



MAURITIUS SANATAN DHARMA
TEMPLES FEDERATION

SANATAN SANDESH DHARA

NAVRATRI EDITION Oct 2021

ASDTF Newsletter, Sanatan Vatika Reduit

जातस्य हि ध्रवी मृत्यध्रेव जन्म मृतस्य च तस्माद्रपरिहार्येऽथै न त्वं शोचितुमहिसि॥ यक्ताहारिविहारस्य युक्तचेष्टस्य कमेसु। युक्तस्वप्नावबोधस्य योगो भव्नति दु:खहा॥ असंश्यं महाबाहो मनो दुनिग्रहं चलम्॥ अभ्यासेन तु कोन्तेय वैराग्येण च गृह्यते॥

"कवन स्रो काज कठिन जग माही। जो नहीं होइ तात तुम पाहीं॥" "रामकथा सुन्दर कर तारी। संशय बिहुग उड़व निहारी॥" "मामभिरक्षय रघुकुल नायक। धृतवर चाप रुचिर कर सायक॥" जे सकाम नर सुनहिं जे गावहिं॥ सुख संपत्ति नानाविधि पावहिं॥ बयक् न कर काहू सन् कोई। रामप्रताप विषमता खोई॥

'सुनि प्रभु क्वन हरष हनुमाना। ॥
सरनागत बच्छल भगवाना।॥"
'राजीव नयन धरें धनु सायक॥
भगत विपति भंजन सुसदायक॥"
'दैहिक दैविक भौतिक तापा।
राम राज नहिं काहुहिं ब्यापा॥"

यते मियते वा कदाचित्रा, यं भत्वा भविता वा न भयः। नैनं छिन्द्रान्ते शस्त्राणि नैनं दहिते पावकः। न चैनं क्लेद्यन्त्यापो नेनं दहिते पावकः। न चैनं क्लेद्यन्त्यापो न शोषयिति मारुतः॥ जातस्य हि धुवा मृत्युधुवं जन्म मृतस्य च। तस्माद्परिहायँउधै न त्वं शाचित्महिसि॥

धर्मी रक्षति रक्षितः DHARMO RAKSHTI RAKSHITAH « UPHOLD YOUR DHARMA, DHARMA WILL PROTECT YOU »



॥ ॐ जयंती मंगला काली भद्रकाली कपालिनी दुर्गा क्षमा शिवा धात्री स्वाहा स्वधा नमोस्तुते ॥

JAI DURGA MAA, JAI MATA DI

The Mauritius Sanatan Dharma Temples Federation wishes you a very pious Navratri, Durga Pooja & Vijaya Dashm. We have the pleasure to launch the 1st Sanatan Sandesh Dhara, a newsletter dedicated to Navratri 2021. We have the intention to publish this communication means on a quarterly basis.

We sincerely hope to have your support and feedback to improve and to valorise this newsletter.

Dhanyavaad.

PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW



- 1. Wear mask at all times in the temple.
- 2. Keep social distancing inside and outside the temple.
- 3. Check temperature at the entrance of temple.
- 4. Use hand sanitizer.
- 5. Wash hands before & after having aarti, rituals/vidhis, prasad, mahaprasad.
- 6. Accommodate not more than 100 devotees in the temple.
- 7. Panchamrit, prasad, mahaprasad, to be served in strict sanitary measures.
- 8. Devotees with comorbidities should avoid gatherings.
- 9. Alternate days of presence to allow maximum to have the blessing of Mother Durga.

NAVRATRI 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Mauritius Sanatan Dharma Temples Federation (MSDTF) wishes all devotees of Shakti a very pious Navratri, Durga Puja and Vijaya Dashmi.

MSDTF has as mission the promotion and upliftment of Sanatan Dharma and

- 1. Help to sustain, maintain a dignified place of worship for the participation and practice of Hindu religion and customs.
- 2. To promote religious, social and spiritual development for children, teenagers, adults and seniors, based on Hindu scriptures and traditions.
- 3. To establish and maintain a spiritual, positive and peaceful environment for all the community regardless of ethnic background to practice and follow the values and tradition of our rich Indian heritage and culture.
- 4. To provide a foundation for humanitarian services to promote friendship and goodwill to the community.

