

Maa Katyayni – Sixth Navdurga
Worshiped in Navratra

Maa Katyayani is the sixth form of Maa Durga. So the sixth day of Navratra is dedicated to Durga Katyayani. She is called Katyayani because she was born as the daughter of Sage Katya of Katya clan. Sage Katyayan performed very hard penance of Maa Bhagvati. It was his wish that Maa Durga be born as his daughter. The Goddess acceded to his request.

Meanwhile, army of the powerful demon Mahishasura, who could only be killed by a warrior Goddess, had reached heaven to overthrow the Gods from their abode.

The Trinity of Gods - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, got infuriated and they created the Goddess Durga, who was a culmination of the powers of all deities. Sage Katyayana had the first privilege to worship her, so she was also named Katyayani.

Another myth goes by that she was born to Katyayana as his daughter on the 14th dark of the month Asvina. Katyayana worshiped her for three days, 7th, 8th and 9th of the bright fortnight in the same month and killed Mahishasur on Vijayadasami. Her worship done with devotion and faith leads to four objects - Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha.

This is the daughter form of Durga. Here she is a loving daughter. She is epitome of love but won't hesitate to rise up in anger to defend righteousness and Dharma. It is believed that Maa Katyayani persistently battles against the evil and deceitful enti-

ties.

She has three eyes and four arms. One left hand holds a weapon and the other a lotus. The other two hands respectively display defending and granting gestures. Her skin appears golden in colour. Her mount is a lion.

To get God Krishna as a husband gopis worship Maa Katyayani in Vraj. So she is established as the Queen of Vraj. There is a very famous Temple in Delhi (Chhattarpur) of Maa.

This Shrine is dedicated to Goddess Katyayani, whose Darshan can be availed only on Ashtami falling in every month. Otherwise, the Darshan of Goddess Katyayani can be made throughout the days of Navratra.

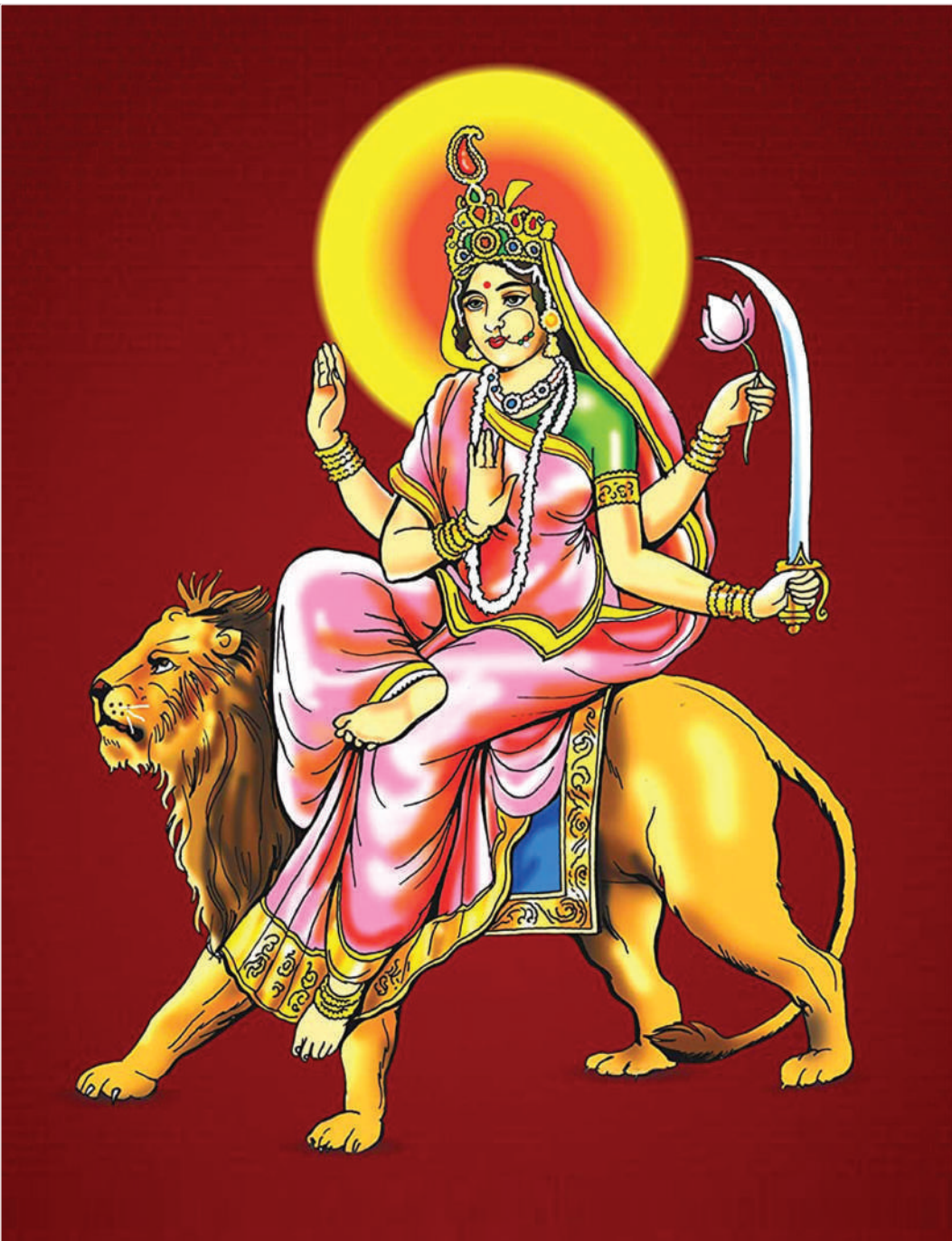
The golden image of Katyayani attracts the attention of devotees with its huge size and sheer divinity.

