

## People worship and dance to the Garba by Narendra Modi

### *Gujarat: Navratri Festival at temples of Pavagarh and Ambaji Mata*

October 17, 2023

October 15, 2023: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known to be a poet, who writes in Gujarati language. Many years back, he had written a Garba, which is among the thousands of songs, sung during the age-old festival of Nav Ratri (Nine nights). Now he has written a second Garba. Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b9TSAvBVDw> or [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65o5Q\\_Smlww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65o5Q_Smlww).

Navratri is a Hindu festival celebrated in India to worship Goddess Durga. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil. Sharad Navratri falls during the months of October or November. (The dates are determined according to Vikrami Calendar of India, named after the legendary king Vikramaditya, who instituted the Calendar in 57 BCE, after defeating the Shaka kings of NorthWestern part of the Indian subcontinent. Vikramaditya's capital was in Ujjain, a city with a long tradition of knowledge and associated with a famous ancient university, where the '**Surya Siddhanta**', an ancient book on astronomy was updated and where mathematics of astronomy was systematized through an encyclopedia, compiled by **Varahmihir**.)

The Festival of **Nine Nights** falls in the month of **Ashwin** (according to Vikrami Calendar). All nine days during Navratri are dedicated to nine forms of Goddess Shakti. Or each day celebrates one aspect of a woman's life.

**October 15-23, 2023:** In Gujarat, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock to two famous temples, called 'Shakti Peethas'. These are Kalka Mataji Temple in Pavagarh in eastern Gujarat and Ambaji temple in Banaskantha, near Gujarat's border with Rajasthan.

Besides the Navratri festival is celebrated all over western India in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In Gujarat, during the nine nights, music and dancing in every neighbourhoods in every city and village make the the environment magical.



*Pavagarh, Gujarat, India: Kalka Mata Temple*



*District Banaskantha, Gujarat: Amba Mata Temple*

Each of the nine days is associated with a specific *position* of ‘groups of stars’ or ‘Navgrahas’ wrt the movement of the earth around the sun and the movement of moon around the earth. That *position* determines the color for the day.

Women, especially in Maharashtra and Gujarat, adorn themselves with dresses and jewellery of the color of the day.

Day	Navratri Puja	Color	Celebrates...
Pratipada Sunday 15-Oct-23	<u>Ghatasthapana,</u> <u>Shailputri Puja</u>	Pink	the pleasure, which a daughter brings.
Dwitiya Monday 16-Oct-23	<u>Chandra Darshana,</u> <u>Brahmcharini</u>	White	the life of a daughter as a student.
Tritiya Tuesday 17-Oct-23	<u>Sindoor Tritiya,</u> <u>Chandraghanta</u>	Red	the pleasure (sound of bell) through peace (Chandra) brought by a daughter.
Chaturthi Wednesday 18-Oct-23	<u>Kushmanda</u> <u>Vinayaka Chaturthi</u>	Orange	power and energy-- a little warmth (Kushma) through divine smile (cosmic 'anda').
Panchami Thursday 19-Oct-23	<u>Upang Lalita</u> <u>Vrat, Skandamata</u>	Yellow	motherly love and pleasure of being the mother of a brave (accomplished) son like Skand.
Shashti Friday 20-Oct-23	<u>Saraswati</u> <u>Avahan, Katyayani</u>	Maroon	purity, simplicity, and strength of the daughter of sage Katyayan, who lived in jungles; Her worship removes obstacles in marriage like 'Mangal dosh'. (Example of her finding Shiva as her husband.)
Saptami Saturday 21-Oct-23	<u>Saraswati</u> <u>Puja, Kalaratri</u>	Navy Blue	removal of ignorance and darkness from the minds of her worshippers, even if they don't like it.
Ashtami Sunday 22-Oct-23	<u>Durga</u> <u>Ashtami, Mahagauri</u>	Green	beauty of Goddess and her power to fulfil all the desires of her devotees.
Navami Monday 23-Oct-23	<u>Siddhidatri, Ayudha</u> <u>Puja</u>	Beige	grant of perfection or excellence in every activity, that the devotees undertake.

The nine days festivity culminates on the tenth day with **Vijaya Dashami**, a day which celebrates the victory of good over evil.