We have set up the Regional Sanatan Samities (RSS) last year to better coordinate our festivals, vrats and other religious and social activities to meet valuable improvements to the expectations of our affiliates and our Hindu Community.

We have also set up 5 commissions at national level which are namely:

- 1. Alleviation of Poverty and Economic Empowerment Commission
- 2. Health and Welfare Commission.
- 3. Women's Empowerment Commission.
- 4. Gurukul and Education Commission.
- 5. Youth and Empowerment Commission.

We have also launched the Hindu Society Fund to help vulnerable persons and to uplift our Dharma.

With the basic but important mechanisms being set up, we rely on the help and contribution of everyone to achieve our targets and goals. Let's explore the vast horizon and unlimited expanse of the eternal Sanatan Dharma, which has no beginning and no end. We therefore request you all to:



- 1. Open our arms to work in unity through mutual brotherhood
- 2. Requesting our affiliates to encourage the youth to form part of the RSS in your respective region.
- 3. To send us the names of a male and female youth between the age of 15 years old to 25 years old. To form part of the RSS of your respective region if ever you may not have done so till now.
- 4. To register Pujaris to MSDTF if ever you have not yet done so.
- 5. To donate a monthly sum of Rs. 100 (One hundred rupees) to the Hindu Society Fund, which is deductible in your income tax return.
- 6. Donate generously any amount you wish to any religious association/s through bank transfer or cross cheque solely on MSDTF which can be deducted in your Income Tax return.
- 7. To place a notice board for events and important activities.
- 8. To valorise and re-introduce baitkas, Gurukul, Baal-Vikas classes for women, youth and elderly persons.
- 9. To encourage resource persons knowledgeable in Indian Philosophy and other fields like Values and establish a proper interaction with members.
- 10. To set up or put in place a network which will facilitate and enable interactive communication process for activities and other information to affiliate members and organizations/associations.

In a nutshell, MSDTF is your mouthpiece, your voice helping to establish a sound and healthy communication means for the benefit of all, thus using technology for better and proper communication. Nothing can happen without unity and dedication as well as support for a common cause of promoting

Sanatana Dharma, creating a sense of brotherhood and mutual respect, paving a better future.



Unity is the prerequisite.

We, Hindus must be organized and unite together so as to help our Hindu brothers (and sisters) to shine so that the lustre arising out of each individual may collectively form a center of light. Just like the sun and its tiny rays. Each ray has a light of its own but it does not make the sun. All the rays combined contribute to the central power and they all together make the sun.

"Mitrasya Chakshusba Samikshamahe"- Yajur Veda (May we look at all with a friendly eye)

Wishing you all a pious Navratri and Durga Puja.

Kind regards, Mauritius Sanatan Dharma Temples Federation

Navratri

Navratri is a significant Hindu festival that is observed over nine nights and 10 days during which nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshipped. The festival marks the victory of good over evil. As per the Mahakala Samhita, there are four Navratri in the Vedic calendar named Sharad Navratri, Chaitra Navratri, Magha Gupta Navratri and Ashadha Gupta Navratri. The Navratri that usually falls in September-October is known as Sharad Navratri. It is the most significant Navratri that is celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm across the country.

This year the Sharad Navratri will begin from October 7 with Sthapana and end on October 15 with Vijay Dashami and Durga Visarjan.

According to Hindu legends, Lord Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva combined their powers to create Goddess Durga to defeat the demon king Mahishasura after he attacked Trilok - Earth, Heaven and Hell. No one could defeat Mahishasura as Lord Brahma granted him the wish that stated he could only be defeated by a woman. After a 15-day long battle, Goddess Durga killed him with her Trishul on the day of Mahalya.





Maa Durga symbolises divine energy that destroys evil forces within us like arrogance, jealousy, anger and lust.

Maa Durga on tiger means mastery over power and determination.

The 8 hands represent 4 classes in Hinduism:
2 hands belong to priests/scholars, 2 to warriors/kings, 2 to
merchants and 2 to labourers.

