

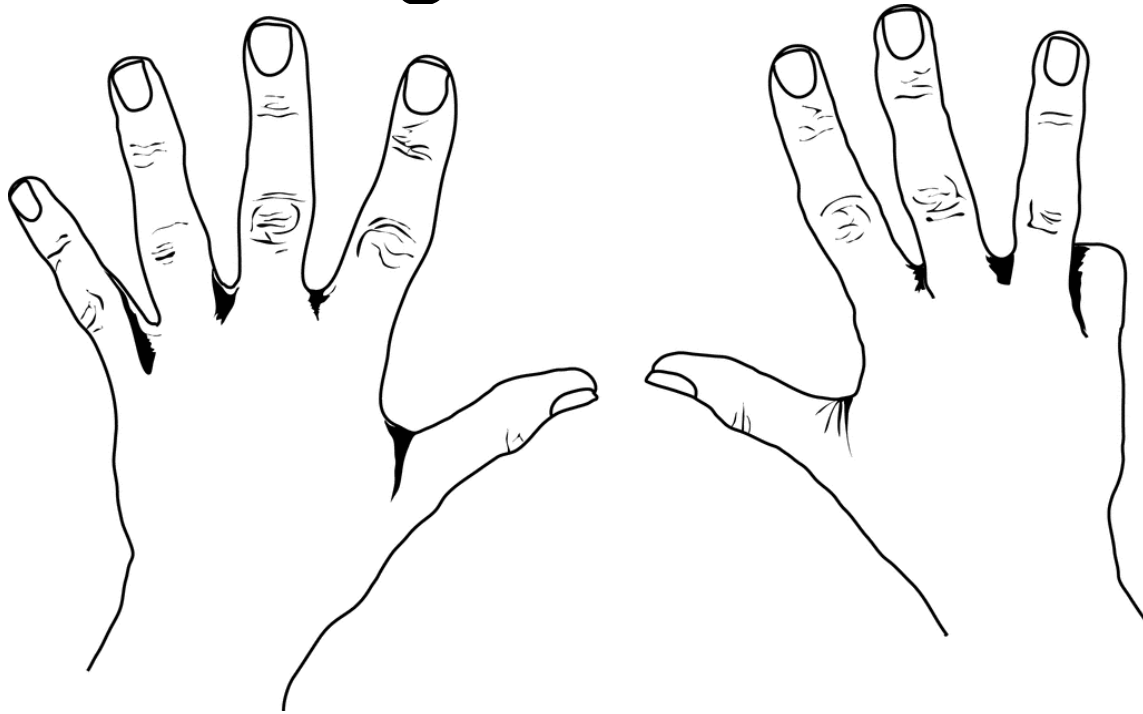
Navaratri

- A multi day Hindu festival

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Navaratri

- “nava” stands for “nine” and “ratri stands” for night



- It's a Hindu festival
- Goddess Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Durga are worshipped



- This festival is celebrated across India in different forms
- We worship to obtain good health, wealth and prosperity



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North India

- It is celebrated as “Ramlila”
 - It’s a victory of king Rama over the demon Ravana

