

Maa Skandamata – Fifth manifestation of Devi Durga

The fifth manifestation of Devi Durga is known as Maa Skandamata. She is fifth among Nava Durgas, that's why she is worshiped on the fifth Navratri. Devi Maa is the mother of Kumara Skanda or Kumara Kartikeya also called Lord Murugan in south India. Kumar Skanda was chosen by Gods as their commander in 'Deva-Sura Sangram' (the war of gods and demons) against the demons. Lord Murugan's glory has been narrated in the Puranas and he is referred to as Kumara and Saktidhar. His vehicle being peacock he is also called Mayuravahana. Thus being the mother of Skanda she is Skandamata. Worshipping Skandamata on the fifth day of Navaratra has very importance for Yogis & Sadhaks. This day devotee's mind reaches Visuddha Chakra and stays therein. In her image the Lord Skanda in his infant form is always found. She holds him in her lap.

Using a lion as a vehicle, Mother Goddess has four arms and three eyes. She holds Lord Skanda in her right upper arm and a lotus flower in her right lower hand, which is slightly raised upward. The left upper arm is in a pose to grant boon and in left lower hand, which is raised, she again holds lotus. She is of Golden colour: She is seated on lotus flower so she is called Padmasana. The scriptures are very eloquent in glorifying the fifth day of Navaratra period. As the mind of the aspirant, on this day, is in the Visuddha Chakra, so all his actions internal as well as external completely stop and the mind bereft of all thought-waves, is calm like a waveless ocean. It would be advancing towards the state of pure consciousness. It is completely submerged in the meditation of Mother Padmasana, quite devoid of worldly thoughts or coats of Maya. It is time when the aspirant should be most careful and cautious on the path of his Sadhana.

By worshipping the Goddess in the form of Skandamata, the devotee gets all his desires fulfilled. He starts tasting the Supreme joy even in this very mortal world. The gateway for salvation to him is spontaneously opened. Her worship automatically includes the worship of Lord Skanda in his child form. Only she has got this pride of place. So the Sadhak should particularly be attentive to her worship. Being the presiding deity of Sun God, she bestows an uncommon luster and radiance on her devotee. He is always surrounded by an invisible divine halo, which always maintains his 'Yoga-Ksema'.

Therefore, we should try very sincerely to take refuge under her. There is no better way to Moksha from this world. She is the Goddess of Fire. The daughter of Himalaya, after observing penance got married with Shiva. She had a son named Skanda. Skanda is a leader of the army of Gods. Skanda Mata is a deity of fire. Skanda is seated in her lap. She has three eyes and four hands. She is white and seated on a lotus. Some also depict her sitting on a lion with her son Skand ( Lord Kartikeya) in her lap with two hands holding lotuses while the other two hands respectively display defending and granting gestures.

It is said, by the mercy of Ma Skandmata, even the idiot becomes an ocean of knowledge. The great and legendary Sanskrit Scholar Kalidas created his two masterpiece works viz. Raghuvansh Maha Kavya and Meghdoot by the grace of Ma Skandmata. However some believe Kalidasa was also inspired and blessed by Maa Kushmanda.



NAVRATRA SPECIAL RECIPE  
Sabudana Thalipeeth



- Ingredients**
- 1 cup soaked overnight sago
  - 2 tablespoon ghee
  - 1/2 cup coriander leaves
  - sendha namak as required
  - sugar as required
  - 2 large potato
  - 4 tablespoon crushed roasted peanuts
  - 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
  - 1/2 inch ginger
  - 1 teaspoon lemon juice

**Method:**

To begin making this scrumptious vrat recipe, first drain the excess water from the soaked sabudana, so that there is no moisture left in them.

In a bowl, take mashed potatoes and add the sabudana. To this mixture, add cumin powder, lemon juice, grated ginger, sendha namak, finely chopped coriander leaves and crushed peanuts.

Mix all the ingredients well.

Next, take a small portion from the mixture and flatten it using your fingers, similar to the shape of chapati.

Now, put a pan over medium flame and apply ghee all over. Let it heat and then place the prepared mix on the pan and fry evenly flipping on both sides.

Cook until the thalipeeth changes colour and becomes crisp. Once done, serve hot with curd or chutney.

Repeat the procedure to make more such sabudana thalipeeth.

Serve hot and enjoy!



Temples of Goddess Durga in India with unbelievable Truths

While, there are several temples of Goddess Durga in India, some of them are so special that it is hard to resist the temptation of not visiting them even after knowing their facts. So here we share amazing facts about five shrines dedicated to the goddess.

