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## *Navratri Significance*



**Navratri** (नवरात्री) has come again! Devotees celebrate these 9 days to worship the goddess Jagadamba in her nine divine and different forms (Parvati, Saraswati, Durga, Kali, Vaishnavi, Gayatri, Amba, Gauri and Lakshmi). Today, we will learn about the true meaning of these forms of **ShivShakti Jagadamba Maa**.

This festival is observed twice a year, once in the beginning of summer (March/April) and again at the onset of winter (September/October)

This is **a season to observe purity and devotion!** People in the states of India welcome the Devi in different ways. While mainly the Garbas and devotion of Maa Amba is observed mainly in Gujarat and Rajasthan, the festival of Navratri is celebrated in entire India (Bharat) with different names.

## ✦ WEST INDIA

The festival of Navratri is specially celebrated in Gujarat and Rajasthan areas. *Garba* is held in almost all the cities and villages. In this, people wear colourful and decorated clothes and gathers at a place where they dance in the love of goddess Amba, after which they take the *Prasad* (a specially prepared holy food)

## ✦ SOUTH INDIA

In South India, we call it 'Guddi Puja'. People create or bring home Guddis (small dolls) which represent the Devi's nine forms. They worship those guddi (dolls) for nine days. The faith is that on the 10th day, the Devi comes home and takes away all the sorrow and peacelessness.

## ✦ NORTH INDIA

In northern Indian states, the days of Navratri are celebrated as a memorial of Ramlila. The story goes like this: Rama (lord 'Ram') took nine days to free his Sita from the custody of Ravan (demon). On the 10th day, he got the victory. Thus those days are remembered as a victory of good over evil. People arrange for Drama to depict this story.

## ✦ EAST INDIA & other states

Mainly in Bihar and West Bengal, goddess Durga is worshipped during these days. There are large gatherings in the temples of goddesses where the devotees take Vrat (Upvaas) when they fast for a half day for nine days. The faith is that the Devi fulfills the pure desires of devotees who observe fast and divinity during these holy days and nights.

## ✦ Spiritual Significance of Navratri ✦

The truth of celebration of Navratri lies in the 'spirit'. Hence to say, now we will know about its 'spiritual significance'. We say - **Goddess ShivShakti**, which means - the powers of Shiv (or Shiva) is the goddess. **She is the practical (corporeal) form of Shiv, the one who is incorporeal.**

The word "Navratri" means "nine nights" when Mother Goddess Shakti is worshiped in nine different forms mentioned and explained in this article.

Mother Goddess Shakti is worshiped in her various forms as Maha Durga, Maha Lakshmi and Maha Saraswati. Each of the three deities give rise to three more forms representing the finer meaning of each form. Hence in all, these nine forms are known as Navdurga or MahaShakti.



The nine powers can also relate to the 7 virtues of soul and the 8 powers. In below nine forms discussion, Mamma relates to Mateshwari Jagadamba (World Mother)

### **SARASWATI**

**The Goddess of Knowledge** - Mamma listened to the Knowledge (murli) from Shiv Baba and imbibed it and played the Sitar of Knowledge, and inspired everyone through her own inculcation (dharna), and brought realization to all.

### **JAGADAMBA**

**Goddess of Fulfilment** - giving love and bestowing eternal blessing of peace and happiness. The one who fulfills everyone's wishes.

### **DURGA**

**Goddess of Shakti** - who takes power from Shiva and removes all weaknesses (durgunn) within the self, and also helps to remove weaknesses of others. Refer: 8 powers of Soul

### **KALI**

**Goddess of Fearlessness** - who is fearless and courageous and destroys all negativity, evil and devilish personality traits.

## **GAYATRI**

**Goddess of Auspicious Omens** - Mamma gave importance to the elevated versions spoken by Shiv Baba and used each version as a mantra and this is why there is importance of Gayatri mantra, which works like magic to remove all bad omens.

## **VAISHNAVI**

**Goddess of Purity** - who radiates light of purity and empowers all to become divine through pure vision, pure thoughts, pure words and deeds.

## **UMA**

**Goddess of Enthusiasm (Umang)** - who brings hope, zeal and enthusiasm (umang/utsaha).

## **SANTOSHI**

**Goddess of Contentment** – The one who brings a feeling of deep contentment.

## **LAKSHMI**

**Goddess of Wealth** – The one who bestows upon souls the unlimited Wealth of spiritual knowledge and virtues.



Navratri - Being Shakti



Navratri Greetings



So now you have learned about the true meaning and why Navratri is celebrated. **Now you can also emerge such 9 powers which are already present in your soul. How? By connecting your intellect to God, our spiritual father who is an ocean of peace, purity, love and powers. This is called - Raja Yoga meditation. Come and learn.**

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