The worship of Maa Durga as Goddess Katyayani on sixth day of Navratra has its very importance. Yogis and Sadhaks penance on Agya Chakra on this day.

Humans offer everything to Maa while worshipping on this day. She gives blessings to her devotee. Red and white colour should be used to wear on this day.

The Adolescent Virgin Goddess in the southern tip of India, Devi Kanya Kumari is said to be the avatar of Devi Katyayani. She is the Goddess of penance and Sanyas.

Women take a bath early in the morning and worship the idol of Goddess Katyayani, carved out of wet sand.



NAVRATRA SPECIAL RECIPE

Kuttu Ka Paratha



Ingredients

- 1 cup buckwheat (kuttu)
- 1 medium green chilli
- sendha namak as required
- ghee as required
- 1 large potato
- water as required
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Method:

- Firstly, boil the potato till it is completely cooked. Now peel it and mash it properly in a bowl.
- Add chopped green chilli, salt and black pepper.
- Mix well.
- Add kuttu atta in a bowl.
- Add salt as per taste. Add warm water in batches and knead to form a dough.
- Now make small balls from the dough and roll them out a bit. Fill the stuffing in each and close the edges to prepare stuffed balls.
- Dust with flour and roll out the parathas properly.
- Now heat a tawa and place the stuffed paratha on it. After one minute, flip it towards the other side.
- Drizzle some ghee and let it cook.
- Now flip again and drizzle more oil.
- Once the paratha is golden-brown from both sides, it is prepared.
- Repeat the steps to make more such parathas.
- Serve the kuttu paratha with curd and enjoy.

Story of the Goddess and her incarnations

Another name for Durga is Durgatinashini which means ‘the one who eliminates suffering’. Her name thus indicates her role as the one who protects her devotees and removes evil from the world. Goddess Durga was created to combat the evil demon Mahishasura. The trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva came together to create a powerful female form with ten arms.

When Durga emerged from the waters of the holy Ganga as a spirit, she was given a physical form by all the gods put together. Her face was created by Lord Shiva and her torso crafted by Indra. Her breasts were made by Chandra and her teeth by Brahma. The lower part of her body was made by Bhudevi, Varuna sculpted her thighs and knees, and Agni created the Goddess’s eyes. Thus she was a supreme power created with a combination of the powers of all the other gods. So was born Goddess Durga or ‘Mahamaya’, the Great Mother of the Universe, who ensures creation, preservation and destruction of evil forces in the universe.

Then the gods gifted her their individual blessings and weapons. Armed like a warrior, the goddess rode into battle on a lion. After a fierce combat, Durga finally slew the demon king with her trident. Heaven and earth rejoiced at her victory and peace was once again restored to the three worlds. The word ‘Durga’ in Sanskrit means a fort, or a secure and protected place. Another name for Durga is Durgatinashini which means ‘the one who eliminates suffering’. Her name thus indicates her role as the one who protects her devotees and removes evil from the world.

