



*DURGA*  
*LAKSHMI*  
*SARASWATHI*



# Navarathri

it celebrates the invocation and triumph of the goddess over evil, with the first three nights in praise of Durga (Shakti or power) next three in praise of Lakshmi (prosperity, both material and spiritual) and the last three in praise of Saraswathi (learning/knowledge).

*During Navaratri (nine nights), we invoke the energy (Shakti) aspect of God in the form of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi. Durga grants us energy - physical, mental and spiritual. Lakshmi bestows on us wealth - not just material wealth but intellectual wealth, the wealth of character, goodness and health. Saraswathi bestows on us intelligence, the capacity for intellectual enquiry and the power of discrimination. Hence, Navaratri (nine-nights, 3 nights of worship for each deity) festival is celebrated in order to proclaim to the world the power of the Divine Mother. One's own mother is the combination of all these Divine beings. She provides you with energy, wealth and intelligence. She constantly desires your advancement in life and hence represents all the three Goddesses. Recognizing one's mother as the very embodiment of all divine forces, one must show reverence to her and treat her with love. This is the true underlying message that the Navaratri festival gives us.*  
-Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Oct 14, 1988



# DURGA

- *The word Durga literally means "impassable", "inaccessible", "invincible, unassailable"*
- *also known as Adi Parashakti, Devi, Shakti, Bhavani and by numerous other names*
- *She is energy or shakti, male cannot exist without energy.*
- *fearless warrior goddess depicted riding a lion or a tiger with numerous weapons and favors the color red.*
- *She is a central deity in Shaktism tradition of Hinduism, where she is equated with the concept of ultimate reality called Brahman.*
- *Any woman who takes up a cause to fight for goodness and justice is said to have the spirit of Durga in her.*
- *As the mother goddess she is the inspiration behind the song Vande Mataram, sung by Rabindranath Tagore during Indian independence movement, later the official national song of India.*

# DURGA & Mahishasura

Immune from the holy trinity Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma, didn't say nothing if their forces were combined! Shakti means power, Mahishasura Mardini.

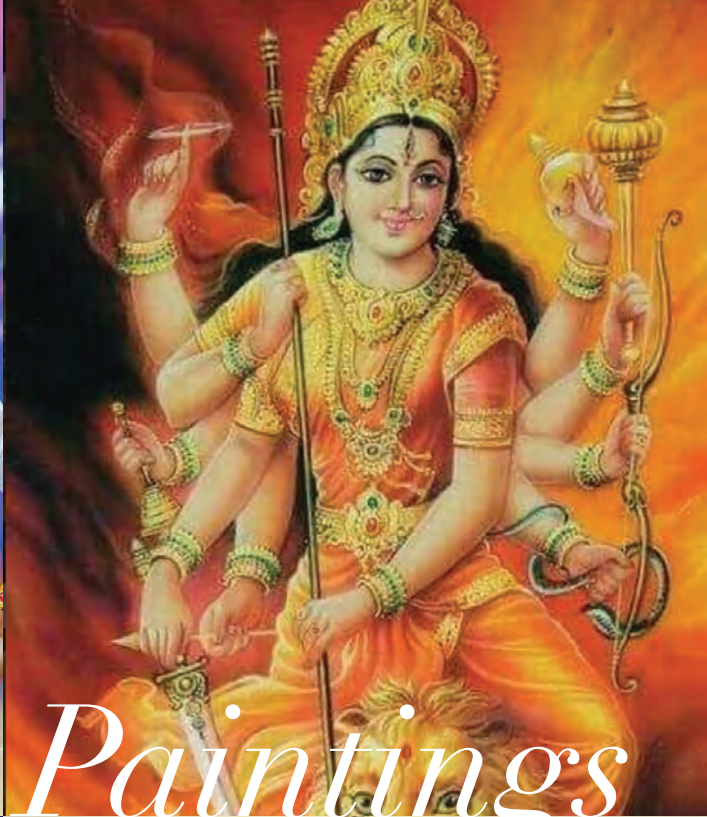


VISHNU AND OTHER DEVAS, TOO, OFFERED WEAPONS TO DURGA.



MAHISHA FELL DEAD, AT THE FOOT OF DURGA. THE DE





*Paintings*





## *DURGA* in Bengal

*In Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Durga Puja is also called Akalbodhan "awakening of Durga" In Bangladesh, Durga Puja used to be celebrated as Bhagabati Puja. Large statues are erected made of clay with a distinctive appearance native to North Eastern India.*