The strength that emerges from the unity of these hands is the divine power, Maa Durga.

Unity is strength, which will destroy the demon Mahishasur, who symbolises communalism.

♣ NAVRATRI 2021: SIGNIFICANCE

Why do we celebrate Navratri?

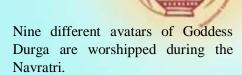


Any individual, cannot be nurtured well without a mother.

Navratri is a festival to worship Maa Durga and present our love and respect to the entire motherhood in this world.

Ya devi sarva bhuteshu maatri rupen sansthita, namastasye namastasye namastasye namo namaha

To the divine Goddess who resides in all existence in the form of universal mother, we bow to you, we bow to you, we continually bow to you.



The 1st day is dedicated to Goddess Shailputri, 2nd to Brahmacharini, 3rd to Chandraghanta, 4th day to Kushmanda, 5th day to Skandamata, 6th day to Katyayani, 7th day to Kaalratri, 8th to Mahagauri and 9th day to Siddhidatri.

It is believed that worshipping these nine incarnations of goddess Durga during Navratri blessed devotees with prosperity, health and wisdom in their life.

♣ For an Eco-friendly Navratri



The most serious impact on the natural environment is due to the immersion of idols made of Plaster of Paris and plastic products. Celebrating Eco-friendly Navratri does not mean completely giving up the things you love. Eco-friendly Navratri festival enables you to celebrate festival grandly without harming environment and other living beings. The rest of puja saaman should not be discarded in rivers or the sea. Leaves, lamps can be discarded in refuse or even be placed in a pit or hole and cover it with earth.

Idols: using a natural clay idol for immersion and immersing it in the tank or in a bucket of water at home or in the Mandir into natural water bodies helps to prevent water pollution and saves the environment.

Decorative items: Instead of plastic, thermocol products that can harm the environment, our prayers will best be answered by being in tune with nature and here you can also adopt decorative items made out of palm leaves and other eco-friendly products to decorate mandaps, idols, doors and wall hangings.



Incense sticks: According to studies, incense is used primarily for religious, medicinal and meditative purposes, and was found to result in air quality which is hazardous to human health. Hand rolled incense sticks with natural fragrance can be used for the Puja. Ensure that your room or premises is well ventilated.

Reduce Noise: It is not in fanfare and high-pitch noise that Divine Mother is propitiated BUT in earnestness, in meditation and silence. We should not imitate others with high-pitch loud speakers. This can be especially upsetting to people who require undisturbed rest like babies and elderly and sick people.

↓ Our spirit: The source of deep rest

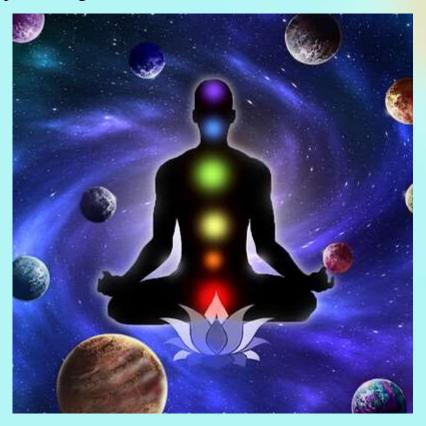
Sri Sri Ravishankar, founder of the Art of Living says: "Our spirit has existed since time immemorial. It is the boundless and the eternal source of energy of this universe. During Navratri, even the subtle energies in the environment enhance and assist one's experience of reaching the spirit.

The prayer, chanting, and meditation performed during Navratri connect us with our spirit. Getting in touch with the spirit invokes positive qualities within us and destroys laziness, pride, obsession, cravings, and aversions. When stress in the form of negative emotions is destroyed, we experience the deep rest of the transforming nine nights."

We can also take this time to take our worship from the symbolic to the worship of Shakti within ourselves and in our communities. Each day of Navratri reveres another aspect of the female divine, embracing women for their whole selves. It is our utmost duty to protect and respect our women folks. They are our daughters, mothers, our sisters. Honoring Devi has no purpose if we cannot protect and give respects to our womenfolk's. It is sad of so many gender oppressions and inequalities. Let's honor the inner Devi.

