



NAV DURGA

Navdurga

(Sanskrit: नवदुर्गा) are nine manifestations and forms of Durga in Hinduism, especially worshipped during Navaratri and Durga Puja.

According to Hindu mythology, the nine forms are considered the nine stages of Durga during the nine-day long duration of the war with demon-

king Mahishasura, where the tenth day is celebrated as the Vijayadashami (lit. 'Victory Day') among the Hindus and is considered as one of the most important festivals.

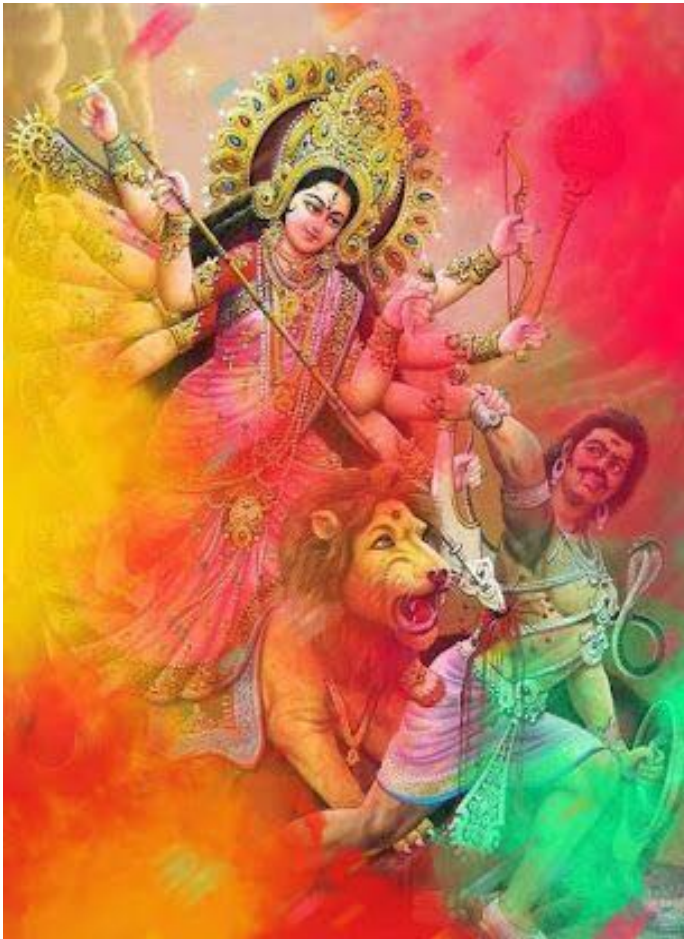


Maa Durga: "The Slayer of Evil"

The story of Maa Durga vanquishing the demon Mahishasura is a powerful narrative that illustrates the triumph of good over evil in Hindu mythology.

Mahishasura, a buffalo demon, gained a boon from Lord Brahma that made him nearly invincible. With this power, he wreaked havoc in the three realms—heaven, earth, and the underworld—defeating the gods and establishing his dominance. The gods, desperate and unable to combat Mahishasura's might, gathered together to seek a solution.

To combat Mahishasura, the gods combined their energies and divine powers to create Maa Durga. Each deity contributed weapons and attributes to her, making her extraordinarily powerful. Durga was imbued with immense strength, wisdom, and valor, and she was often depicted riding a fierce lion or tiger, symbolizing her fearless nature.



Maa Durga descended to Earth to confront Mahishasura. The battle that ensued was fierce and prolonged, lasting for nine days and nights. Mahishasura used his ability to transform into various forms to try and confuse and defeat Durga. Despite his cunning tactics, Durga remained steadfast and strategic.

Throughout the fight, Durga exhibited various forms of strength and skill, utilizing the weapons given to her by the gods. On each day of the battle, she overpowered Mahishasura's forces, showcasing her prowess.

On the tenth day, known as Vijayadashami, the final confrontation took place. As Mahishasura transformed into a buffalo, Durga struck him down with her trident. In a climactic moment, she pierced his heart,

defeating him once and for all.

Maa Durga's victory over Mahishasura symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and righteousness over tyranny. The story is celebrated during the festival of Durga Puja and Navratri, where devotees worship Durga in her various forms, seeking her blessings for strength and protection.

This tale not only highlights the importance of divine feminine power but also emphasizes the need for courage and determination in the face of adversity.

What Are The Nine Forms of Goddess Durga?

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1. SHAILAPUTRI "Daughter of Mountain"

STAGE: Parvati in her stage of childhood with the divine and principle form being Durga

VAHANA: Nandi (bull)

MANTRA: ॐ देवी शैलपुत्र्यै नमः

DEPICTION: She is adorned with light ornamentation on her limbs and was clothed in red and pink robes. She has two hands both holding a trident and lotus. She is seated upon the behind of a white bull.

