

ACVA Newsletter 2026 –02 Holy Days



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Chaitra Navaratri (March 19-27, 2026) and Rama Navami (March 26-27, 2026)

The springtime celebration of Chaitra (or Vasant) Navaratri, the Nine Nights of Mother Divine, will be celebrated from Thursday, March 19 through Friday, March 27, 2026. This joyous Vedic festival is celebrated for nine nights in commemoration of the allegorical battle of good versus evil which is symbolized by Mata Durga's defeat of the demon Mahishasura. This epic battle is memorialized in the Vedic text called *Devi Mahatmya*. During the nine days and nights, excerpts from this thirteen-chapter book are often read aloud, acted out, or discussed in homes, temples, and ashrams.

Navaratri has profound esoteric meaning and significance for devotees who fast, pray, meditate, chant, bathe in holy rivers, offer seva and charity, and participate in other kinds of specific ancient rituals during this time. During the nine nights, Devi Durga is worshiped in various forms. She is said to walk among us to bring blessings and healing during this time, to transmute some of the evil of the world, and to assist her devotees in overcoming their own personal demons.

There are many ways to celebrate Navaratri. One simple way is to propitiate three aspects of the goddess for three days and nights each (with fasting, prayer, meditation, mantra, offerings, and pujas):

- The first three are devoted to Durga Devi, the personification of power and purification.



- The second three are devoted to Lakshmi Devi, the essence of compassion and beauty.



- The last three are devoted to Saraswati Devi, the embodiment of wisdom and grace.



Chaitra Navaratri will culminate in the divine celebration of Lord Rama's birthday, known as Rama (or Ram) Navami, which will take place on March 26-27 this year. Dates vary slightly throughout the world, so please check your local calendar (panchanga) for the exact timing for this holy day.

Rama Navami is an Abhuj Muhurta (Shubh Muhurat) day, which is an auspicious day (all day) for beginning any important new venture, as the entire day is very blessed and powerful. This is not just because of it occurring on a spiritual festival, but also because the Abhuj Muhurta days are

aligned with important astrological and bioenergetic cycles. Ram Navami is also an important day for fasting, prayers, pujas, charitable giving, setting new intentions, and affirmations.



Devotees in certain parts of India celebrate Rama Navami with the Rama Lila, a re-enactment commemorating the epic *Ramayana*, the heroic legend about the exploits of Shri Rama (Lord Rama), the great avatar or divine incarnation of the supreme Lord Vishnu, also known as Narayana or Hari. Ultimately, the *Ramayana* is about our human condition and the universal battle we all must face between good and evil. The Ramayana has deep esoteric significance for yogis who view it as an allegory about the spiritual progress of the soul and the awakening of higher consciousness.

May Mata Durga and Lord Rama bless our dear readers with wisdom, strength, and courage to face the challenges in life. And may this season be a time of spiritual awakening and personal growth for all beings everywhere.

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