May goddess Durga rekindle love in us, helps us remove our egos, jealousy and instill the feeling of goodwill, love and respect as well as discipline is us.

★ The Spiritual Significance of Navaratri





By Swami Tejomayananda

Ratri means "night" and Nava means "nine". At Navaratri ("nine nights"), the Lord in the form of the Mother Goddess is worshiped in Her various forms as Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Though the Goddess is one, She is represented and worshiped in three different aspects. On the first three nights of the festival, Durga is worshipped. On the following three, Lakshmi and then Saraswati Devi on the last three nights. The following tenth day is called Vijayadasami.

Vijaya means "victory", the victory over our own minds that can come only when we have worshipped these three: Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati.

Durga

To gain noble virtues, all evil tendencies in the mind must be destroyed. This destruction is represented by the Goddess Durga. Durga is durgati harini: "She who removes our evil tendencies." This is why she is called Mahishasura Mardini, the destroyer of Mahishasura (demon), mahisha meaning "buffalo." Isn't there a buffalo in our minds as well?





The buffalo stands for tamoguna, the quality of laziness, darkness, ignorance and inertia. We have these qualities too. We love to sleep. Although we may have a lot of energy and potential inside us, we prefer to do nothing - just like the buffalo that likes to lie in pools of water. In the Puraanic story, Durga Devi's killing of the Mahisha demon is, symbolically, the destruction of the tamoguna within us that is very difficult to destroy. In the Durga Devi Havana (sacrifice), we invoke that

Divine Power within us to destroy our animalistic tendencies.

❖ Lakshmi

For knowledge to dawn within us, we have to prepare our minds. The mind must be pure, concentrated, and single-pointed; this purification of the mind is obtained through the worship of Lakshmi Devi.

In our society today, however, when we think of Lakshmi, we think only of money. This is why if one goes to a Lakshmi temple, one will find a crowd. Everybody likes Lakshmi Puja (Lakshmi worship) because they think she represents material wealth. But what is real wealth? Even if we have material wealth but no self-discipline or self-control, nor the values of love, kindness, respect and sincerity, all our material wealth will be lost or destroyed. The real wealth is the inner wealth of spiritual values that we practice in our lives, by which our minds become purified. Only when we have these noble values will we be able to preserve our material wealth and make good use of it. Otherwise money itself becomes a problem. In the Upanishads, the Rishis never asked for material wealth only.

In the mantras of the Taittriya Upanishad, they first asked to have all the noble virtues fully developed in them. "Having gained the noble virtues, thereafter Lord please bring wealth to us". The Rishis express here that in the absence of right values and good qualities, all our money will be wasted, and there are countless

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examples of this in the world around us.



Our wealth of virtues is our true Lakshmi. Its importance is shown by the fact that Adi Shankaracharya Vivekachudamani, himself. in describes that sat sampati, or six forms of wealth (calmness of mind, selfcontrol, selfwithdrawal, forbearance, faith and single-pointedness) that are to be cultivated to attain wisdom. These virtues are important because our goal is victory over the mind - a victory such that we do not get disturbed by every change that takes place in our lives. This victory comes only when the mind is prepared, and preparation this mental the symbolism of the Lakshmi Puja.

Saraswati

Victory over the mind can be gained only through knowledge, through understanding; and it is Goddess Saraswati who represents this highest knowledge of the Self.

Although there are many kinds of knowledge in the Vedas - phonetics astronomy, archery, architecture, economics and so on - the real knowledge is in the spiritual knowledge. Lord Krishna himself says in the Bhagavad Gita: "The knowledge of the Self is the knowledge"; and He adds, "It is my vibhuti, my glory." In other words, we may have knowledge of many other subjects and sciences but if we do not know our own Self, then that is the greatest loss. Therefore the supreme knowledge is the knowledge of the Self that is represented by Goddess Saraswati.