The many incarnations of Durga

There are numerous incarnations of Durga including Kali, Bhagvati, Bhavani, Ambika, Lalita, Gauri, Kandalini, Java, Meenakshi and Kamakshi, among others. Durga is the incarnation as the all-powerful one with the combined power of all the divine beings.

The many arms and many weapons of Durga



Durga is depicted as having ten arms. These represent the ten directions in Hinduism; she protects her devotees in all directions. In each of her hands, the goddess wields a different weapon gifted by the gods for her to fight against evil beings such as Mahishasura. In one hand she holds the conch-shell gifted to her by Varuna, God of the Sea. In two other hands she holds the bow and the arrow given to her 104 by Vayu, the Wind God. In another hand she holds the thunderbolt of Indra, which can destroy anything it strikes without being affected. In yet another hand she holds the lotus, a symbol of spirituality and steadfastness. In another hand she holds the sudarshan chakra, or the discus of Vishnu, which can destroy evil forces no matter how powerful they are. In her other hands she carries a longsword, and Brahma’s kamandahu or a pot to carry holy water in. In her forearm she carries Shiva’s all-powerful trident which is the weapon that provides the final death blow to Mahishasura.

The many eyes of Durga

Like Shiva, Mother Durga is also referred to as Triyambake, meaning the three-eyed Goddess. The left eye represents desire and has the peace and calmness of the moon; the right eye represents action and holds the power of the sun; and the central eye is the all-knowing eye with the ability to burn with its power of fire.

The ‘vahana’ of the goddess

The Mother Goddess as a symbol of unrivalled power has one of the most impressive vahanas or vehicles. Often depicted as a lion or lioness, this animal is strength and power personified and the undisputed ruler of the jungle. The lion is thus the perfect vehicle for the awe-inspiring and all-powerful goddess. Durga stands on her lion in a fearless pose called the Abhaya Mudra or gesture of no fear, which is a sight that can fill any demon with utmost dread.

General Knowledge Question

1. What do you call a special set of memory cells in CPU?

- A. Registers
- B. Cache
- C. Junk
- D. RISC

2. Name the two widely used forms of modern RAM?

- A. System Ram & Serial Ram
- B. Static RAM & Dynamic RAM
- C. Static Ram & Serial Ram
- D. Dynamic Ram & Static Ram

3. Which high level language was develop by Dennis M. Ritchie?

- A. Java
- B. C+
- C. Cobol
- D. Pascal

4. What is a homepage?

- A. Home screen of your computer
- B. Shortcut to your webpages
- C. A web site's main page
- D. None of the above

5. Which out of the following is a peripheral device?

- A. VDU
- B. Keyboard
- C. Mouse
- D. All of the above

6. What was the ATA renamed to after the intro-

duction of Serial ATA (SATA) in 2003?

- A. Parallel ATA
- B. Primary ATA
- C. Prime ATA
- D. All of the above

7. What does ADSL stand for?

- A. Asymmetric digital subscriber line
- B. Arithmetic digital subscriber line
- C. Access digital subscriber line
- D. ActiveX digital subscriber line

8. What is communication system that transfers data between components inside a computer, or between computers know as?

- A. Baud
- B. Blob
- C. Bridge
- D. Bus

9. What does XML stand for?

- A. Encryption Markup Language
- B. Expandable Markup language
- C. Extensible Markup Language
- D. Exbabyte Markup Language

10. What is Amoeba, Oberon/Bluebottle, Plan 9 from Bell Labs?

- A. Experimental OS
- B. Browsers
- C. Low level languages
- D. None of the above

11. What out of the following is based on UNIX

operating system?

- A. ANU
- B. PNU
- C. GNU
- D. CNU

12. Which command determines the amount of time it takes data to travel from source to destination?

- A. Pan
- B. Ping
- C. Pile
- D. None of the above

13. Which is the largest unit of measurement for computer data?

- A. Yobibyte
- B. Yottabyte
- C. Zebibyte
- D. Zettabyte

14. URL Stands for:

- A. Universal Serial Locator
- B. Uniform Runtime Link
- C. Uniform Resource Locator
- D. Universal Resource Link

15. In a byte how many set of bits represent a single character in the computer's memory?

- A. 9 bits
- B. 11 bits
- C. 13 bits
- D. 8 bits

- 1. Registers
- 2. Static Ram & Serial Ram
- 3. C+
- 4. A web site's main page
- 5. All of the above
- 6. Parallel ATA
- 7. Asymmetric digital subscriber
- 8. Bus
- 9. Extensible Markup Language
- 10. Experimental OS
- 11. GNU
- 12. Ping
- 13. Yottabyte

ASTRO SPEAK

ARIES



MAR 21 - APR 20

A thoughtful and witty energy will bless any little rams who awaken early this morning, dear Aries. Lean into these vibes by exercising your mind before starting the day, taking time to journal, read, or brainstorm fresh ideas. Opportunities for healing will come to fruition this afternoon when Mercury cozies up to Chiron, marking the ideal occasion to speak your truth or smooth out conflict.