*Pala period  
12th century  
Bangladesh or India*



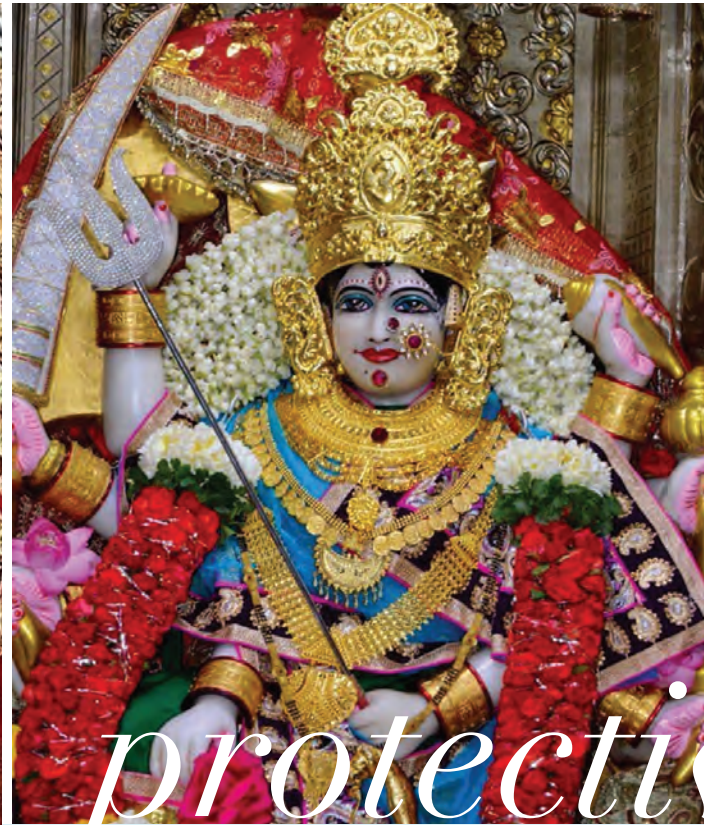
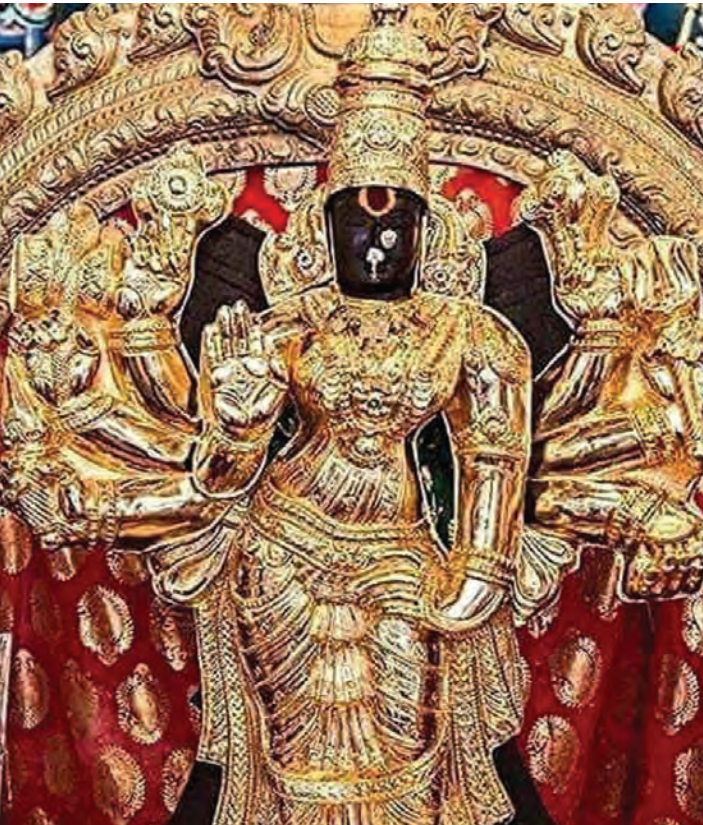
*14th–15th century  
Nepal*



*last quarter of the 7th  
century–early  
8th century  
pre-Angkor period  
Cambodia*



*second half of the 9th  
century  
Eastern India, Bihar,  
probably Gaya district*

