

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 wave less 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-Ksma'.

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

Sweet Potato Ladoos



Ingredients

- 3 cup sweet potato
- 7 cashews
- 2 teaspoon rose water
- 4 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup lotus seed
- 2 tablespoon raisins
- 2 tablespoon ghee

Method:

Take sweet potatoes and boil them in a deep bottomed pan. Peel and mash well, once cool enough to handle.

In a pan, heat 2 teaspoon ghee and roast makhanas (lotus seeds) on medium flame until they turn crispy or slightly brown in colour. Take out the makhanas and set them aside. Grind them into fine powdery form once they cool down.

Pour in the remaining ghee into the pan and cook cashews until they start changing colour. Now add the raisins to it. Fry on a low flame until the cashews turn golden brown, the raisins turn fluffy and take a golden colour.

Now add mashed sweet potato to the remaining ghee. After cooking for 2 minutes or so add rose water and sugar, mix well. Stir continuously until the mixture thickens and all moisture evaporates. Take out the mixture in a flat dish and allow it to cool. Add the prepared dry fruits and mix well.

Now grease your palms and shape the mixture into small even balls or ladoos. Once done. Roll these up in the makhana powder to coat them with it. Your sweet potato ladoos are done.

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 Havalbagh 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 electro-magnetic 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

Located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, about 56 km from



Karni Mata Mandir, Deshnoke

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 it 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 Ambubehi Mela during which the goddess menstruates, as per a belief.

General Knowledge Question

Q1. Name an electronic device which is used to measure the current in ampere?

- A. Altimeter
- B. Audiometer
- C. Ammeter
- D. Airometer

Q2. Name an equipment through which the distances travelled by the wheels of the vehicles are measured?

- A. Accumulator
- B. Avometer
- C. Animometer
- D. Adiometer

Q3. Name a device used for the magnification of the objects?

- A. Bolometer
- B. Barometer
- C. Binoculars
- D. Barograph

Q4. The equipment used in internal combustion heat engine, vehicle engine etc. is known as:

- A. Altimeter
- B. Crescograph
- C. Cyclotron
- D. Carburator

Q5. The device by which artificial climate is produced:

- A. Callipers

- B. Cytotron
- C. Cardiogram
- D. Avometer

Q6. Name an equipment through which electrons are emitted or ejected?

- A. Cathode ray tube
- B. Callipers
- C. Coolidge tube
- D. Bolometer

Q7. Through which equipment human's heart beats are recorded and detected via graphics?

- A. Barograph
- B. Crescograph
- C. Comograph
- D. Cardiograph

Q8. Name a device which is used to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy?

- A. Dip Circle
- B. Denial Cell
- C. Dynamo
- D. Dynamometer

Q9. The device that confirms the presence of electric charge:

- A. Electric Meter
- B. Electro Meter
- C. Electron Microscope
- D. Electroscopce

Q10. Which equipment is employed to project or

expose pictures on the screen?

- A. Epidayscope
- B. Endoscope
- C. Density Meter
- D. Escalator

11. In an electric circuit, the amount of work done in moving a unit charge from one point to the other point is called:

- A. Electric potential
- B. Conductor
- C. Potential difference
- D. Electric charge

12. What is the SI unit of potential difference?

- A. Coulomb
- B. Volt
- C. Ampere
- D. Ohm-metre

13. One volt is equal to:

- A. 1 J C-1
- B. 2 J C
- C. 1.5 J C-1
- D. 0.5 J C-1

14. Which instrument is used to measure potential difference?

- A. Galvanometer
- B. Magnetometer
- C. Voltmeter
- D. Ammeter

ASTRO SPEAK

ARIES



MAR 21 - APR 20

Saturday's skies find you moving between two different modes of operation. Aries. The moon's presence in busybody Gemini makes for a morning full of conversations and errand-running. Luna's union with hyperactive Mars can make for clear communication or sharp-tongued exchanges—so, be mindful of your word choice. Sink your feelings and reconnect with your home environment.

LIBRA



SEP 24 - OCT 22

Saturday's skies make it easy to accomplish whatever you set your mind to, Libra. The moon spends the morning hours floating through thoughtful Gemini, forming a conjunction with self-motivated Mars. This pairing encourages you to get out of your comfort zone, learn something new, or make impulsive travel plans. Later, the moon dives into Cancer, pointing your focus towards career matters.