LIBRA



SEP 24 - OCT 22

You'll have access to sweet and supportive energy this morning. These vibes are also perfect for mindful meditation and opening your heart to love, so be sure to embrace grace before starting the day. Invest in self-love and your most important relationships this afternoon when Mercury and Chiron align, nudging you to lean into the lighter side of life.

TAURUS



APR 21 - MAY 20

Direct your focus on feeling grateful and secure in the present moment, and your psyche is sure to benefit from this supportive cosmic climate. A healing energy will wash over you this afternoon when Mercury aligns with Chiron, and moments of enlightenment can help direct you on how to move forward with your life, and what patterns may need breaking.

SCORPIO



OCT 23 - NOV 22

These vibes are all about getting organized in order to embrace transformation, though you'll need to cut away dead weight before you can start laying new foundations. Embrace mind and body connectivity this afternoon when Mercury aligns with Chiron in the sector of your chart that governs wellness, marking the perfect moment for an impromptu yoga or stretching session.

GEMINI



MAY 21 - JUN 20

Don't be surprised if everyone wants a little piece of you, but remember to set boundaries if you need time or space to focus on other things. Luckily, you'll feel like chatting and exploring your network of connections when Mercury and Chiron align overhead, though these vibes can also help smooth out any social rifts that you've been contending with recently.

SAGITTARIUS



NOV 23 - DEC 22

Use this energy to feed your heart's content, whether doing so involves prolonged pillow talk with that special someone, an early morning yoga session, or lounging in bed for as long as you please. However, you'll want to get moving as afternoon rolls around and Mercury aligns with Chiron, beckoning you to embrace your creative mind.

CANCER



JUN 22 - JUL 23

Take a moment to journal any new ideas or epiphanies that pop into your psyche when you awaken, especially if they offer solutions to any issues you've been struggling with. You'll have an opportunity to bring discipline to your mind this afternoon when Mercury cozies up to the healing asteroid, Chiron, making it important that you prioritize goals and direct your focus accordingly.

CAPRICORN



DEC 23 - JUL 20

These vibes are perfect for embracing domestic bliss while tending to your physical and emotional needs. Consider showing your home some love this afternoon when Mercury aligns with Chiron in your solar fourth house, asking you to get organized and take pride in your space. Plan on preparing early for the work week later tonight, so that you can drift to sleep free of stress on what Monday may bring.

LEO



JUL 24 - AUG 23

Lean into your community this morning, dear Leo, as the Aries sun and Gemini moon align in the sky. These vibes are perfect for seeking support from like-minded individuals, as doing so will feed you on a soul level. Opportunities for healing will come to fruition as afternoon rolls round and Mercury cozies up to Chiron, especially if you take a moment to speak with your higher power.

AQUARIUS



JAN 21 - FEB 23

Take a moment to embrace your intellectual and creative side before starting the day, as doing so will elevate your confidence and mental wellbeing. Opportunities to soften your thoughts will come to fruition this afternoon when Mercury cozies up to Chiron, marking the perfect excuse to say nice things to yourself. This cosmic climate is also ideal for delivering apologies.

VIRGO



AUG 24 - SEP 23

While these vibes are perfect for letting down your guard and nurturing deep connections, you may not feel comfortable doing so in the presence of strangers. Check in with yourself this afternoon when Mercury and Chiron form a cosmic union, encouraging you to transform and evolve into a more independent and empowered version of yourself.

PISCES



FEB 20 - MAR 20

These vibes are perfect for staying in your PJs until noon, sipping your coffee with extra leisure, and snuggling up with your favorite read. However, you'll want to showcase a little more activity this afternoon when Mercury aligns with Chiron, as your body and mind will both benefit from a yoga session or sweet walk around the block. Plan on embracing a bit of decadence later tonight.