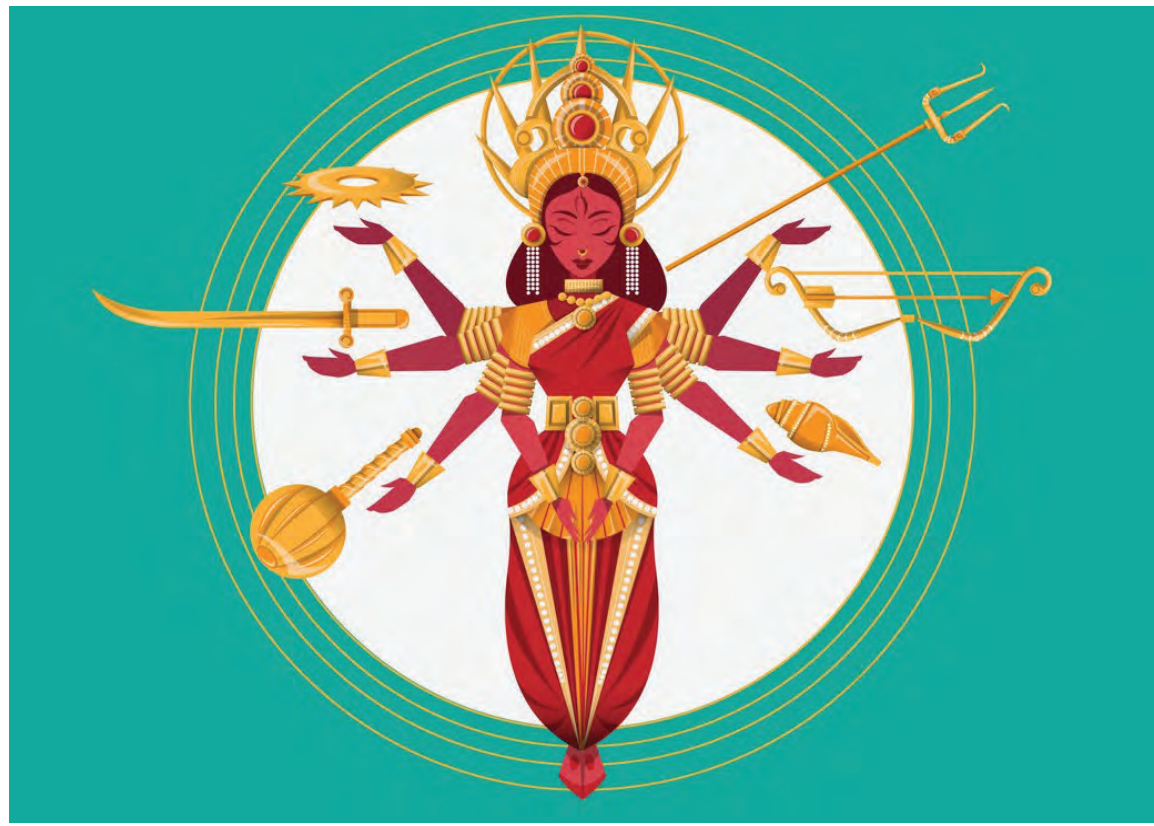


*protective DEVI*





# *DURGA* MODERN





# OTHER NAMES

*MEENAKSHI*

*fish eyed one (madhurai)*

*KAMAKSHI*

*beautiful eyes (kanchipuram)*

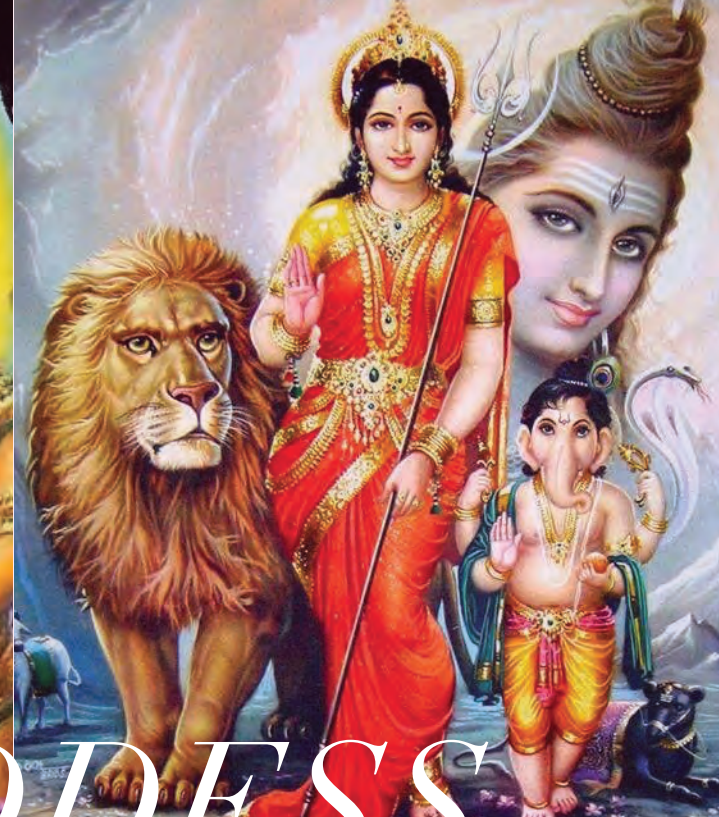


*ARDHANARISHWAR(I)*

*androgynous part of God, half man/woman*

*ANNAPOORNESHWARI*

*giver of food*



# PARVATHI MOTHER GODDESS





# *MAHA KALI* *the ferocious one*

- fiercest aspect of mother goddess
- grants freedom from fear (ghosts, demons, etc) makes her devotees fearless.
- Adi Shakti, the Primeval Force of the Universe, identical with the Ultimate Reality or Brahman
- Her all-embracing, comprehensive nature, because black is the color in which all the colors merge; black absorbs and dissolves them the one who destroys ignorance and removes darkness.
- This form of Goddess is believed to be the destroyer of all demon entities, ghosts, spirits and negative energies, who flee upon knowing of her arrival.
- name means time who is the one beyond the limitations of time and space, black one, death
- Hanuman stands as guard to her temples for killing Mahavira in Ramayana
- Kali destroyed the demons after coming out of Durga's head in anger and began a terrific dance. At the request of all the gods, Shiva lay like a corpse among the slain demons in order to stop Maa Kali. When Kali eventually stepped upon Shiva, she realized she was trampling and hurting her husband and stuck her tongue out in shame.
- Kali's nudity has powerful meaning. She is free from all covering of illusion. She is Nature (Prakriti), stripped of 'clothes'. She is completely beyond name and form, completely beyond the effects of maya (illusion). Her nudity is said to represent totally illumined consciousness, unaffected by maya. Kali is the bright fire of truth, which cannot be hidden by the clothes of ignorance.