> Navaratri

Thus, at Navaratri, Goddess Durga is invoked first to remove impurities from the mind. The Goddess Lakshmi is invoked to cultivate the noble values and qualities. Finally, Saraswati is invoked for gaining the highest knowledge of the Self. This is the significance of the three sets of three nights when all these three are gained subjectively, and then there will be Vijayadasami, the day of true victory!

At Navaratri time, the Rasa dance (dance of joy) of Sri Krishna and the gopis is also performed. As the mind becomes purer, calmer quieter, and more cheerful and greater understanding is gained, do we not feel happier?

Similarly, the Rasa dance is the dance of joy and realization. But, nowadays, the theme of Sri Krishna and the gopis dancing around the Rasa seems to have been lost in our society. The true meaning and purpose of the ritual is often forgotten, as more importance is given to other types of dancing.

Why is the Navaratri festival celebrated at night rather than in the daytime? This is another interesting question.

Night-time is generally the time when we go to sleep, so the spiritual message is, "You have lived long enough in the sleepy ignorance of tamoguna. It is time to wake up now. Please wake up!"

For a puja, unfortunately, we are never willing to stay up late and so we ask, "What time will it end?" For a party, we never ask this question. If the party ends at 10.00pm, we say "What! The party is finished?! What kind of a party is that?!" Yet we find it difficult to stay awake for a puja!

The Importance of Ritual

Not everyone, it is true, will be of the intellectual type to appreciate everything philosophically. Therefore, philosophy or spiritual truth must be demonstrated visually in some ritualistic form. In this way, when children are first introduced to it, they enjoy a dance or a festival, and then later begin to question,

What is this dance?

Why are we doing this Puja? What is the meaning of Navaratri?" So the purpose of the concretized ritual is fulfilled when these questions begin to arise in the children's minds.



Unfortunately, when we take our children to functions at the temples and they begin to ask questions about what they see, we cannot answer them. Yet when the children revolt later as teenagers, we say, "What happened to the children? These kids are terrible. We never used to question our religion!"

We take pride in the fact that we never used to question anything, but it would have been better if we had asked questions and found out. Why did we not ask?

Because of intellectual inertia. Inertia is of different kinds.

Physical inertia is not as bad because it is usually temporary. There are also mental or emotional stupors that some people remain in, but the intellectual inertia is the worst kind because under its influence, we do not want to think at all. It is said that people can live without air for two minutes, without water for a few days, without food for a month or so, and without thinking for generations! Some people just do not want to think. This is our inner Mahisha (the lazy buffalo), and our spiritual Mahisha is that we do not want to wake up from this sleep of ignorance.

As we can see, the theme of the entire Vedas is reflected in the Navaratri festival: Purify the mind and remove all negativeness; cultivate positive virtues; gain spiritual knowledge and transcend limitations. This is the real victory - the dance of joy - ritualistically performed at night, as it is also on Shivaratri (auspicious night), to signify our spiritual awakening.

Ashish Purmanund



9 Forms of Maa Durga



Day 1
SHAILPUTRI

Colour: Yellow

Mantra: Hring Shivayai

Namah

Qualities of diety: Action Comitment, Trust, Vigour



Navratrí

Day 1: Shailputri

Navratri begins with Goddess Shailputri, which means Daughter of Mountains. She is the daughter of Hemavana, the king of Himalayas. Shailputri is considered as purest embodiment of Durga.



Shubh Navratri

Day 2: Brahmacharini

The name Brahmacharini means the 'one who practices devout austerity'. She holds a rosary in her right hand, representing special Hindu prayers recited in her honours and holds a water utensil in her left hand, which depicts marital bliss.

Day 2

BRAHMCHARINI

Colour: Green

Mantra: Hring Shri Ambikaye Namah Qualities of diety:

Discipline, Good

Conduct

Day 3
CHANDRAGHANTA
Colour: Grey
Mantra: Em Shring

Shktyai Namah

Qualities of diety:

Alertness, Readiness



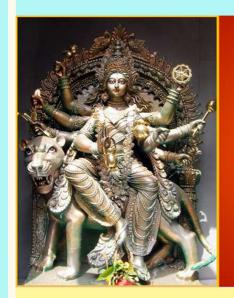
Navratrí

Day 3: Chandraghanta

Chandraghanta is the third of Durga. She represents peace, tranquillity and prosperity in life. Chandraghanta is derived from two Hindi words, Chandra (half moon) which is in her forehead in the shape of a ghanta (bell).

