

## NAVGRAHA MALA 9 PLANETS / 9 SHAKTIS



### **Jyotish Birth Stones - Sri Nava Ratna - the 9 Gems**

<u>GEMSTONE</u> <i>(Ratna &amp; uparatna)</i>	<u>RULING PLANET</u> <i>(Graha)</i>	<u>ZODIAC MOON SIGN</u> <i>(Chandra-Rasi)</i>
Ruby, Red Spinel (Padmaraag)	Sun - Surya	Leo
Pearl, Moonstone (Moti)	Moon - Chandra	Cancer
Coral, Carnelian (Moonga)	Mars - Mangala	Aries / Scorpio
Emerald, Tsavorite (Panna)	Mercury - Budha	Gemini / Virgo
Yellow Sapphire, Topaz (Pukhraj)	Jupiter - Guru	Sagittarius / Pisces
Diamond, White quartz (Vajra)	Venus - Shukra	Taurus / Libra
Blue Sapphire, Indicolite (Nilam)	Saturn - Shani	Capricorn / Aquarius
Hessonite, Hyacinth (Gomed)	Rahu – Rahu	Not applicable*
Cat's Eye, Fibrolite (Vaidurya)	Ketu - Ketu	Not applicable*

**9 DIVINE MOTHERS** - *these stones are associated with the 9 Shaktis or Divine Mother Energies*

1st night of Navratri – (ruby) Kailasha Sthapana - Kalasha Puja or Ghata Sthapana – **Shailaputri** -red

2nd night of Navratri – (yellow sapphire) Preeti Dwitiya – **Brahmacharini** - royal blue

3rd night of Navratri – (pearl) Treta Chandrakanta puja or **Chandraghanta** - yellow

4th night of Navratri – (emerald) **Kushmanda** Chaturti - green

5th night of Navratri – (coral) Skandamata Puja – **Lalitha** Panchami - gray

6th night of Navratri – (cat's eye) Katyayani Puja – **Maha Shashti** or Durga Shashti - orange

7th night of Navratri – (hessonite) Kaalratri Puja – **Durga** Saptami or Maha Sapthami - white

8th night of Navratri – (diamond) Durgashtami Puja/Maha Ashtami / Veerashtami - **Maha Gauri** -pink

9th night of Navratri – (blue sapphire) Siddhidatri Puja Mahanavami / Durga Navami - **Maha Kali** –sky blue

Navaratri begins on the New Moon (Amavasya) and proceeds through the waxing fortnight phase of the moon called Shukla in Sanskrit. Each day is a tithi. For the Navaratri festival days are counted as nights.

There are 4 Navaratris in a year corresponding to the Solsitces and Equinoxes. The most important one is the Autumnal Equinox and known as **Sharaddh Navaratri** (literally 'faith' but refers more in general usage to the worship of our ancestors Pitru Paksha which falls on the waning or Krishna Paksha fortnight just before Navaratri) or **Ashvin Navaratri** (which simply refers to the month). Each of the Navaratris are 9 days dedicated to the 9 forms of Shakti, Divine Mother. The 9 are 3 phases each of the 3 Maha Matris or Great Mothers : Kali, Lakshmi and Sarasvati. All 3 are in turn part of the one Mother Durga.



1. **Vasanta Navaratri** : in the month of Chaitra (March–April) observed during the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon) of Chaitra. The beginning of this Navaratri also marks the start of the new year on the Hindu lunar calendar (Vikrami Samvat).
2. **Ashad Navaratri** : also known as Gupta (Secret), **Gayatri** or **Shakambhari Navaratri**, is nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Shakti in the month of Ashadha (June–July). It is observed during the Ashadha Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon). This is mostly observed by *Shaktas* only
3. **Sharad Navaratri**: This is the most important of the Navaratris. It is simply called **Maha Navaratri** (Great Navaratri) and is celebrated on first night of the waxing fortnight of the lunar month of Ashvin. Also known as **Shraddh Navaratri** (time to worship those who have passed), or **Sharad Navaratri** (winter) (beginning of winter, September–October).
4. **Pausha Navaratri**: is observed during the Pausha Shukla Paksha, the waxing phase of moon, in the month of December–January.

Lord Brahma is cited in the Markandey Purana as mentioning to Rishi Markandey that the first incarnation of Shakti was as Shailputri. Further incarnations of the Divine Mother are: Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, MahaGauri, Siddhidatri. in that order. These nine manifestations of Shakti, are worshipped as "Nava-Durga". The fifth chapter of the Rudra Samhita of Shiva Purana also vividly describes the various Divine Emanations of Durga. Markandeya's Devi Mahatmyam aka Durga Saptashati (700 verses to Durga) describes the birth of Divine Mother and her fierce defense of her beloved universe. The particular list of Goddess names worshipped varies from place to place since in India, there are 1008 Holy Names or Manifestations of Divine Mother. Each region and even each family has its own ishtadevata (personal favorite god form). Here is a typical list worshipped on the 9 nights of Navaratri and the meaning of each name:

- **Durga** – Invincible
- **Bhadrakali** - Benevolent One who destroys our delusions and illusions.
- **Amba** or **Jagadamba** - Mother of the universe
- **Annapurna** - She bestows grains (anna) in abundance or fullness (purna)
- **Sarvamangala** The one who gives happiness (mangal) to all (sarva)
- **Bhaivari** – Fierce and terrifying aspect of Kali
- **Chandika** or **Chandi** – Unpredictable wrath
- **Lalita** – She who loves to play
- **Bhavani** - Adi Parashakti, (original greatest Shakti)
- **Narmada** – Delightful daughter of Shiva. The sacred River Goddess is worshipped as Ishtadevata by those living in her regions.