*What's with the dolls?*  
**GOLU**



# GOLU

*The dolls represent the assembly of Durga Devi who killed the demon Mahishasura on Vijayadashami day. Occasion that promotes creative expression for women and for the family to work together on an aesthetic aspect. It brings joy to a lot of people. ITS A LOT OF FUN!*

- Bommai Kolu/ Bomma Golu/ Bombe Habba is a doll and figurine display festival celebrated during the festival of Navratri in Southern India, it is customary in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Kerala.

- The Kolu is predominantly displayed with depictions from scriptures such as Mahabaratha, Ramayana, court life, royal procession, weddings, everyday scenes, miniature kitchen utensils, anything a girl would have played with.

- Odd-numbered shelves (usually 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11), are set up using wooden planks, covered with fabric with the deities at the top and other dolls below.

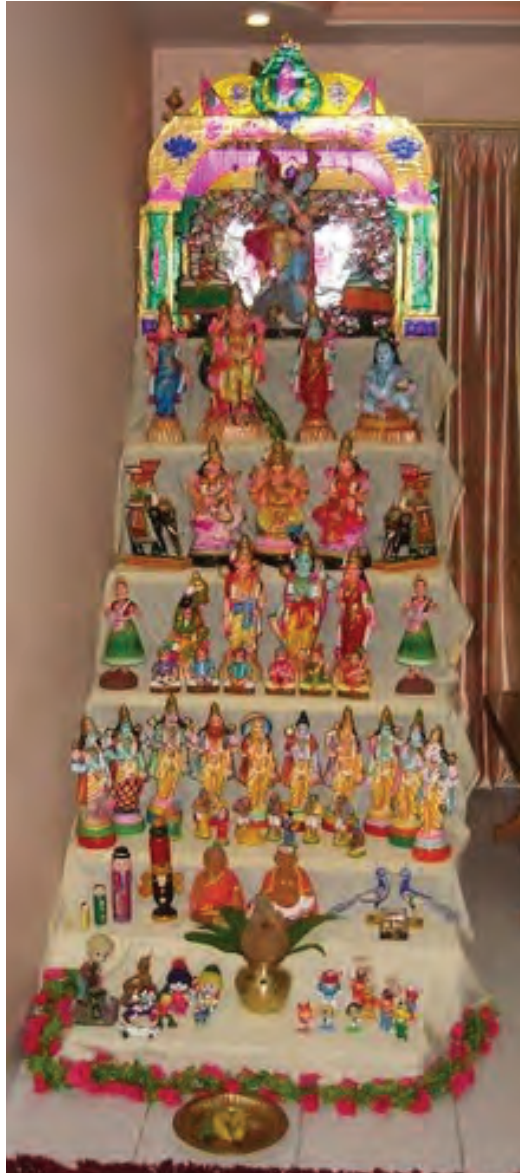
- Modern Golus are elaborate including lego lands, fairy lands, etc. and dolls from around the world.

- It is a chance for women to socialize by visiting each others homes and exchanging gifts and sweets.

- It is a traditional practice to have wooden figurines of the bride and groom together, called 'Marapacchi Bommai' made of wood decorated with new clothes each year, symbolizing prosperity and fertility.



