

The 4 Navaratri's in 2024 (South Africa)



Navaratri is a Hindu festival of worship of Devi Adi Para-Shakti and dance and festivities. The word Navaratri literally means nine nights in Sanskrit, nava meaning nine and ratri meaning nights. During these nine nights and ten days, nine forms of Shakti/Devi Durga are worshipped. It is commonly referred to as Dussehra in India. Navaratri is celebrated four times a year according to India's seasons. They are Poushya/Magha Navaratri, Vasant Navaratri, Ashadha Navaratri, and Sharada MAHA Navaratri. Of these, the Sharada Navaratri and Vasant Navaratri are most important.

Devi Bhagavatam book 3 chapter 27 states "On observing the Navaratri Vratam, one receives from Devi Durga riches, children, grandchildren, prosperity and happiness, longevity, health, heaven and even final beatitude. Those who are desirous of learning, riches or children will get them all if they perform this most auspicious Navaratra ceremony. On the performance of this sacrifice, those that want knowledge and learning receives all that. Those that have not performed the Navaratra ceremony, how can they acquire riches in this world and acquire happiness and peace in their next? There is no other vow superior to this vow in this world' this vow is very holy and will bring unto you lots of happiness."

Devi devotees who abstain from animal sacrifice perform "symbolic BALI" with vegetables/fruits like bananas, cucumber, white pumpkin, nutmeg and sugar cane.



Magha Gupta Navaratri 2024

Magha Gupta Navaratri 2024: Magha Gupta Navaratri is the festival of nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Mother Durga or the three main forms of the Mother namely Mother's Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati in the month of Magha (January/February).

10th to 17th February 2024 - Magha Gupta Navaratri is observed over 8 (gregorian) days.

During the nine Vedic Magha Gupta Navaratri days, devotees may worship Devi in three formats, namely:

First format:

10th - 12th February	Is dedicated to Mother Durga
13th - 15th February	Is dedicated to Mother Lakshmi
16th - 17th February	Is dedicated to Mother Saraswati

Second format: (each day represents a form of the Supreme Devi):

10th February	Day 1 (Pratipada)	Mother Shailputri is worshipped
11th February	Day 2 (Dwitiya)	Mother Brahmacharini is worshipped
12th February	Day 3 (Tritiya)	Mother Chandraghanta is worshipped
13th February	Day 4 (Chaturthi)	Mother Kushmanda is worshipped
14th February	Day 5 (Panchami)	Mother Skandamata is worshipped
15th February	Days 6/7 (Shashti/Saptami)	Mothers Katyayani and Kalaratri are worshipped
16th February	Day 8 (Ashtami)	Mother Mahagauri is worshipped
17th February	Day 9 (Navami)	Mother Siddhidatri is worshipped
18th February	Day 10 (Dashami)	Vijay Dashami

Third format:

The predominating devi deity for Magha (Gupta) Navaratri is the Tantrik form of Mother Saraswati called MAATANGI DEVI.

Who is Maatangi devi? A brief synopsis...

Devi Maatangi (Sanskrit: मातङ्गी, Maatāṅgī) is one of the Das Mahavidyas, ten Tantric goddesses and an aspect of the Vedic Divine Mother. Devi Maatangi is named as the ninth Mahavidya devi. She is the Tantric form of Mother Saraswati, the goddess of music and learning. Maatangi devi governs speech, music, knowledge and the arts. Her worship is prescribed to acquire supernatural powers, especially gaining control over enemies, attracting people to oneself, acquiring mastery over the arts and gaining supreme knowledge.



MAATANGI DEVI

Vasant/Chaitra Navaratri 2024

Vasant/Chaitra Navaratri 2024: is the festival of nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Mother Durga or the three main forms of the Mother namely Mother's Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati in the spring (Vasant) season (March-April).

9th to 17th April 2024 - Vasant/Chaitra Navaratri is observed over 9 (gregorian) days.