**Kasar Devi, Almora**

Kasar Devi is located on a hilltop, in Almora district on the Kaashay hills of Kumaon Himalayas. Situated in the middle of deodar and pine forests, the temple site offers the views of Almora, the Hawalbagh Valley, and the Himalayas from the Bandarpunch peak on the Himachal Pradesh border. The ash of dhuni burning in the temple premises can cure any mental disease. A unique magnetic power in and around the temple site bestows mental peace to the visitors. In 2013, a team of NASA scientists visited this temple to study the unique phenomenon and conduct experiments to know the effects of this abundant magnetic energy. As per the NASA research, the temple area is a part of Van Alan belt that store surplus amount of electromagnetic particles similar to the Machu Picchu in Peru and the Stonehenge in England.

**Dhari Devi, Dang Chaura, Uttarakhand**

Dhari Devi temple is situated between Srinagar and Rudraprayag on the banks of Alaknanda River in Kalyasaur village. She is the guardian deity of Uttarakhand. In this shrine, only the upper body of the goddess is worshipped while the lower body is enshrined elsewhere. Legend has it that a severe flood had washed away Dhari Devi's idol in its waters. The idol of the Devi was trapped against a rock near the village Dharo. The locals heard the wail of the idol and divine voice commanded them to install the idol in the village. An amazing fact about this shrine is that the stone image of the goddess changes face from that of a girl to a woman, and finally of an old lady as the day progresses.

**Jwala Devi, Kangra**



Dhari Devi, Dang Chaura, Uttarakhand

Located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, about 56 km from Dharamsala, the temple of Jwala Devi or Jwala Ji stands out for its eternal flame which has been burning since ages. The temple finds a mention in the Mahabharata and other scriptures. It is a natural cave where the eternal flames continue to burn. As per lore, once a proud Emperor Akbar had donated a golden umbrella to the shrine which turned into an unknown metal by will of the goddess. The flame of Jwala Ji never got extinguished even when tyrants in the past attempted to pour gallons of water over it.

**Karni Mata Mandir, Deshnoke**

It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Karni Mata at Deshnoke, located 30 km from Bikaner, in Rajasthan. Also called the Temple of Rats, the shrine has about 25000 black rats that live and a few white rats residing within the temple premises. These holy rats are known as kabbas, and are revered by everyone. As per a legend, Karni Mata was a divine incarnation whose mission was serving the people. One day, her sister's son drowned in a pond while trying to drink water. Karni Mata implored Yama, the god of the mortals, to restore the life of the boy. Yama relented and granted the boon that all the male children of Karni Mata's clan will be born as rats before being born as humans again. Eating food that has been nibbled on by the rats is believed to be fortunate. No disease has been ever spread by the temple rats.

**Kamakhya Devi, Guwahati**

On the Nilachal Hill in Guwahati, Assam, is located the awe-inspiring temple of goddess Kamakhya. What makes its shrine unique is the fact that no stone idol of the goddess is worshipped in the inner sanctum within the shikhara, the garbhagriha. Instead, the object of worship is the rock shaped like the female genital which is believed to be of the goddess herself. The rock fissure in the shape of a yoni (female genital) is always filled with water from an underground spring. Every year in June, a famous fair is held known as Ambubachi Mela during which the goddess menstruates, as per a belief.

General Knowledge Question

<b>Q1. Name an electronic device which is used to measure the current in ampere?</b>	B. Cytotron C. Cardiogram D. Avometer	<b>expose pictures on the screen?</b>
A. Altimeter B. Audiometer C. Ammeter D. Airometer		A. Epidayscope B. Endoscope C. Density Meter D. Escalator
<b>Q2. Name an equipment through which the distances travelled by the wheels of the vehicles are measured?</b>	A. Cathode ray tube B. Callipers C. Coolidge tube D. Bolometer	<b>11. In an electric circuit, the amount of work done in moving a unit charge from one point to the other point is called:</b>
A. Accumulator B. Avometer C. Animometer D. Adiometer		A. Electric potential B. Conductor C. Potential difference D. Electric charge
<b>Q3. Name a device used for the magnification of the objects?</b>	A. Barograph B. Crescograph C. Comograph D. Cardiograph	<b>12. What is the SI unit of potential difference?</b>
A. Bolometer B. Barometer C. Binoculars D. Barograph	<b>Q8. Name a device which is used to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy?</b>	A. Coulomb B. Volt C. Ampere D. Ohm-metre
<b>Q4. The equipment used in internal combustion heat engine, vehicle engine etc. is known as:</b>	A. Dip Circle B. Denial Cell C. Dynamo D. Dynamometer	<b>13. One volt is equal to:</b>
A. Altimeter B. Crescograph C. Cyclotron D. Carburator	<b>Q9. The device that confirms the presence of electric charge:</b>	A. 1 J C-1 B. 2 J C C. 1.5 J C-1 D. 0.5 J C-1
<b>Q5. The device by which artificial climate is produced:</b>	A. Electric Meter B. Electro Meter C. Electron Microscope D. Electroscope	<b>14. Which instrument is used to measure potential difference?</b>
A. Callipers	<b>Q10. Which equipment is employed to project or</b>	A. Galvanometer B. Magnetometer C. Voltmeter D. Ammeter