9 Forms of Maa Durga





Shubh Navratri

Day 4: Kushmanda

Kushmanda is worshipped on the fourth day of Navratri. She is the fourth manifestation of Goddess Durga. Kushmanda means 'creator of the universe' as she is the one who brought light to the dark cosmos. KUSHMUNDA
Colour: Orange
Mantra: Em Hring
Devyai Namah
Qualities of diety:
Growth, Positive

attitude, Verdant

Day 4

Day 5 SKANDAMATA

Colour: White

Mantra: Hri Kling

Swaminyai Namah

Qualities of diety:

Courage, Compassion,
Protection



Navratrí

Day 5: Skanda Mata

Skanda Mata is worshipped on the fifth day of Navratri. She is the mother of Lord Kartikeya or Skanda, who was chosen as commander-in-chief by the gods in the war against demons.





Navratrí

Day & Vaturayani

Day 6: Katyayani

Katayani is worshipped on the sixth day of Navratri. She is a fearsome manifestation of Goddess Durga just like Kaal Ratri. Her notable features are wild hair and 18 arms, each holding a weapon.

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Day 6
KATYAYANI

Colour: Red

Mantra: Kling Shri Trinetrayai Namah Qualities of diety:

Sharing, Nourishment,,

Immense Power

9 Forms of Maa Durga



Day 7
KALRATRI

Colour: Royal Blue Mantra: Kling Em Shri

Kalikayai Namah

Qualities of diety:

Calmness, Reflection,

Intruspection



Shubh Navratrí

Day 7: Kaal Ratri

Kaal Ratri is also known as
Shubhamkari, which means the
'doer of good'. She is a
fearsome manifestation of
Durga with dark skin,
dishevelled hair, three eyes and
four arms. She is worshipped
on the seventh day of Navratri
as the protector of Hindu faith.



Navratrí

Day 8: Maha Gauri

Maha Gauri means 'extremely white'. She was named Maha Gauri for her luminous beauty, which radiates from her body. She is worshipped on the eight day of Navratri. Day 8 MAHAGAWRI

Colour: Pink

Mantra: Shri Kling Hring Vardayai Namah Qualities of diety:

Purity, Knowledge,

Hope



Mantra: Hring Kling Em Siddhyai Namah Qualities of diety: Perfection, Success, Improvement



Navratrí

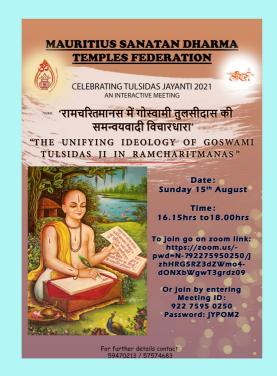
Day 9: Siddhidatri

Siddhidatri is worshipped on the ninth and final day of Navratri. Her name means 'giver of supernatural power'. Siddhidatri bestows wisdom and insight to those who worship her.



Activities organised by MSDTF





MSDTF organised online interactive meeting on the occasion of Tulsidas Jayanti in August 2021







MSDTF organised an online meet on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmaashtami 2021 where we had hundreds of participant attending the meet and sharing their precious thoughts...



Activities organised by MSDTF





September 2021

Workshop on

Empowerment and

setting up of 5

commissions.





Recording of Aradhna: Ramayan Competitions 2021.

We had participants turning up from all over the island showcasting their various talents and their devotion towards Lord Rama.







Forthcoming Activities

- ➤ Final of Aradhna Ramayan Competition 2021, Thursday 21th October 2021, Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture Auditorium, Phoenix, 18:30hrs to 21:00hrs
- Diwali Mahotsav 2021, Friday 29th October 2021
 @ Sanatan Vatika, Le Triangle Réduit, 18:00hrs to 20:00hrs
- Appravasi Divas Tuesday 02nd November 2021
 Phulliyar, 10:30hrs to Noon

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