During the nine Vedic Magha Gupta Navaratri days, devotees may worship Devi in three formats, namely:

First format:

9th - 11th April	Is dedicated to Mother Durga
12th - 14th April	Is dedicated to Mother Lakshmi
15th - 17th April	Is dedicated to Mother Saraswati

Second format: (each day represents a form of the Supreme Devi):

9th April	Day 1 (Pratipada)	Mother Shailputri is worshipped
10th April	Day 2 (Dwitiya)	Mother Brahmacharini is worshipped
11th April	Day 3 (Tritiya)	Mother Chandraghanta is worshipped
12th April	Day 4 (Chaturthi)	Mother Kushmanda is worshipped
13th April	Day 5 (Panchami)	Mother Skandamata is worshipped
14th April	Day 6 (Shashti)	Mother Katyayani is worshipped
15th April	Day 7 (Saptami)	Mother Kalaratri is worshipped
16th April	Day 8 (Ashtami)	Mother Mahagauri is worshipped
17th April	Day 9 (Navami)	Mother Siddhidatri is worshipped
18th April	Day 10 (Dashami)	Vijay Dashami

Third format:

The predominating devi deity for Vasant/Chaitra Navaratri is Mother Bandi.

Who is Bandi devi? A brief synopsis...

Bandi Devi (also known as Vindhyeshvari devi) is a manifestation of the Supreme Mother Goddess Shakti. Scriptural proof regarding her can be found in the Kashi Khand of the Skanda Purana and the Rig Veda VIII 101-13 "She, Bandi devi yonder, bending down, rich in rays, clothed in red hues is seen, advancing as one wonderful form, amid the ten surrounding arms". It must be noted that in prayers, Mother Bandi is equated with Durga devi. Bandi devi interchanges riding a tiger and a lion, with depictions of her riding a tiger being the more popular choice. The Bandi Paath is a well-known prayer dedicated to this Goddess. Bandi devi is the bestower of children and rescues one from hardships. She blesses one with well-being and provides support when difficulty arises. Traders or shopkeepers should recite this katha with faith and concentration. People heavily in debt, should also recite the Bandi Paath often. It is said that whatever a person asks for, they shall receive when they pray to Mother Bandi -- no matter if its milk, a child, riches or Lakshmi (abundance).



Ashadha/Gupta Navaratri 2024

Ashadha/Gupta Navaratri 2024: is the festival of nine "Vedic" days dedicated to the nine forms of Mother Durga or the three main forms of the Mother namely Mother's Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati in the month of Ashadha (June-July).

6th to 15th July 2024 - Ashadha Navaratri is observed over 10 (gregorian) days.

During the nine "Vedic" Magha Gupta Navaratri days, devotees may worship Devi in three formats, namely:

First format:

6th - 8th July	Is dedicated to Mother Durga
9th - 12th July	Is dedicated to Mother Lakshmi
13th - 15th July	Is dedicated to Mother Saraswati

Second format: (each day represents a form of the Supreme Devi):

6th July	Day 1 (Pratipada)	Mother Shailputri is worshipped
7th July	Day 2 (Dwitiya)	Mother Brahmacharini is worshipped
8th July	Day 3 (Tritiya)	Mother Chandraghanta is worshipped
9th July	Day 4 (Chaturthi)	Mother Kushmanda is worshipped
10th July	Day 5 (Panchami)	Mother Skandamata is worshipped
11th July	Day 6 (Shashti)	Mother Katyayani is worshipped
12th July	Day 6 (Shashti)	Mother Katyayani is worshipped
13th July	Day 7 (Saptami)	Mother Kalaratri is worshipped
14th July	Day 8 (Ashtami)	Mother Mahagauri is worshipped
15th July	Day 9 (Navami)	Mother Siddhidatri is worshipped
16th July	Day 10 (Dashami)	Vijay Dashami

*** Kindly note that Hindu Vedic days differ hugely from Western Gregorian days. A Gregorian day commences at midnight and ends the following midnight, whilst a Vedic day (Tithi) can begin at varying times of a Gregorian day and vary in duration from approximately 19 to approximately 26 hours. Hence one may often find that there are two Vedic days (Tithis) in one Gregorian day or two Gregorian days in one Vedic day (Tithi) as stated above.

Third format:

The predominating devi deity for Ashadha/Gupta Navaratri is the Tantrik form of Mother Earth (Bhumi) called VARAHI DEVI.

Who is Varahi devi? A brief synopsis...

Varahi (Sanskrit: वराही, Vaaraahee) is a member of one of the Sapta-Matrikas group ("seven mothers"), in Vedic scriptures. Since she's the fifth of the matrikas, she is also known as 'Panchami'. Bearing the head of a sow, Varahi is the shakti (feminine energy) and one of the consorts of Varaha, the boar avatar of Lord Vishnu.



