

Maa Siddhidatri - The Ninth Aspect of Goddess Durga

Maa Siddhidatri is the ninth form of Goddess Durga worshipped in Navaratra. The last among the nine forms of Maa Shakti is Goddess Siddhidatri who is worshiped on the ninth or final day of Navratri. '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 Markandeya Purana:- Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakaamya, Ishitva and Vashitva are eight Siddhis. As per the Brahmapuravart Purana there are 18 types of achievements which are Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakaamya, Ishitva, Vashitva, Sarvakaamaal, Saadhita, Sarvagnatva, Shravana, Parkaayapraveshan, VakaSiddhi, Kalpavrushatva, Shrishi, Samharkaramsaamartya, Amaravta, Sarvanyayakatva, Bhavana and Siddhi.

Legend has it that the Supreme God Shiva got all these Siddhis by worshiping 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 Siddhidatri 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 worshiping 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 Siddhidatri signifies that she is always anxious to help us.



NAVRATRI SPECIAL RECIPE

Vrat Ka Halwa



Ingredients
 1/2 cup singhare ka atta
 1/2 cup kutta ka atta
 3 tbsp ghee
 2 cups water
 1/2 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.

What Does Ram Navami Stand For?

Ram Navami is an occasion which marks the birthday of Lord Ram. Rama was the Lord Hari Himself, incarnated on earth for the destruction of Ravana. He was well accomplished, beautiful and endowed with royal marks. His glory and prowess were unlimited. He was peerless on earth. He was free from malice. He was gentle. He was the protector of all His people. He always addressed them in gentle words. He never used any harsh words even when somebody provoked Him. He held sway over the whole world.

Cultural Significance of Ram Navami:

The festival of Ram Navami marks the birthday celebrations of the Hindu Lord Rama, who is considered to be one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu. According to the Hindu calendar, it falls on the ninth day of the Chaitra month, which is the spring season.

In some parts of India, it is celebrated as a nine-day festival that coincides with Vasanta Navratri, dedicated to the female force or Divine Mother better known as Durga or Shakti.

What Are the Rituals?

Ram Navami is one of the most important festivals of the Vaishnav sect of Hindus. In the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, early morning rituals mark Ram Navami. It entails a Havan, chanting of Vedic Mantras and offerings of fruits and flowers.

A Rama temple is beautifully decorated and the image of the Lord Rama is adorned with rich clothes and jewels. Stories from the Ramayana are read out in joyous public gatherings and Satsangs. Most people fast until midnight. They break their fast with a Prasad of fruits and milk.

This festival is celebrated with great pomp and glory even in Pondicherry, Rishikesh and Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama. The Ram Navami fair held at Ayodhya draws a huge crowd of ded-



icated devotees. In the South, this festival is celebrated for nine days as the wedding of Lord Rama and his lovely consort Sita. People sing and chant the name of the Lord. Devotees have a highly colourful ceremony to mark the wedding celebrations.

The Legend: The Ramayana is a story of Lord Rama, written by the sage Valmiki in the 4th century BC. As the legend goes, Lord Rama, eldest son of King Dashratha, was banished to the forest for 14 long years. He was dethroned due to his stepmother's plans who wanted to see her son Bharata ascend the throne in place of the elder brother Rama. Rama willingly gave away the throne and his wife Sita and brother Lakshman followed Rama to the forest, leaving the throne for Bharata.

In these 14 years of banishment, Rama waged and won a war against the evil Ravana, the King of Lanka, who had kidnapped his wife Sita. He was aided by a band of monkeys, the most loyal of whom is worshipped today as Lord Hanuman.

Rama ascended the Ayodhya throne after the triumph over Ravana. Even as he started ruling, he was forced to banish his wife from the kingdom, following a villager's adverse comment about her association with Ravana. The legend is cited to prove how Lord Rama always lived a life of righteousness (Dharma). He was born to destroy the evil and protect the weak.

As he embodies the highest ideals of man, he is called the Maryada Pushottam, which means the perfect and best man, someone who follows the path of righteousness against all odds.

Significance of Ram Navami: Lord Rama was the ideal son, a righteous King, an upright husband and a loving brother. He also led an ideal life of a householder. He was also the true embodiment of humanity. Ram Navami is therefore a special reminder of the noble ideals for which Lord Rama stood.

CRIME REPORT

Two bikes with fake registration numbers recovered, accused held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday seized two bikes with fake registration numbers and arrested an accused. As per details, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort while on Naka duty received information regarding one Gurpreet Singh, son of Gulshan Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar Jammu using fake registration plates on bikes. On this, FIR No 105/2022 under sections 420/417/419 of IPC was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and investigation started. After this, a team from Police Station Bahu Fort under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspn Nayat Ali, after putting in hectic efforts, arrested the absconder from Beli Charana. The accused shall be produced before the court for further legal proceedings.

after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footages of area, arrested the accused at a special Naka. During sustained questioning, he confessed his involvement in crime and on his disclosure two bikes having same registration numbers were recovered. The whole operation was done under supervision of SP South Mamta Sharma.

Absconder evading arrest for 11 years nabbed

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday nabbed an absconder who was evading arrest for 11 years. As per details, an information was received at Police Station Bahu Fort regarding an absconder namely Pawan Kumar, son of Ashok Kumar, resident of Bhore camp who was evading arrest since 11 years i.e., 2011 in FIR No. 200/2009 registered under section 382/34 of RPC of Police Station Bahu Fort. On this, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort under the supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspn Nayat Ali, after putting in hectic efforts, arrested the absconder from Beli Charana. The accused shall be produced before the court for further legal proceedings.

Theft case solved; accused arrested, stolen cash over Rs 1.29 lakh recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday solved a theft case by arresting an accused and recovered stolen cash amounting to Rs 1,29,564. As per details, a written complaint was lodged by Police Post Bathindi by one Narinder Pal Singh, son of Sardar Nanak Singh, resident of Ajit Nagar, Upper Gadi Garh stating that some unknown persons stole a bag containing cash amounting to approximate Rs 1.5 lakh from his auto load carrier, which was parked at Mecca Chowk, Bathindi. On this, FIR No. 101/2022 under sections 380 IPC was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and investigation started. A team of Police Station Bahu Fort under the supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari led by SHO Bahu Fort Inspn Nayat Ali assisted by Incharge Police Post Bathindi PSI Mohd Younis Khanda, after putting in strenuous efforts and with help of CCTV footages, rounded up a suspect identified as Basit Khan, son of Saleem Khan, resident of Doongiyan,

Bathindi. During questioning, he confessed his involvement in crime and on his disclosure, stolen bag along with cash amount of Rs 1,29,564 was recovered.

Six vehicles seized for illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police team of Police Stations Nagrota, Akhnoor, R S Pura and Domana acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized six different vehicles involved in illegal mining, which included a tractor without Registration number seized by Nagrota police; 3 tipplers without Registration numbers seized by Akhnoor Police; a tractor-trolley (JK02BT 4092) seized by R S Pura police and a tractor-trolley without Registration number seized by Domana Police. The recoveries were made by SHO Nagrota Inspn Vishav Pratap Singh, SHO Akhnoor Inspn Hilal Azhar, SHO R S Pura Inspn Jai Pal Sharma and SHO Domana Inspn Mahesh Sharma in their respective jurisdictions.

