Devote your Sunday to getting organized for the workweek that lies ahead, dear Gemini, doing yourself a favor by meal prepping, catching up on chores, and outlining your schedule before Monday rolls in. This cosmic climate is also great for problem-solving and teamwork, helping you reach goals while in the company of friendly faces.

SAGITTARIUS



NOV 23 - DEC 22

You may want to keep a notepad handy today, dear Archer, as the Aquarius moon lights up that beautiful mind of yours with innovative ideas and moments of brilliance. An abundance of creativity will find you as the morning unfolds thanks to a helping hand from Jupiter, making it a great time to brainstorm for the future. A flirtatious vibe will have you bantering with the object of your desires.

CANCER



JUN 22 - JUL 23

Mercury and Saturn share a sweet exchange pushing you to bring discipline to your spiritual beliefs and creative projects. Use this energy to get serious about the outlets that bring your heart and soul fulfillment, trying out new practices if you've become bored with your foundations. Avoid the temptation to get lost in your screens later tonight when Luna aligns with Jupiter and Venus.

CAPRICORN



DEC 23 - JUL 20

You'll be in the mood to spend a little money today, dear Capricorn, as the moon enters Aquarius and the sector of your chart that governs luxury. This cosmic climate gives you permission to pull the trigger on any purchases you've been contemplating, though an impulse buy that's within your budget is also acceptable. Luckily, staying within your financial limits will come easily.

LEO



JUL 24 - AUG 23

Now may be a good time to set new ground rules within your domestic sphere as Mercury and Saturn share a sweet exchange overhead. Use your voice to express what's in your heart and where you must see a change to feel secure. Tensions could brew just before afternoon creeps in when the Aquarius moon squares off with Mars, threatening to trigger unexpected tantrums from moody loved ones.

AQUARIUS



JAN 21 - FEB 23

It's tricky for you to know when to be gentle with yourself, Aquarius. You tend to place logic above all your other needs! Thursday's skies remind you that you're only human after all as the moon roams through your sign. Luna's presence here encourages self-pampering, reconnecting with your health, and re-invigorating your sense of independence. The moon's squabble with Uranus may bring about changes of plan.

VIRGO



AUG 24 - SEP 23

Important conversations will take place as Mercury and Saturn share a sweet exchange, dear Virgo, encouraging you to use your voice as a way to create balance. This cosmic climate also pairs well with important conversations around matters of the heart, making it a good time to express what you're looking for in a partner.

PISCES



FEB 20 - MAR 20

You ebb and flow between introvert and extrovert, darling Fish, and as the moon enters Aquarius and your solar twelfth house, the hermit that lives within will begin to stir. Use this energy as an excuse to unplug for the day, and be sure to indulge in all of your guilty pleasures this morning when Luna connects with Jupiter.