TAURUS



APR 21 - MAY 20

You're sending all of your energy towards your resources today, Taurus. The heady Gemini moon spends the morning alongside fiery Mars and mood-boosting Jupiter, helping you make the most of your abilities and apply yourself with ease on the career front. Do beware of impulsive purchases where you may overspend. The moon slides into soft-spoken Cancer, helping you put your feelings into words.

SCORPIO



OCT 23 - NOV 22

You may still have some psychological digging to do before you can move forward into new mental terrain, Scorpio. The reflective Gemini moon spends the morning cuddled up alongside hot-headed Mars, intensifying your emotional reactions and helping you be direct regarding any current relationship issues. Moon slides into Cancer, helping you embrace out a fresh perspective.

GEMINI



MAY 21 - JUN 20

It's important for you to get back into your body today, Gemini. The moon spends the morning hours floating through your sign, forming a conjunction with hyperactive Mars. This pairing stimulates your need for exercise and exertion. If you don't move this energy around, you're likely to feel vaguely irritable and moody. Moon slides into Cancer, helping see the state of your income better.

SAGITTARIUS



NOV 23 - DEC 22

Relationship matters dominate the day ahead, Sagittarius. Unspoken issues around partnership are likely to emerge early in the day, as the expressive Gemini moon merges with fiery Mars. This pairing prompts you to clear the air and be direct about anything obscuring clear communication. Later, the mood deepens and intensifies on an emotional level once the moon dives into nostalgic Cancer.

CANCER



JUN 22 - JUL 23

Your moods are likely to shift dramatically throughout the day, Cancer. The morning hours are colored by the mentally stimulated Gemini moon's union with go-getter Mars. This pairing can make you easily frustrated if you don't find an outlet for the excess energy. Fortunately, the moon moves forward into your sign by mid-day—signaling a shift in focus from your past to your present.

CAPRICORN



DEC 23 - JUL 20

You need to be productive to feel your best today, Capricorn. It doesn't matter the size of the effort—so long as you apply yourself to a task that feels rewarding. The busybody Gemini moon merges with driven Mars, helping you pour energy into whatever project awaits you. It's easy to get stressed out with this aspect, so remember to call on exercise if you need an outlet.

LEO



JUL 24 - AUG 23

You have the ability to get up and go after your goals today, Leo. The moon spends the first half of the day floating through quick-thinking Gemini, sending your attention to your current set of ambitions. Luna's morning union with Mars helps you kick things into high gear but can also stir frustrations among friends. Later, the moon dives into sensitive Cancer, pulling you inward and away from the crowd.

AQUARIUS



JAN 21 - FEB 23

As an Aquarius, it's critical for you to unleash your eccentric and unique side. Part of that story emerges around your creative potential, which is where you should direct your focus today. The moon spends the first part of the day floating through brainy Gemini, forming a union with driven Mars. This pairing helps you devote energy towards creative action. Moon dives into Cancer, helping you realign your work-life balance.

VIRGO



AUG 24 - SEP 23

You've got everything you need to achieve your goals. The versatile Gemini moon spends the morning alongside go-getter Mars and dream-big Jupiter, helping you put in the work and stamina required for success. The tone lightens later when the moon shifts into gentle Cancer—focusing your attention on your place among friends.

PISCES



FEB 20 - MAR 20

It's all right to be a hermit under Saturday's skies, Pisces. You have plenty of things to accomplish on the home front, as the heady Gemini moon aligns with hyperactive Mars. This pairing prompts you to tackle projects that require physical labor or stamina. Beware of touchy moods around family members. Moon dives into Cancer, sweetening up your love life and bringing life to creative projects.

- 10. Epidayscope
- 11. Potential difference
- 12. Volt
- 13. J C-1
- 14. Voltmeter

- 5. Cytotron
- 6. Cardiograph
- 7. Cathode ray tube
- 8. Dynamo
- 9. Electroscopce

- 1. Ammeter
- 2. Ahiometer
- 3. Binoentars
- 4. Carburator

Answers: