

# Navratri 2026 Companion

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*Nine Nights of the Goddess — 11-19 October 2026 ·  
Vijayadashami 20 October*

नवरात्रि

INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# The Nine Nights

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Navratri — literally “nine nights” — is the great autumn festival of the Divine Mother, when the Goddess Durga is worshipped in nine successive forms, the Navadurga. In 2026 the festival runs from **Sunday 11 October to Monday 19 October**, culminating in **Vijayadashami on Tuesday 20 October**, the day of victory. Night by night, the worship moves through the Goddess's whole story: from the mountain-born daughter to the ascetic, the guardian, the creatrix, the mother, the warrior, the dark protectress, the purified one, and finally the giver of all attainments.

Across India the same nine nights wear wonderfully different clothes. In Gujarat, communities dance the whirling garba and dandiya raas around the Mother's lamp late into the night. In Tamil Nadu, homes display the kolu — tiered steps of dolls and deities — and neighbours visit one another with music and offerings. In Telangana, women gather around flower-stacked Bathukamma, singing the Goddess praises. And in Bengal, the season blossoms into Durga Puja, when magnificent images of the ten-armed Mother are welcomed, worshipped, and tearfully bid farewell.

This companion offers, for each night, the form of the Goddess, her mantra, the day's traditional colour, and a short reflection for the evening's observance. Keep it beside your lamp.

*Devotional chants for every night of Navratri: [musinara.com](https://musinara.com)*

INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# Shailaputri

शैलपुत्री

Day 1 · Sunday, 11 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Orange**

ॐ देवी शैलपुत्र्यै नमः

*Om Devi Shailaputryai Namah*

Navratri opens with Shailaputri, the Daughter of the Mountain — Parvati as the child of Himavan, lord of the Himalayas. Mounted on the bull Nandi, she carries a trident in one hand and a lotus in the other: resolve and gentleness together. She embodies rootedness, patience, and the steady strength of the mountains from which she is born, and is associated with the muladhara, the root of the body's subtle energy. On this first night, devotees perform ghatasthapana, installing the sacred kalasha that will preside over the nine nights, and offer prayers for a firm foundation — in the home, in health, and in sadhana. Wearing orange, the colour of warmth and vitality, they ask the Mother that the journey now begun may be carried through to its fruit. Begin simply: light a lamp, chant her mantra, and set your intention for the nine nights.

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Listen to the night's chants and devotional music: [musinara.com](https://musinara.com)

# Brahmacharini

ब्रह्मचारिणी

Day 2 · Monday, 12 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **White**

ॐ देवी ब्रह्मचारिण्यै नमः

*Om Devi Brahmacharinyai Namah*

The second night belongs to Brahmacharini, the Goddess as ascetic — Parvati in the years of her legendary tapasya, when she undertook austerities of unimaginable severity to win Shiva as her lord. Walking barefoot, she holds a japa mala and a water vessel, the emblems of prayer and simplicity. She embodies devotion that does not waver, and teaches that love and discipline are not opposites but companions: the deepest longing expresses itself as steadfast practice. Her night is a call to renew our own vows — the practice postponed, the promise half-kept. Devotees wear white, the colour of purity and peace, observe fasts, and chant her name for perseverance, self-restraint, and serenity of mind. Whatever you have begun and abandoned, place it before her tonight; she is the power that completes what love has started.

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INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# Chandraghanta

चन्द्रघण्टा

Day 3 · Tuesday, 13 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Red**

ॐ देवी चन्द्रघण्टायै नमः

*Om Devi Chandraghantayai Namah*

On the third night the Goddess appears as Chandraghanta, she who wears the half-moon shaped like a bell upon her brow. Ten-armed and riding a tigress, she is the married Parvati in her guardian aspect — gracious to her devotees, formidable to whatever threatens them. The sound of her moon-bell is said to scatter negativity as a temple bell scatters silence, and she embodies courage joined with grace: beauty that protects, strength that remains serene. Her night is for confronting fear. Devotees wear red, the colour of vigour and auspiciousness, and chant her mantra for bravery in adversity, protection of the household, and the dissolving of anxieties that have no name. Tonight, let the bell of her presence ring through the heart's dark corners; where the Mother's sound reaches, fear cannot remain.

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INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# Kushmanda

कूष्माण्डा

Day 4 · Wednesday, 14 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Royal Blue**

ॐ देवी कूष्माण्डायै नमः

*Om Devi Kushmandayai Namah*

The fourth night honours Kushmanda, the smiling mother whose gentle laughter is said to have brought forth the cosmic egg — the universe itself — when all was darkness. She dwells, tradition says, in the heart of the sun, lending it light and warmth; eight-armed, she rides a lioness and holds the treasures of creation. Kushmanda embodies creative power at its most joyful: the truth that worlds are born not of struggle but of the Mother's delight. Her night is for renewal of energy and hope. Devotees wear royal blue, the colour of depth and majesty, and chant her mantra for health, vitality, and the lifting of gloom — asking that her solar radiance dispel the fatigue of body and heaviness of spirit. Offer her your weariness tonight; she who lights the sun can surely rekindle you.

