

Maa Chandraghanta – Third form of Maa Durga

NAVRATRA SPECIAL RECIPE

Sabudana Pudding



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup sago
- 3/4 cup jaggery
- 3/4 cup palm sugar
- 2 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1/2 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1/4 cup water
- For Garnishing
- dry rose petals as required

Method:

To prepare this amazing dessert, wash and soak sago or sabudana in 1 cup coconut milk for an hour to soften and bloom.

Take the soaked sago, remaining coconut milk and jaggery in a large saucepan, and put it over medium heat. Then reduce the heat and let it cook for 15 more minutes until the sabudana is cooked and it has all thickened. Keep stirring occasionally to prevent it from sticking to the bottom. If you wish to have it much thinner, add another cup of coconut milk. Pour into bowls or ramekins to the top and let cool in the refrigerator.

Toast the pumpkin seeds on a pan for 3-4 minutes and place it on a silicon mat.

Put some water and palm sugar in a saucepan and place it over medium flame, and stir slowly with a metal fork, until it gets melted and golden. Cook caramel without stirring, until it turns deep golden. Immediately spread it all over the pumpkin seeds placed on the silicon mat so it hardens. Let it cool down and set at room temperature for about 15 minutes. Then break shards of the praline and add that on the tapioca pudding. Garnish with dry rose petals and serve.



Maa Chandraghanta is one who establishes justice and wears crescent moon on Her head. Because of this bell shaped mark of moon which is present on the fore head of Maa Chandraghanta, Maa is known as Chandraghanta. The colour of her body is golden; she rides on lion who describes "Dharma", possesses ten hands and three eyes, eight of Her hands display weapons while the remaining two are respectively in the Mudras of gestures of boon giving and stopping harm. Devi Maa is posed as to be ready for war. "Chandra Ghanta" meaning supreme bliss and knowledge, showering peace and serenity, like cool breeze in a moonlit night. By her blessings all the hindrances coming in way of a person are removed. Her pleasant looks clears all sorrows and sadness of her devotees. Her roaring voice alerts and makes the demons to tremble.

In Durga Pooja the third day of Navratra is very important in Navratra. This day the mind of the Sadhak enters Manipura lakra. At this stage by the grace of Maa Chandraghanta he becomes capable of seeing unearthly and divine things. He smells the divine fragrance and many types of divine sound become audible to him. On this day and in this stage of discipline the Sadhak is required to be most careful.

By the grace of Mother Chandraghanta all sins of the Sadhak (striver) are burnt up and obstacles removed. Her worship is instantly fruitful. She is always in a gesture as if ready to proceed for the battlefield and thus she removes the difficulties of devotees very promptly. Her vehicle is lion and so her worshiper becomes valorous and fearless like a lion. The sound of her bell always protects her devotees from evil spirits. As soon as the Sadhak invokes her, her bell immediately becomes active and starts ringing to protect the devotee under her shelter.

Even though she keeps her always busy in killing and suppressing the wicked, yet to her devotees and worshippers she looks most serene, gentle and peaceful. A very good quality

that is developed in her devotees who worship her, is-the striver cultivates bravery and fearlessness accompanied by serenity and humility. His face, eyes and the entire body gets effulgent. His voice becomes divinely sweet.

Wherever the devotee worshiper of mother Chandraghanta go, they disperse peace and blessings among the people. From the body of such a striver there always takes place an invisible radiation of divinely lighted atoms.

This divine action is beyond the perceiving capacity of physical eyes but the striver himself and his associates go on experiencing this fact every now and then. By purifying his mind, words, deeds and body through prescribed manner we should worship the mother Chandraghanta and take shelter under her feet. Through worshipping her we can get rid of all worldly sorrows, and attain the supreme goal spontaneously. We should always try to advance on the path of spiritual discipline by contemplating on the sacred image of the mother. Contemplating on her, we can attain the mundane perfection and ultimate good in the other world.

Devi Chandraghanta Maa is known and named Chandraghanta or Chandra-Khanda for the semi-circular moon (Chandra) which appears like a bell (Ghanta) on her forehead. Durga is also worshipped as Ashtamukhi and Shorashi in different parts of India on this day. She is depicted as having three eyes and ten hands holding with ten types of swords - weapons and arrows etc. and is seated on a lion (in some photos on a tiger) and shown as ready for going to war. She is the image of bravery.

The frightful sound of her bell terrifies all villains and demonic incarnations. She is also the giver of supreme knowledge and bliss and is depicted as having golden skin with the half circular moon on her forehead, glowing. Her ten hands hold..... She is worshipped in this form in Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu) India.

Graduation ceremony of Toddlers' World held at JKPS Kunjwani



Glimpses of Graduation ceremony of Kindergarten children of Toddlers' World held at JKPS Kunjwani on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Toddlers' World of JK Public School Kunjwani celebrated its Graduation Day on Thursday to commemorate the progression and development of students of the Pre-primary Wing. Yasha Mudgal, Secretary, Cooperatives Department, J&K graced the occasion as the Chief Guest of the program. The Guest of Honour was Lt Col Rahul Kasana. The other dignitaries,

who graced the occasion with their precious presence were Neelam Daluja, Patron; Raj Daluja, Chairman JK Educational Society; Siddarth Daluja, member of Management; Shashi Choudhary, Director JK Public School; Rajesh Rathore, Principal of the school and the power-packed audience of enthusiastic grandaunts and parents. The programme began with the welcome address of the School Principal,

Rajesh Rathore. He quoted the immortal words of Michael Angelo, "I saw an angel in the marble & I chiseled it till I set him free". He appreciated the dedicated teachers & Coordinator Toddlers' World Shivangani Pandotra for nourishing the childhood of children with love, affection, warmth, bonding, values & skill set. It was followed by the customary invocation song and lighting of the

lamp. The event was organized in the Millennium Hall of the school which was beautifully decorated. The children performed amazingly in a play depicting the story of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin". They wore captivating costumes and performed with props, which enhanced their performance. The spectators were spell bound with the mind blowing performances of the little ones.

The programme was impeccably narrated and anchored completely by the kids. This was followed by the distribution of certificates to the tiny tots wearing graduation caps and sashes. Neelam Daluja, Patron and Sara Daluja, Member of Management congratulated the students on their completion of the academic course. The little children were felicitated with the unique epithets describing their

strengths. The parents appreciated this unique initiative taken by the school and expressed joyful gratitude to the Management and faculty in molding their wards. It was indeed a memorable day for everyone. Principal Rajesh Rathore and Shivangani Pandotra, Coordinator Toddlers' World congratulated the graduating students on the occasion. The Chief Guest Yasha Mudgal appreciated the

commendable performance of the graduating students. She lauded the commendable endeavours of the teachers for making such little ones perform so brilliantly. She acknowledged the immense support received from the parents' fraternity in making the programme a huge success. She summed up her speech with a touching expression, "we must spend time with our Pre-schoolers, as their

adorable company makes us understand the real meaning of love, innocence, honesty & warmth". Proposing the vote of thanks, Coordinator Shivangani Pandotra concluded with the statement, "We are always keen to provide the quality education to our kids to enhance their skills and unlock their potential. The function reached its culmination point with the joyful singing of the national anthem.