# *GOLU TRADITIONAL*



# *GOLU TRADITIONAL*





# *GOLU TRADITIONAL*



# *GOLU TRADITIONAL*



# *GOLU MARAPACHI*



*Traditional*

*Modern*

*Traditional*

*Traditional*

# GOLU MODERN



# *GOLU* MODERN



# *GOLU* MODERN



# GOLU MODERN



*GOLU*

MODERN

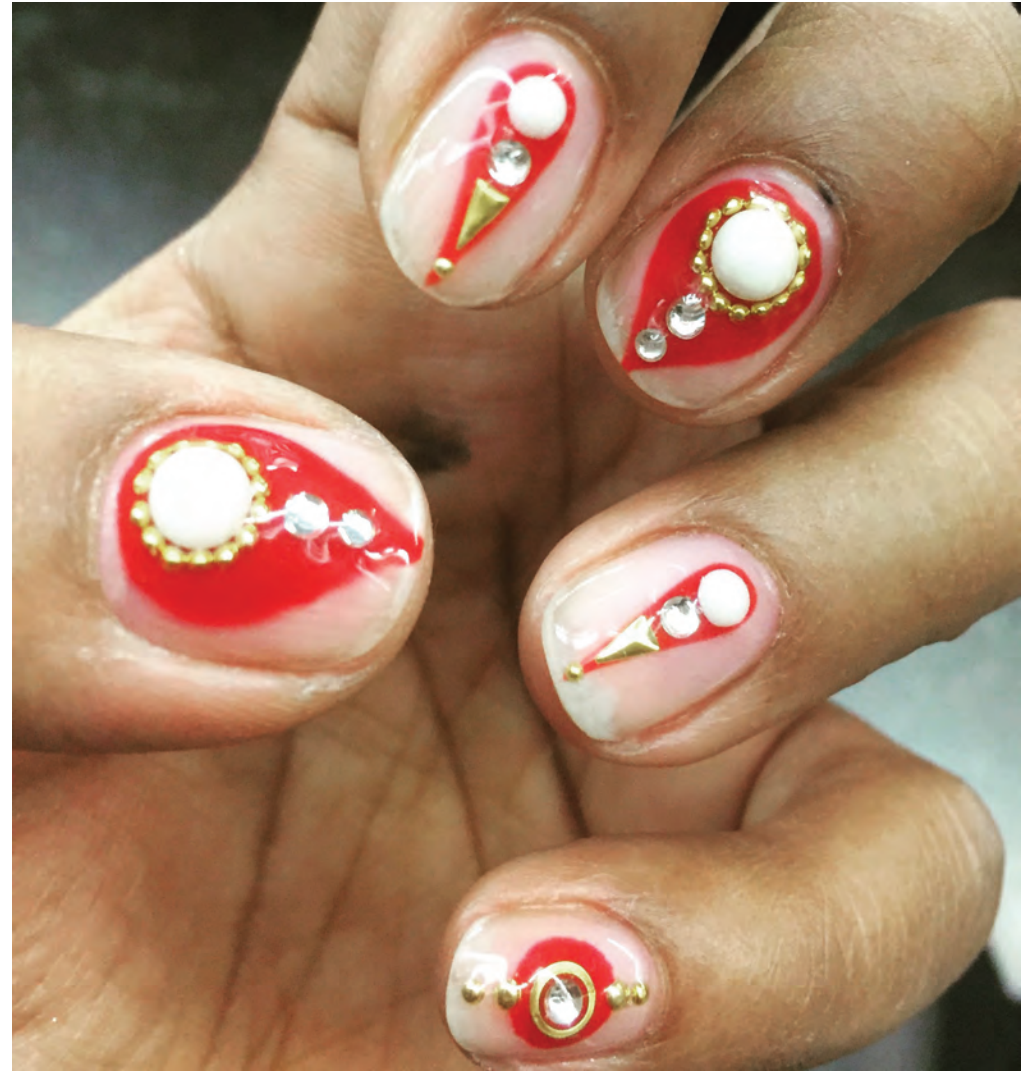




# *GOLU* MODERN



# *GOLU* NAILS



# GARBA & RAS



*Happy Navaratri*





# LAKSHMI

- *The Goddess of wealth, fortune, and prosperity. Personifies wealth, riches, beauty, happiness, loveliness, grace, charm and splendour.*
- *Consort of Lord Vishnu. She is born as his spouse whenever the Lord incarnates. When Vishnu appeared as Vamana, Parasurama, Rama and Krishna she appeared as Padma, Dharani, Sita and Rukmini.*
- *Usually described as enchantingly beautiful and standing on a lotus. It is because of this she is named Padma or Kamala. Favors the color pink.*
- *The floating lotus goes up and down depending on the level of the water implying that wealth is unsteady, it comes and goes and not to get too attached to it.*
- *The lotus, a flower that blossoms in clean or dirty water, also symbolises purity and beauty regardless of the good or bad circumstances in which it grows. It is a reminder that good and prosperity can bloom and not be affected by evil in one's surrounding..*
- *Her iconography shows her with four hands, which represent the four goals of human life considered important to the Hindu way of life: dharma, kāma, artha, and moksha.*

# Ashta 8 LAKSHMI

## *Adi Lakshmi*

The First manifestation of Lakshmi

## *Dhana Lakshmi*

Money-depicted as four-armed, in red garments, and carrying a chakra (discus), shankha (conch), kalasha (water pitcher with mango leaves and a coconut on top) or Amrita kumbha (a pitcher containing the elixir of life), bow and arrow, a lotus and her arm in abhaya mudra with wealth in the form of gold raining down from it.

## *Dhanya Lakshmi*

agricultural wealth, depicted as eight-armed, in green garments, carrying two lotuses, gada (mace), paddy crop, sugarcane, bananas, and her two hands in abhaya mudra and varada mudra.

## *Gaja Lakshmi*

Elephants spraying water, wealth of fertility, rains and food. giver of animal wealth (such as cattle)

## *Santhana Lakshmi*

Wealth of continuity, progeny. Depicted as six-armed, carrying two kalashas (water pitcher with mango leaves and a coconut on it), sword, shield, a child on her lap.

## *Veera/Dhairya Lakshmi*

Valourous/Courage the goddess who bestows valour during battle and courage plus strength for overcoming difficulties in life. She is depicted as eight-armed, in red garments, carrying a chakra, shankh, bow, arrow, trishul (or sword), a bundle of palm leaf scriptures, other two hands in abhaya mudra and varada mudra.