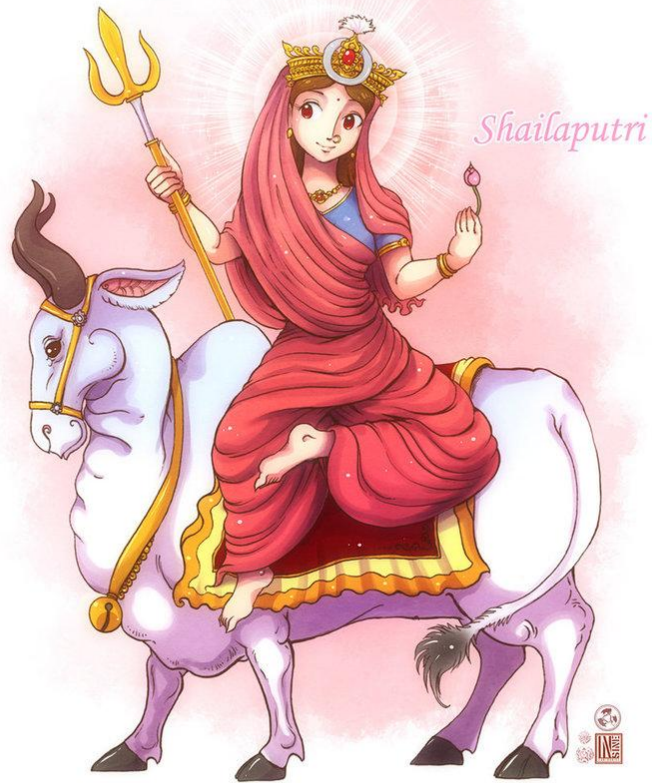


Story – Rama Praying to Lord Durga

Lord Rama fasted and prayed for 9 days to seek Goddess' blessings to kill Ravana. He kills him on the 10th day, and this day is called Dusshera, the day when the 10-headed Ravana was killed.

1. Shailaputri

1. “**Shail**” means mountains, “**Putri**” means daughter. Various known as **Sati Bhavani**, **Parvati** or **Hemavati**, the daughter of the King of the Mountains Himavan, is called ‘**Shailputri**’. The first among nine Durgas and her worship takes place on the **first day of Navaratri**. The embodiment of the power of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, she rides a bull and carries a trident and a lotus in her two hands.



2. Bhrahmcharini



She is worshipped on the **second day of Navaratri**. **Bhrahmcharini** means one who practices devout austerity. She enlightens us in the magnificent embodiment of Durga with great powers and divine grace. On left hand she hold a “**Kumbha**” or water pot, and the right hand holds a rosary. She personifies love and loyalty. She is the store house of knowledge and wisdom. Rudraksha beads are her most adored ornaments. She endows happiness, peace, prosperity and grace upon all devotees who worship her. Filled with bliss and happiness, she is the way to emancipation – Moksha.

3. Chandraghanta



She is worshipped on the **third day of Navaratri**, for peace, tranquility and prosperity in life. She has a 'chandra' or half moon in her forehead in the shape of a 'ghanta' or bell. That is why she is called '**Chandraghanta**'. She is Golden in color, possesses ten hands and 3 eyes. Eight of her hands display weapons while the remaining two are respectively in the mudras of gestures of boon giving and stopping harm. She is charming, has a golden bright complexion and rides a lion. She is the apostle of bravery and possesses great strength to fight in the battle against demons.

4. Kushmanda



Kushmanda is the fourth form of the mother goddess and is worshipped on **the fourth day of Navaratri**. She possessed of eight arms, holding a weapons and a mala (rosary), her mount is the tiger and She emanates a solar aura. The meaning of the name ‘Ku-shm-anda’ is as follows: ‘**Ku**’ = a little; ‘**ushma**’ = ‘warmth’; ‘**anda**’ = ‘the cosmic egg’. So she is considered the **creator of the universe**. The universe was no more than a void full of darkness, until her light spreads in all directions like rays from the sun.

5. Skandamata



The fifth aspect of the Mother Durga is known as ‘**Skanda Mata**’ – the mother of Skanda or Lord Kartikeya, who was chosen by gods as their commander in chief in the war against the demons. She is worshipped on the fifth **day of Navaratri**. She is accompanied by the Lord Skanda in his infant form. Raising a lion as Her chosen vehicle, She holds Her son skanda on her lap. She has three eyes and four hands; two hands holds lotuses while the other two hand display defending and granting mudras, respectively. Its said, by the merch of Skandmata, even the fool becomes an **ocean of knowledge**.

6. Katyayani

The sixth form of Mother Durga is known as '**Katyayani**', who is worshiped on the **six day of Navaratri**.

The **legend** behind her name is that there was a great sage called Kata, who had a son named Katya. Kata was very famous and renowned in the lineage of saints. He underwent long austerities and penance in order to receive the grace of the Mother Goddess. He wished to have a daughter in the form of a goddess. According to his wish and desire the Mother Goddess granted his request. **Katyayani** was born to Kata as an avatar of Durga.



7. Kaalratri

This is the seventh form of Mother Durga and is worshipped on the **seventh day of Navaratri**. She has a dark complexion, disheveled hair and a fearlessness posture. She has three eyes that shine bright and terrible flames emanate from her breath. Black (or blue) skin with bountiful hair and 4 hands, 2 clutching a cleaver and a torch, while the remaining 2 are in the mudras of “**giving**” and “**protecting**”. Her left upper hand holds a thorn-like weapon, made of iron and there is a dragger in the lower left hand. Her vehicle is a faithful donkey. She is the **destroyer of darkness and ignorance**.



8. Maha Gauri

She is worshipped on the **eighth day of Navaratri**. Her power is unfailing and instantly fruitful. As a result of her worship, all sins of past, present and future get washed away and devotees get purified in all aspects of life. **MahaGauri** is intelligent, peaceful and calm. Due to her long austerities in the deep forests of the Himalayas, she developed a dark complexion. When Lord Shiva cleaned her with the water of the Ganges, her body regained its beauty and she came to be known as **MahaGauri**, which **mean extremely white**. Her left upper hand holds a thorn-like weapon, made of iron and there is a dagger in the lower left hand. She is as white as a conch, moon and Jasmine. She is of eight years old. With four arms and the fairest complexion of all the **Durga Shaktis**, Maha gauri radiates peace and compassion. She is often dressed in a white or green sari. She holds a drum and a trident and is often depicted riding a bull.



9. Siddhidatri



Siddhidatri is the ninth form of Goddess. She is worshipped on the **ninth day of Navaratri**. There are eight **Siddhis**, they are- **Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakamya, Iishitva** and **Vashitva**. *Siddhidatri* has supernatural healing powers. She has four arms and she is always in a blissful happy enchanting pose. She rides on the lion as her vehicle. She blesses all Gods, saints, yogis, tantrics and all devotees as a manifestation of the Mother Goddess. It is said in “Devipurān” that the Supreme God Shiv got all these Siddhies by worshipping Maha Shakti. With her gratitude the half body of Shiv has become of Goddess and therefore his name “Ardhanarishvar” has become famous. Usually shown ensconced a lotus with four arms, She is the grantor of 26 different wishes to Her Bhaktas.

West India

- **Worship Durga with “Dandiya” and “Garba” Rass, It’s a mock representation of the fight between goddess durga and the demon mahishasura**





East India

- It is celebrated as “Durga Pooja”
 - It’s a victory of goddess Durga over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura



Story - Killing of Mahishasura



One of the fiercest demons, Mahishasura undertook severe penance to obtain a boon that he cannot be killed by a male, underestimating at his own cost the power of the female form, and started creating havoc everywhere. To stop him, Shakti took a very beautiful form of Durga and told him that she would marry him if he defeats her in a battle. It is believed that they battled for 9 days, and on the 10th day, Durga killed Mahishasura. Therefore the 10th day is called Vijayadashmi, day of the victory. One of the most famous idols that you see in temples depicts this scene where Mahishasura, in the form of a half bull, is being slayed by Mother Durga.

South India – Tamil Nadu

- It is celebrated as “Golu”



South India – Karnataka

- It is celebrated as “Dasara”
- It’s a royal festival, King Raja Wodeyar I sword is taken on procession



South India – Telangana

- It is celebrated as “Bathukamma”
- It’s a decorated piece of flower for worshipping purpose



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Slokas

- *Om Mahalakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Gaja Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Jaya Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Thana Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Santana Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Seetha Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Thaireya Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Thannya Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Vidya Lakshmi Namahae*
- *Om Maha Vishu Mahalakshmi Namahae*