Div Com Kashmir reviews preparation to tackle flood situation

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole on Saturday chaired a meeting of officers of various departments to review the preparation by respective departments to tackle flood situations and mitigate its effect. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Bandipora; ADCs of Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Anantnag and Ganderbal; Director Health Services Kashmir; officers and representatives of GMC Srinagar & MCH Benima, SMC, LCMA, FCS&CA, Tourism, School Education, ERA, Colleges, Indian Meteorological Department, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Fire & Emergency Service, Police, NDRF 13, SDRF 1ST, 144th CRPF, Chief Engineers I&FC, PWD R&B, KPDCL, PHE, UED; Regional Secretary Indian Red Cross Kashmir and other officers. On the occasion, Div Com directed I&FC and Indian Meteorological Department to issue forecasts of rainfall and flood alerts on timely basis for dissemination to responding departments, officers from civil administration and police, and public through electronic, print and digital media. He stressed that flood warning should be provided well in advance so the hazard shall be mitigated. He also directed officers of IMD for creation and uploading of database on

their website - Integrated Operational Forecast System regarding areas prone to flood, contact details of officers of tehsil level, volunteers, man power of concerned agencies and database of machinery & logistics, rescue centres and control rooms for the coordination and prompt action to the tackle and control flood and its impact. He also directed compilation of database of maps of Jhelum, its tributaries and catchment areas for monitoring water level and, rescue & evacuation process. He asked to mark the 2014 flood level on bridges and govt buildings so people would remain alert everytime to respond flood situation. He directed districts administrations to activate control rooms from April 15 and ensure that those are equipped with man power, resources and other essential services including water, electricity, ration and medicine. Regarding flood gauging, he directed consolidation of measurements by different departments by Flood and Irrigation department to keep check on recording of readings.

He stressed on Chief Engineer I&FC for conducting audit of embankments before April 25 and identification of weak points of river banks and reparation at the earliest. Besides, asked him to keep sufficient quantity of filled and empty EC bags available in the control

rooms. Meanwhile, Div Com directed that the desilting shall be completed by May 15 to reduce the water level of Jhelum and its tributaries. He also directed for conducting joint mock drills by related departments for a collaborative response and synergy for quick and efficient rescue during floods. He also directed for formulation of plan to restore water supply, electricity if those services are damaged in any area besides asked to ensure supply of drinking water by tankers and keeping DG sets available to run dewatering pumps. He exhorted on concerned to ensure water and power supply should be maintained in hospitals and essential service providing offices during floods. Besides, he asked SMC to distribute 127 mobile dewatering pumps to flood prone areas on priority and requirement basis to save localities from inundation. Earlier, officers of I&FC and IMD gave presentations regarding present status of preparation to tackle flood, functioning of agencies and availability of logistics. Moreover, Div Com directed Dir Health Services to prepare plan to control and inhibit water borne diseases and post flood infections.

He also reviewed preparation by flood prone districts regarding controlling of flood and establishment of control rooms and rescue centers.

DC Srinagar for prompt, quality disposal of migrant grievances

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure time bound quality redressal/disposal of Kashmiri Migrants Immovable Properties/ Community Assets related Grievances, a meeting of senior Revenue Officers was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here on Saturday.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM East, all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the disposal status of migrant grievances and instructed all the Tehsildars to pay special thrust on the complaints registered on the portal/offline to ensure quality redressal to the best satisfaction of the complainants.

He further asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication while redressing the grievances to ensure their time bound, prompt and quality disposal. While reviewing Tehsil wise

status of grievances, the DC directed all the Tehsildars of Srinagar District to clear pendency regarding disposal of migrant grievances within 10 days related to correction of records/ demarcation and removal of encroachments/trespassing/ alienation by way of fraud or distress sale, etc. He said that no laxity will be tolerated with regard to lenient way or slow pace of grievance settlement.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the Assistant Commissioner Revenue to further activate the dedicated helpline so that applicants are provided first-hand information about their registered complaints. He also asked him to monitor the functioning of the Migrant Grievance Redressal Cell to keep proper track of the registered grievances for their timely disposal.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that first hand assistance is being provided to the complainants on dedicated helpline number 0194-2483650 by the concerned Revenue staff for providing guidance to the complainants and to reply to their queries.