## *Jaya/Vijaya Lakshmi*

Victorious the goddess and the giver of victory not only in battles but also for conquering hurdles in order to achieve success. Depicted as eight-armed, in red garments, carrying the chakra, shankh, sword, shield, lotus, pasha, other two hands in abhaya mudra and varada mudra.

## *Vidya/Aishwarya Lakshmi*

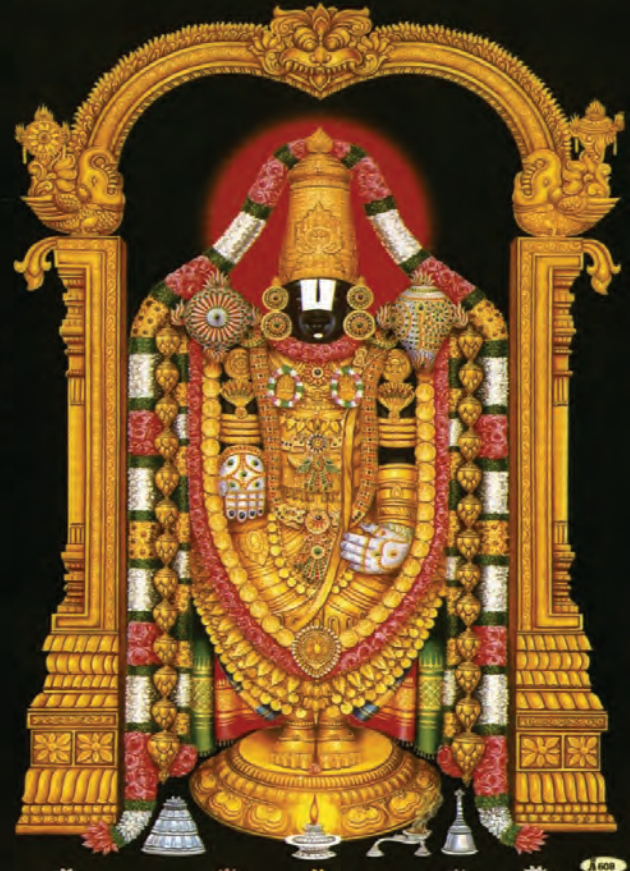
The bestower of knowledge of arts and sciences.



# LAKSHMI



*Goddess of Prosperity*



SREE & Vishnu



*Gaja Lakshmi,  
Goddess of Fortune  
8th century  
India (Kashmir)*



*Standing Lakshmi,  
Goddess of Fortune  
13th century  
Thailand*



*Lakshmi, Goddess of  
Prosperity  
7th century  
Himachal Pradesh  
India*



*1800-1900  
Tamil Nadu  
India*





*Goddess Kishijoten of Japan corresponds to Lakshmi. Kishijoten is the goddess of beauty, fortune, and prosperity. Kishijoten is considered the sister of the deity Bishamon also known as Tamon or Bishamon-ten; Bishamon protects human life, fights evil, and brings good fortune. In ancient and medieval Japan, Kishijoten was the goddess worshiped for luck and prosperity, particularly on behalf of children. Kishijoten was also the guardian goddess of Geishas. While Bishamon and Kishijoten are found in ancient Chinese and Japanese Buddhist literature, their roots have been traced to deities in Hinduism*

*Japan*  
**KISHIJOTEN**



*Bali /Indonesia Goddess Lakshmi is closely linked to two goddesses worshipped in Bali - Dewi Sri, as the goddess of fertility & agriculture and Dewi Laxmi as the goddess of wealth.*

*Bali*  
**DEWI SRI**



*AROUND*  
**THE WORLD**

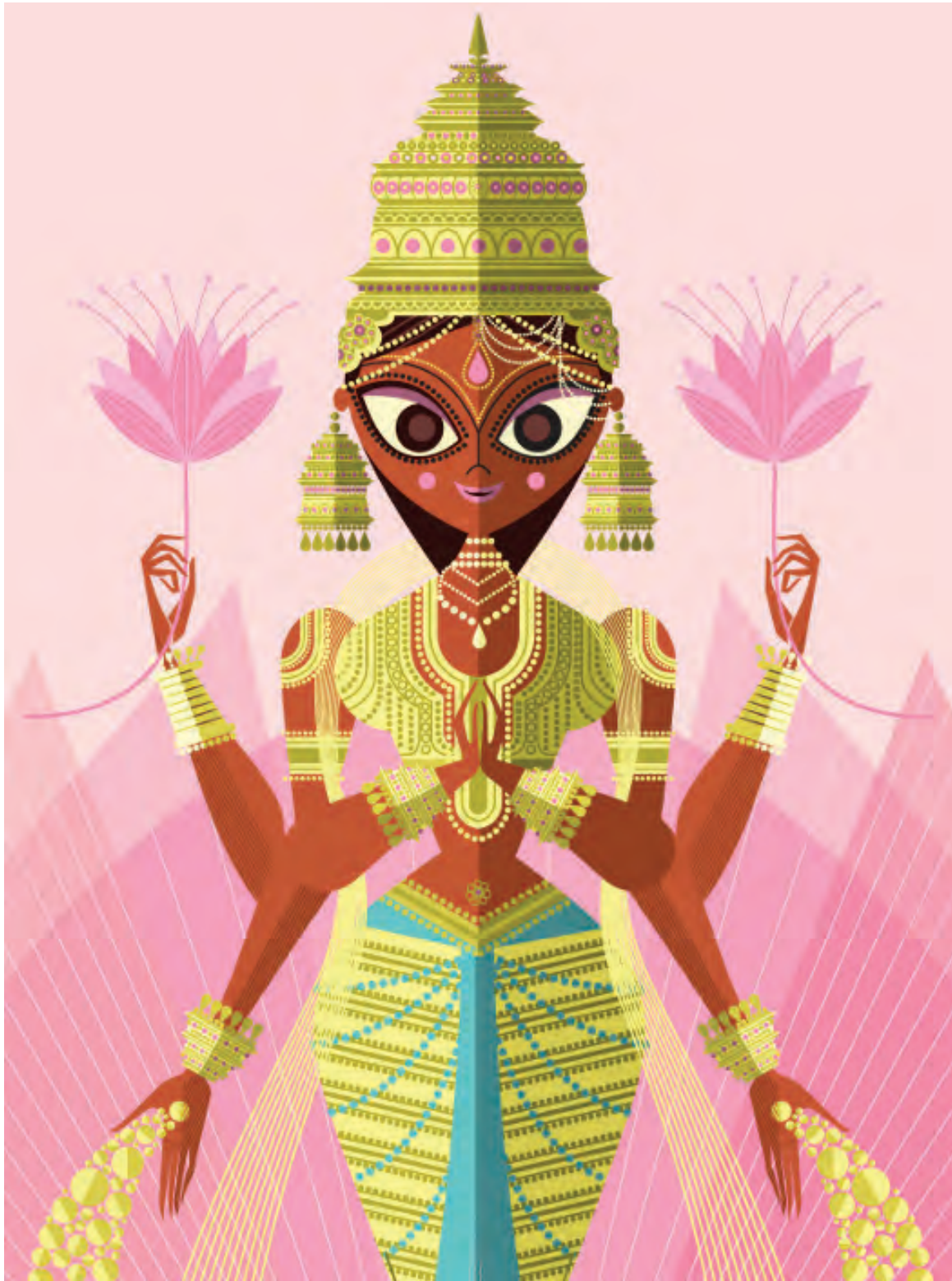
*Tibet & Nepal*  
**VASUDHARA**



*AROUND*  
**THE WORLD**

*Indonesia*  
**DEWI LAXMI**

# LAKSHMI MODERN



Lakshmi





Priyaaasu clicks @Icaminmykitchen



# VARALAKSHMI *Vratam*





# SARASWATHI

- *The Goddess of learning, knowledge, wisdom, fine arts, music. Considered as the personification of all knowledge – arts, sciences, crafts, painting, skills.*
- *Consort of Lord Brahma. Dressed in white and seated on white lotus represents light, knowledge and truth.*
- *Brahmani (power of Brahma), Brahmi (goddess of sciences), Bharadi (goddess of history), Vani and Vachi (both referring to the flow of music/song, melodious speech, eloquent speaking respectively), Varnesvari (goddess of letters), Kavijihvagravasini (one who dwells on the tongue of poets).*
- *She is worshipped before exams, job interviews and all other events involving academics, studies, assessments and tests.*
- *goddess of eloquence, speech and words flow sweetly.*
- *Born from Lord Brahma's mind she would exist in 3 forms:*
  1. *Tip of everyone's tongue as speech*
  2. *Part of Brahma's being*
  3. *Exist as a river on earth*
- *Favors white clothing represents purity of thought. Wisdom and Knowledge are beyond material wealth. Hints of blue reflect association with the river and fluidity.*



## GODDESS SARASWATI

*The Japanese started worshipping Benzaiten or Goddess Saraswati from sometime between the 6th and 8th century. This was based on the Chinese translations of the Sutra of the Golden Light, which is considered to be a sacred text devoted to Benzaiten.*

*The biwa is the traditional lute of Japan, which is very similar to the Indian veena.*

*Goddess Benzaiten is representative of all the elements that flow, in other words she is the goddess of time, water, music, speech, eloquence and most importantly of knowledge. Chinese language she was referred to as Biancaitian and in Japanese she was called Bensaite. Over time the name evolved into Benzaiten.*



## GODDESS BENZAITEN

*Known as the deity of protection. Saraswati is said to have killed a three-headed dragon called Vritra. This creature is also known as Ahi, the snake or serpent and is associated with water and with rivers. Benzaiten is also associated with snakes, dragons and flowing water.*

*Benzaiten is a very popular and respected deity in Japan. She is mentioned in many of the Japanese scriptures. Kokei, a Buddhist monk had indicated that she was the daughter of the dragon king Munetsuchi who is also mentioned in Hindu scriptures as Anavatapta, which is a lake at the centre of the world.*