Maha/Sharad Navaratri 2024

Sharad Navaratri 2024: This is the most important of the Navaratri. It is simply called Maha Navaratri (the Great Navaratri) and is celebrated in the month of Ashwina. It is celebrated during Sharad (beginning of winter in India, September-October) and is the festival of nine "Vedic" days dedicated to the nine forms of Mother Durga or the three main forms of the Mother namely Mother's Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

3rd to 10th October 2024 - Sharad Navaratri is observed over 10 (gregorian) days.

During the nine "Vedic" Magha Gupta Navaratri days, devotees may worship Devi in three formats, namely:

First format:

3rd - 5th October	Is dedicated to Mother Durga
6th - 9th October	Is dedicated to Mother Lakshmi
10th - 12th October	Is dedicated to Mother Saraswati

Second format: (each day represents a form of the Supreme Devi):

3rd October	Day 1 (Pratipada)	Navaratri color of the day - YELLOW Mother Shailputri is worshipped
4th October	Day 2 (Dwitiya)	Navaratri color of the day - GREEN Mother Brahmacharini is worshipped
5th October	Day 3 (Tritiya)	Navaratri color of the day - GREY Mother Chandraghanta is worshipped
6th October	Day 4 (Chaturthi)	Navaratri color of the day - ORANGE Mother Kushmanda is worshipped
7th October	Day 4 (Chaturthi)	Navaratri color of the day - WHITE Mother Kushmanda is worshipped
8th October	Day 5 (Panchami)	Navaratri color of the day - RED Mother Skandamata is worshipped
9th October	Day 6 (Shashti)	Navaratri color of the day - ROYAL BLUE Mother Katyayani is worshipped
10th October	Day 7 (Saptami)	Navaratri color of the day - PINK Mother Kalaratri is worshipped
11th October	Day 8 (Ashtami)	Navaratri color of the day - PURPLE Mother Mahagauri is worshipped
12th October	Days 9/10 (Navami/ Dashami)	Vijay Dashami/Dussehra Mother Siddhidatri is worshipped (DURGA VISARJAN) LIGHT GREEN

Third format:

The predominating devi deity for Maha/Sharad Navaratri is Adi Para Shakti Herself as Durga devi.

Who is Durga devi? A brief synopsis...

Durga (Sanskrit: दुर्गा Durga) is a major deity and supreme divinity in the Vedic scriptures. Durga devi is worshipped as one of the principal aspects of the supreme divinity Mahadevi and is also one of the most popular and widely revered among Vedic divinities. Durga devi is associated with protection, strength, motherhood, destruction and wars. Durga devi's fame centres around combating evils and demonic forces that threaten peace, prosperity and Dharma, the power of good over evil. Durga devi unleashes her divine wrath against the wicked for the liberation of the oppressed, and includes destruction to empower creation. Durga devi is seen as a motherly figure and is often depicted as a beautiful woman, riding a lion or tiger, with many arms each carrying a weapon, and often defeating demons. She is widely worshipped by the

followers of the goddess centric sect, Shaktism, and has importance in other denominations like Shaivism (devotees of Lord Shiva) and Vaishnavism (devotees of Lord Vishnu). The two most important scriptural texts of Shaktism, Devi Mahatmya and Devi-Bhagavat, reveres Devi or Shakti (goddess) as the primordial creator of the universe, and the Brahman (ultimate truth and reality). While all major texts of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma) mention and revere the goddess, these two texts centre around her as the primary divinity. The word Durga (दुर्गा) literally means "impassable", "invincible, unassailable". It is related to the word Durg (दुर्ग) which means "fortress, something difficult to defeat or pass". According to the Monier-Williams Sanskrit dictionary, Durga is derived from the roots "dur" (difficult) and "gam" (pass, go through).



Durga Devi with Lord Raam, Ravana, Lakshman, Hanumanji, Vibhishan, and the Deva's
DIPIKA has the 14+ pages article named **"The predominating devi Deity for each Navaratri of the year"**. It comes with the full prayer procedure of the above devi's. The link to this article is below. Please click on this hyperlink.
["https://dipika.org.za/the-predominating-devi-deity-for-each-navaratri-of-the-year/"](https://dipika.org.za/the-predominating-devi-deity-for-each-navaratri-of-the-year/)

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Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification on certain topics. Jai Mata Di.



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