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INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# Skandamata

स्कन्दमाता

Day 5 · Thursday, 15 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Yellow**

ॐ देवी स्कन्दमातायै नमः

*Om Devi Skandamatayai Namah*

The fifth night belongs to Skandamata, the Mother of Skanda — Kartikeya, commander of the celestial hosts. She is depicted seated on a lion, the child Skanda upon her lap, one hand raised in blessing. Here the Goddess reveals the most tender of her faces: divine power expressed as motherhood itself. To worship Skandamata is to be received as her child; tradition holds that when she is honoured, Skanda is honoured too, for the child dwells within the mother's worship. Her night is for the love of family — for parents and children, for those who long for children, and for the healing of what is strained in the home. Devotees wear yellow, the colour of brightness and learning, and chant her mantra for maternal blessing, harmony in the household, and the wisdom that guides the young. Tonight, come to her simply as a child.

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# Katyayani

कात्यायनी

Day 6 · Friday, 16 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Green**

ॐ देवी कात्यायन्यै नमः

*Om Devi Katyayanyai Namah*

On the sixth night the Goddess is worshipped as Katyayani, the warrior-born — she who took birth in the hermitage of the sage Katyayana, assembled from the combined radiance of the gods to end the tyranny of Mahishasura. Riding a lion, sword in hand, she is Durga in her aspect of righteous victory: the divine force that arises when injustice has grown past bearing. Yet she is equally remembered as the goddess to whom young women have long prayed for a worthy companion, for hers is also the power that brings destined unions to pass. Her night is for the triumph of dharma, outer and inner. Devotees wear green, the colour of growth and new beginnings, and chant her mantra for courage in righteous struggle, removal of obstacles in marriage, and victory over the stubborn inner enemies — doubt, inertia, and despair.

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INSTRUMENTAL SOOTHIES

# Kalaratri

कालरात्रि

Day 7 · Saturday, 17 October 2026 · Colour of the day: **Grey**

ॐ देवी कालरात्र्यै नमः

*Om Devi Kalaratryai Namah*

The seventh night belongs to Kalaratri, the Night of Time — the darkest and fiercest of the nine forms, dark-bodied, wild-haired, riding a donkey, her breath flashing flame. Yet the tradition names her Shubhankari, the doer of good, for her terror is aimed only at what harms her devotees: ignorance, negativity, and every dark influence flees before her as night before dawn. She teaches the deepest lesson of the nine nights — that the Mother is present even in what we fear, and that darkness faced with her name loses all power to bind. Her night is for release. Devotees wear grey, the colour of the ashen night she rules, and chant her mantra for protection from all harm, freedom from nightmares and oppressive fears, and the burning away of old negativity. Give her the worst of it tonight; she is not afraid of anything you carry.

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# Mahagauri

महागौरी

Day 8 · Sunday, 18 October 2026 · Durga Ashtami · Colour of the day: **Purple**

ॐ देवी महागौर्यै नमः

*Om Devi Mahagauryai Namah*

The eighth night — Durga Ashtami, among the holiest days of the year — honours Mahagauri, the radiantly white one. Tradition tells that after ages of austerity Parvati's form had darkened with dust and sun; Shiva bathed her in the waters of the Ganga, and she emerged luminous as the moon, white as the jasmine flower. Mahagauri is purity restored: the promise that no history, however long or hard, places the soul beyond renewal. Mounted on a white bull, she grants peace and washes away the residue of every past sorrow. Ashtami is marked by special worship — in many homes, kanya puja, the honouring of young girls as living forms of the Goddess. Devotees wear purple, the colour of nobility and devotion, and chant her mantra for purification, forgiveness, and a fresh beginning. Whatever tonight finds unhealed in you, place it in her white radiance.

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# Siddhidatri

सिद्धिदात्री

Day 9 · Monday, 19 October 2026 · Ayudha Puja / Saraswathi Poojai · Colour of the day: **Peacock Green**

ॐ देवी सिद्धिदात्र्यै नमः

*Om Devi Siddhidatryai Namah*

The ninth and final night crowns the festival with Siddhidatri, the giver of siddhis — all attainments, spiritual and worldly. Seated on a lotus in fullness and peace, she is the completion of the Goddess's nine-fold revelation: tradition holds that even Shiva attained his powers through her grace. Whatever was sought across the eight preceding nights ripens now in her hands. In South India this day is observed as Ayudha Puja and Saraswathi Poojai, when tools, instruments, books, and vehicles are cleaned, decorated, and worshipped — for all skill and all learning are the Goddess's power at work in human hands. Devotees wear peacock green, the colour of accomplishment and beauty, and chant her mantra for mastery in their calling, fulfilment of sadhana, and the supreme attainment: knowledge of the Self. Offer her your work and your instruments; ask that all you do become her worship.

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# Vijayadashami — Tuesday, 20 October 2026

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On the tenth day the nine nights bear their fruit: **Vijayadashami**, the Day of Victory, also beloved as Dussehra. It commemorates the Goddess Durga's triumph over the buffalo demon Mahishasura — the victory of light over darkness, of dharma over adharma — and, in the northern telling, Lord Rama's victory over Ravana, celebrated with the burning of towering effigies. In Bengal it is the tender day of Vijaya, when the clay images of the Mother are carried in procession to the water and immersed, and devotees embrace one another, promising that she will return.

Vijayadashami is counted among the most auspicious days of the year for new beginnings: children are traditionally initiated into learning, new ventures are launched, and instruments and tools honoured the previous day are taken up again with the Goddess's blessing. Whatever discipline or devotion the nine nights have kindled in you, this is the day to carry it forward into ordinary life — for the true immersion of the Goddess is not into the river, but into the heart.

May Maa Durga's victory be your victory, in this season and always.

ॐ दुं दुर्गायै नमः

*Om Dum Durgayai Namah — Jai Maa Durga*

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