*Many shrines all throughout Japan.*





**BURMA** *Buddhist*  
**THURATHADI**



**TIBET**  
**YANG-CHEN-MA**  
*A female buddha embodying  
creativity and wisdom*



**BALI**



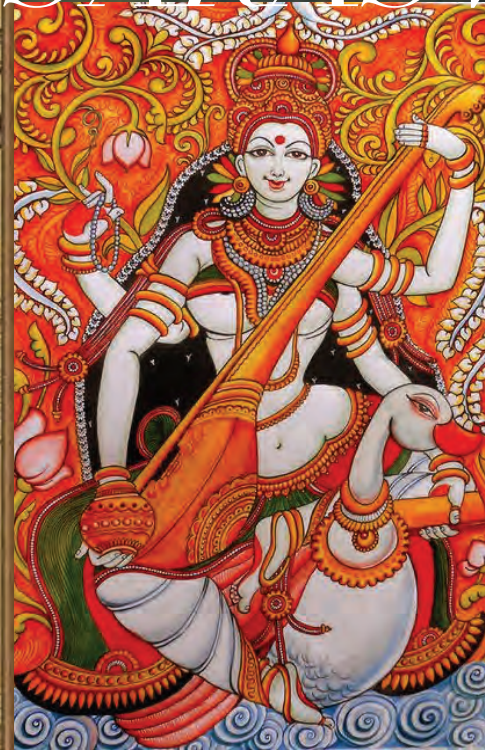
**INDONESIA**



**THAILAND**  
*Devi of Arts,  
Emblem of  
Faculty of Arts,  
Chulalongkorn University*



SARASWATHI



# SARASWATHI AS A RIVER



- *Sarasvati River is one of the Rigvedic rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda and later Vedic and post-Vedic texts. The first part of the Rig Veda is believed to have originated when the Vedic people lived on its banks, during the 2nd millennium BC.*
- *between the Yamuna in the east and the Sutlej (crossroads of Punjab/Pakistan) in the west.*
- *Later texts like Mahabharata, mention that the Sarasvati dried up in a desert. The dried-up, seasonal Ghaggar River in Rajasthan and Haryana reflects the same geographical view described in the Mahabharata.*
- *mentioned some fifty times in the hymns of the Rig Veda.*
- *Sanskrit sáras means 'pool, pond or lake'*
- *formation in the Milky Way*
- *theories suggest that the Helmand River of southern Afghanistan corresponds to the Sarasvati River.*
- *the Ghaggar-Hakra River system, which flows through northwestern India and Eastern Pakistan (only during monsoon suggests that the Yamuna itself, or a channel of the Yamuna, may have flowed west some time between 47,000 BCE and 10,000 BCE, but well before the beginnings of the Indus civilization.*
- *Triveni Sangam, holy spot in Prayag (Allahabad) Ganges/Yamuna and the invisible Sarasvati River said to flow under.*





# SARASWATHI PEACOCK + SWAN

*Holds a book (represents secular sciences) in her left hand and a rosary (represents spiritual sciences) in her right hand. Teaches us that spiritual sciences are more important than secular sciences. It is true that spiritual knowledge gives us liberation (Moksha) but secular knowledge, the sciences and arts of the world, should not be neglected either. Serves as a reminder to tune one's heart and mind to live in harmony with others and the world.*

*Mere intellectual learning, without the heart full of devotion, sentiments and humility is useless. So, the veena represents the need for cultivation of fine-arts.*

*THE SWAN, which is supposed to possess the power to separate milk from water, stands for discrimination (Viveka) and knowledge (Vidya).*

*Emphasizes the fact that one who knows both Vidya and Avidya attains immortality.*

*Symbolizes the ability to discriminate between good and evil, essence from outward appearances and the truth from the fleeting.*

*THE PEACOCK represents beauty and dance. Peacocks can also represent vanity and indecision. Thus, its presence is a reminder to curb these two qualities.*



# SARASWATHI MODERN



*Knowledge*

*Wealth*

*Wisdom*



*Y.G. Srimati*



TAMIL

BENGALI

SARI TIME



MARATHI

સ્વામી

GUJARATI



MALYALI

MODERN RAJARANI

# HOW TO DRAPE A SAREE



Step:1



Step:2



Step:3



Step:4



Step:5



Step:6



Step:7



*HAPPY NAVRATRI!*

*This Navratri, lets pray that no Durga is aborted, no Saraswati is stopped from going to school, no Lakshmi has to beg for money from her husband, no Parvati is sacrificied for dowry and no Kali is given a tube of fairness cream!*

*—Ayush Kejriwal Designer*

**Devi**, who in her later life takes the roles of **Parvati** as a wife and mother, **Lakshmi** as a housewife, **Saraswati** as the first guru of her children, **Durga** as the destroyer of all obstacles for her family, **Annapurna** as the food provider through her cooking, **Kali** as the punisher to bring the members of the family on the right track.

***JAI MA!***