2. BRAHMACHARINI "Mother of Devotion and Penance"

STAGE: Durga in her phase of asceticism.

VAHANA: None

MANTRA: ॐ देवी ब्रह्मचारिण्यै नमः

DEPICTION: She is dressed as a female ascetic and is adorned by dried-up Rudraksha beads and flowers as her ornamentation. She has two hands, both of which carried a rosary and a water utensil.



3. CHANDRAGHANTA "Destroyer of Demons"

STAGE: Durga in the form of Shakti.

VAHANA: Tiger

MANTRA: ॐ देवी चंद्रघण्टायै नमः

DEPICTION: She has ten hands, nine of them are armed by a trident, mace, bow, arrow, lotus, sword, bell and a waterpot, while one other hand blesses her devotees. She is seated upon a fierce tiger.

4. KUSHMANDA "Goddess of The Cosmic Egg"

STAGE: Durga in the form of Mahashakti.

VAHANA: Lion

MANTRA: ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं कूष्मांडायै नमः

DEPICTION: She has eight hands, six of which held a discus, mace, lotus, bow, and arrow in one hand, sword and rosary and the two other hands carried a jar of honey and waterpot. She is mounted upon the back of a LION



5. SKANDAMATA "Goddess of Motherhood and Children"

STAGE: Durga in her stage of motherhood.

VAHANA: Lion

MANTRA: ॐ देवी स्कन्दमातायै नमः

DEPICTION: She has four hands, two of which held lotuses, the third holding her son, the six-headed infant Kartikeya seated on her lap, and the fourth saves her devotees. She is seated upon the back of a lion.

6. KATYAYANI "Goddess of Power"

STAGE: Durga in the warrior stage.

VAHANA: Lion

MANTRA: ॐ देवी कात्यायन्यै नमः

DEPICTION: She is adorned with heavy ornamentation on her limbs and is dressed in green and pink vestments. Her four hands each carried a sword, shield, lotus and trident. She's seen seated on a fearsome lion.





7. KAALRATRI "Goddess of Auspiciousness and

Courage"

STAGE: Durga in her form of destruction.

VAHANA: Donkey

MANTRA: ॐ देवी कालरात्र्यै नमः

DEPICTION: She has three bloodshot eyes, unkempt hairs, and wears a garland of skulls around her neck, which signifies destruction of negativity. Her four hands all held a trident, scimitar, vajra, and a cup. She is seated upon the behind of a donkey as her vehicle.

8. MAHAGAURI "Goddess of Beauty and Women"

STAGE: Durga in her form of recovery.

VAHANA: Ox

MANTRA: ॐ देवी महागौर्यै नमः

DEPICTION: She has four hands, three of which carried a trident, mini-drum, and a pink lotus while her one hand promised her devotees protection. She is seated upon a white ox.



9. SIDDHIDHATRI "Goddess of Supernatural Powers or Siddhis"

STAGE: Durga in her stage of reaching her highest and supreme form as MahaShakti.

VAHANA: Lotus

MANTRA: ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं सिद्धिदायै नमः

DEPICTION: Each of her four hands carried a discus, conch shell, pink lotus and a mace. She is seated upon a fully bloomed lotus.

The Divine 10 Weapons of Goddess Durga and the Essence they Hold

The ten arms of Goddess Durga symbolize that she protects her devotees from all directions namely the eight corners and from the sky and the earth.



[Durga Puja](#) is on at its pinnacle, as myriads of communities and neighborhoods across India welcome the ten-armed goddess home. She saved the world by waging a war against the evil demon lord Mahisasura and killed him. Goddess Durga is ferocious to the demons and at the same time highly kind to her devotees.

The 10 hands of Goddess Durga hold 10 divine weapons and; are received as gifts and boons from the other gods. These weapons actually represent the characteristics of Human behavior which every person should possess. The ten arms of Goddess Durga symbolize that she protects her devotees from all directions namely the eight corners and from the sky and the earth.

Here's what each weapon symbolize

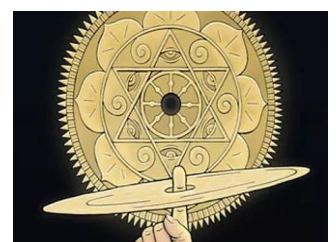
Trishul



. It is believed that the Trishul has been bestowed by Lord Shiva to Goddess Durga. The three sharp ends of it are a symbol of 'Trigun' or three properties of every living being on earth, namely Sattva, Raja, and Tama.

Sudarshan Chakra

The chakra represents the sphere of life that keeps on revolving till we are alive. It depicts that time destroys everything but with inner awakening one goes beyond time. The Chakra enjoins humans to exhibit loyalty, love, and devotion to Goddess Durga.