- Answers:**
1. Altimeter
  2. Audiometer
  3. Binoculars
  4. Carburator
  5. Cytotron
  6. Cardiograph
  7. Calliper
  8. Dynamo
  9. Electro-scope
  10. Epidayscope
  11. 1 J C-1
  12. Volt
  13. 1 J C-1
  14. Voltmeter

ASTRO SPEAK

<b>ARIES</b>  MAR 21 - APR 20	A sleepy and deeply restorative energy manifests early this morning, dearest Aries, as the Scorpio moon and Neptune align to wash your cares away. Good vibes continue to flow as the day kicks off and Pluto activates, nudging you to throw your weight around professionally, especially when it comes to important negotiations or fighting for opportunities.	<b>LIBRA</b>  SEP 24 - OCT 22	Big ideas filter in as the moon continues its journey through Sagittarius, dearest Libra, pushing the boundaries of your imagination. These vibes pair well with sharing ideas and seeking knowledge, growing alongside your peers. Don't hesitate to use past accomplishments as a way to reinforce or validate points as the sun aligns with the Nodes of Fate, but be mindful to offer others the same courtesy.
<b>TAURUS</b>  APR 21 - MAY 20	The Scorpio moon blows a kiss to Neptune, elevating your charms and kicking off the morning with a profound sense of being loved and supported. Check in with your spiritual well-being when Pluto activates, allowing you to find power within when you align with the other side. This cosmic climate could also give you an intuitive edge within matters of the heart, allowing you to better understand loved ones.	<b>SCORPIO</b>  OCT 23 - NOV 22	Your sights will be set on the pursuit of prosperity as the moon continues its journey through Sagittarius, dear Scorpio, igniting the senses and a hunger for luxury. However, you'll need to strike a healthy balance between demonstrating a work ethic while keeping undeveloped projects under wraps and maintaining a healthy balance between productivity and secrecy.
<b>GEMINI</b>  MAY 21 - JUN 20	Try to get an early start on your tasks and responsibilities. This cosmic climate brings an elevated energy to the table that's conducive to establishing a harmonious flow while working and running errands. A cleansing and empowering ambiance comes into play when Pluto activates, helping you cut out unnecessary or weighted energy from your life.	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b>  NOV 23 - DEC 22	Don't be afraid to take up space as the moon continues its journey through your sign, acting as a cosmic celebration of all the things that make you special. Just try not to be discouraged by what others might think of your outgoing nature as the sun aligns with the Nodes of Fate. Make peace with the fact that your vibe isn't for everyone. You may hear from an old friend later tonight when Mercury crosses over the South Node.
<b>CANCER</b>  JUN 22 - JUL 23	A sweet and profoundly spiritual energy washes over you as the Scorpio moon and Neptune align. Use this energy to meditate, practice mindfulness, and explore new philosophies, directing all efforts to the pursuit of peace. Self-care will feel particularly effective when Pluto activates, marking the perfect excuse to schedule an early massage or treat yourself to a fancy latte on the way to work.	<b>CAPRICORN</b>  DEC 23 - JUL 20	Try not to conceal your sparkle as the moon continues its journey through Sagittarius, dear Capricorn, putting you in an optimistic yet private mood. While it's certainly okay to fly under the radar, remember not to hide your talents from the world or downplay impressive achievements. Meanwhile, the sun aligns with the Nodes of Fate, helping you separate business and private affairs.
<b>LEO</b>  JUL 24 - AUG 23	A sweetly nostalgic energy takes hold as the Scorpio moon aligns with Neptune, dear Leo, asking you to appreciate the journey that got you where you are today. Just try not to spend too long strolling down memory lane once Pluto activates, pushing you to focus fully on your to-do lists while continuing to nurture your physical self. Watch out for jealousy amongst your peers later in the day when Saturn activates.	<b>AQUARIUS</b>  JAN 21 - FEB 23	You'll travel through many social spheres as the moon continues its journey through Sagittarius, inspiring you to nurture friendships from every walk of life. Meanwhile, the sun aligns with the Nodes of Fate, bringing an expansive energy to the table that's perfect for viewing the world through multiple perspectives. Connect with past versions of yourself when Mercury crosses over the South Node later tonight.
<b>VIRGO</b>  AUG 24 - SEP 23	The Sagittarius moon invites you on a journey of the heart, bringing a rush of energy to your solar fourth house. Lean into this luminary placement by honoring your emotions. Consider retracing your financial steps when the sun aligns with the Nodes of Fate, taking care to consider how certain connections may be impacting your bank account.	<b>PISCES</b>  FEB 20 - MAR 20	Push through obstacles as the moon continues its journey through Sagittarius, sweet Pisces, unleashing the problem solver within. These vibes are perfect for reclaiming control of your situation without losing friends in the process, though you may need to access your authoritative side. Grant yourself small luxuries this evening when Chiron activates, allowing you to recharge by embracing leisure.

