

The Significance of Maa Kushmanda in Hinduism

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On this auspicious day, devotees from all over gather to pay homage to Maa Kushmanda, a lesser-known avatar of Devi Durga. According to Hindu scriptures, she is believed to be the fourth among the Navadurga forms of Mahadevi/Goddess Durga. Kushmanda is a Hindu goddess credited with creating the world with her divine smile.

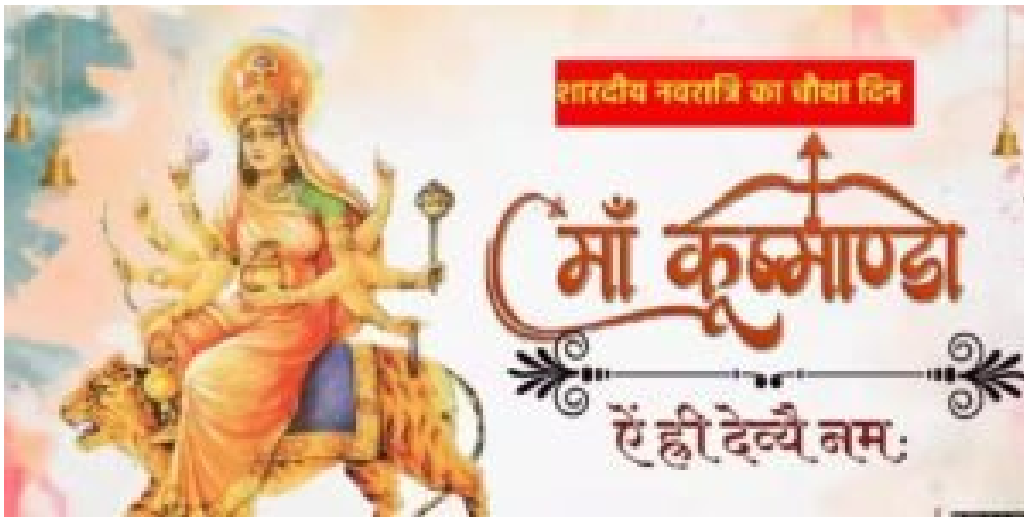
The Role of Maa Kushmanda

Followers of the Kalikula tradition consider Maa Kushmanda as the fourth aspect in the Navadurga forms of Mahadevi. Her name itself signifies her main role. “Ku” means “a little,” “ushma” means “warmth” or “energy,” and “anda” means “cosmic egg.”

Maa Kushmanda is worshipped on the fourth day of the Navaratri festival, which spans nine nights of Navadurga. It is believed

that by worshipping her, one can improve their health, wealth, and strength.

Goddess Kushmanda is also known as Ashtabhuja Devi, as she is depicted with eight hands. It is said that all the power to bestow siddhis and niddhis (supernatural powers and wealth) are located in her jap mala.



Maa Kushmanda

The Creation of the Universe

Maa Kushmanda is credited with creating the entire universe, known as Brahmanda in Sanskrit, with just a flash of her smile. This divine act showcases her immense power and the ability to bring forth life and energy.

She is particularly fond of offerings of white pumpkin known as Kushmanda. This association with both Brahmanda and Kushmanda has led to her popular name, Goddess Kushmanda. Her abode is in the Anahata Chakra, one of the seven chakras in Hinduism.

The Depiction of Maa Kushmanda

Maa Kushmanda is often depicted with eight to ten hands, each holding a different symbol. These symbols include a trident,

discus, sword, hook, mace, bow, arrow, and two jars of amrut (elixir) and blood. One of her hands is always in the abhayamudra, a gesture of blessing and fearlessness towards her devotees.

She is also seen riding on a lion, symbolizing her power and courage.

Devotees believe that by worshipping Maa Kushmanda, they can tap into her divine energy and receive blessings in the form of improved health, wealth, and strength. Her divine smile and creation of the universe serve as a reminder of the immense power and love that the goddess embodies.

On this special day, devotees gather to offer prayers, perform rituals, and seek the blessings of Maa Kushmanda. It is a time of celebration and gratitude for the divine energy that surrounds us all.