Conch:

Symbol of the primordial sound called 'AUM' from which the entire creation emerged. It was gifted to Goddess Durga by Lord Varuna.

Discus:

Revolving around Durga's hands, it shows that Durga is the center of creation and all the universe revolves around her. It was a gift from Lord Vishnu.

Lotus:

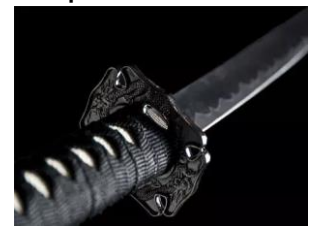
It stands for the awakening of spiritual consciousness in a soul. Divine Mother will help her devotees to understand the transience of life and seek the ultimate truth. It was gifted by Lord Brahma. Lotus is considered the symbol of Lord Brahma which represents knowledge. Half-bloomed lotus is a symbol of the rise of spiritual consciousness in the mind of a human being.

Sword/ Kharga:

The sword marks the sharpness of intellect enjoining humans to use the sense of discrimination to overcome their negativity.

Sword has been given by Lord Ganesh. It symbolizes

knowledge and wisdom. Sword represents the sharpness of wisdom while its shine represents knowledge.



Bow and arrow:

The bow and arrow are the symbols of energy. It was gifted to the goddess by Lords Vayu and Surya. Bow and Arrow have been given by Pawandev and Suryadev which are a symbol of energy. The bow represents potential energy and Arrow represents kinetic energy. It also symbolizes that Maa

Durga only controls all the sources of energy in the universe.

Vajra (Thunderbolt):

This weapon symbolizes the firmness of spirit. Praying to Mother Durga will help shatter the problems encountered in life without losing confidence. She empowers her devotee with unshaken confidence and will. It was gifted by Lord Indra. Indradev's gift Vajra is the symbol of the soul's perseverance and strong resolving power. Maa Durga makes her devotees strong with indomitable self-confidence and willpower.



Snake:

Indicates the upward movement from the lower state of consciousness to the higher state of existence experiencing pure bliss. Lord Shiva's Snake is a symbol of consciousness and energy. It also represents the change from the lowest state of consciousness to its upper state.

Axe:

Maa Durga received an axe and armor from Lord Vishvakarma. It signifies no fear of consequences when fighting evil. An Axe and Armor have been provided to Maa Durga by Lord Vishwakarma. It is a symbol of fighting evil and not being scared of any consequences.



Goddess Amba is indeed one of the forms of Goddess Durga.

Yes, Goddess Amba is indeed one of the forms of Goddess Durga, and she holds a significant place in Hindu worship, particularly in certain regions of India.

Goddess Amba

Amba is often considered a form of Durga and is revered as the mother goddess. Her name translates to "mother" in many languages, emphasizing her nurturing and protective qualities. She is depicted as a powerful and compassionate goddess, often shown with multiple arms, holding various weapons symbolizing strength and protection. In some representations, she may be seated on a tiger or lion, reflecting her fierce nature. Goddess Amba is particularly venerated during the festival of Navratri, where devotees worship her in various forms. In Gujarat, she is especially popular, with the Amba Mata temple being a significant pilgrimage site.

Various Names: Shakti, Devi, Gauri, Bhagwati, Amba, Kali, Parvati, Sundari, Bhavani, Jagadamba, Bhavani

Abode : Kailash. Manidvipa

Mantra: "Om Dum Durgaye Namah"



Navratri-

Navratri is a major Hindu festival celebrated for nine nights and ten days, typically in the autumn. It is dedicated to the worship of **Goddess Durga**, who represents feminine power (Shakti) and the victory of good over evil. The festival is divided into three sets of three days, each focusing on a different aspect of the goddess: **Durga** (for power and destruction of evil), **Lakshmi** (for wealth and prosperity), and

Saraswati (for wisdom and knowledge). Navratri is observed with fasting, prayers, and cultural events, and it culminates in **Dussehra**, symbolizing the victory of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana.



Garba- A traditional Folk dance of Gujarat, is an essential part of Navratri celebrations, particularly in the western states of India. Its name derives from the Sanskrit word "Garbh" meaning womb, symbolizing life and fertility. The dance involves graceful, rhythmic movements performed in circles around a central object, usually a clay lamp (representing Goddess Durga) or an image of the goddess. The circular motion signifies the cycle of life, creation, preservation, and destruction.

The importance of Garba lies not only in its devotional aspect but also in its ability to bring communities together, fostering joy, unity, and cultural pride. It is believed that dancing Garba during Navratri invokes the blessings of the goddess, making it an integral part of the spiritual and cultural significance of the festival.

सर्वमंगल मांगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थ साधिके।
शरण्ये त्र्यंबके गौरी नारायणि
नमोऽस्तुते।।

