

ॐ गं गणपतये नमः

Simple Puja Bidhi

A Step-by-Step Guide to Ganesh Puja



A simple home guide for daily worship

Before You Begin

Five Essential Offerings (Panchopachara)

Pushpa (flowers) • Jala (water) • Chandan (sandal paste) • Dipa (lamp) • Dhupa (incense)

1. Achamana (Sipping Water for Purification)

Using the left hand, pour water onto the right palm before each sip.

ॐ केशवाय नमः । ॐ नारायणाय नमः । ॐ माधवाय नमः । ॐ हृषीकेशाय नमः ॥

Mama hasta prakshalanam ... (continue the mantra)

2. Pavitrikarana (Self-Purification)

Hold a flower in the right hand using Mrigi Mudra.

ॐ अपवित्रः पवित्रो वा सर्वावस्थां गतोऽपि वा । यः स्मरेत् पुण्डरीकाक्षं स बाह्याभ्यन्तरः शुचिः ॥

पुण्डरीकाक्षः पुनातु । पुण्डरीकाक्षः पुनातु । पुण्डरीकाक्षः पुनातु ॥

Om apavitraḥ pavitra vā sarvāvasthām gato'pi vā, yah smaret puṇḍarīkākṣam sa bāhyābhyantarāḥ śuciḥ.

Sprinkle water on yourself, the puja objects, and in the four directions.

3. Asana Suddhi (Purifying the Seat)

Keep water in the right palm and chant:

ॐ पृथिव्या मन्त्रस्य मेरुपृष्ठ ऋषिः । सुतलं छन्दः । कूर्मो देवता । आसने विनियोगः ॥

(Let a drop of water fall from the palm onto the ground.)

ॐ पृथिव त्वया धृता लोका देवि त्वं विष्णुना धृता । त्वं च धारय मां देवि पवित्रं कुरु चासनम् ॥

(Sprinkle water from left to right of the seat, then at the four corners.)

ॐ आधारशक्तये नमः । ॐ कूर्माय नमः । ॐ अनन्ताय नमः । ॐ पृथिव्यै नमः ॥

Finish by letting water fall from the palm onto the ground.

4. Deepa Prajwalana (Lighting the Lamp)

शुभं करोति कल्याणं आरोग्यं धनसंपदा । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

दीपो ज्योतिः परं ब्रह्म दीपो ज्योतिः जनार्दनः । दीपो हरतु मे पापं दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय । तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय । मृत्योर्मा मृतं गमय ॥ ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Light the lamp using two wicks.

असतो मा सद्गमय — Lead me from the unreal to the Truth.

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय — Lead me from darkness to Light.

मृत्योर्मा मृतं गमय — Lead me from mortality to Immortality.

5. Avahana Mantra (Invoking the Deity)

Form the Avahana Mudra as shown below.



Recite the openings of the well-known invocations (Vakratunda Mahakaya ... and Gajananam Bhuta Ganadi Sevitam ...), then continue with:

आगच्छ भगवन् देव स्थाने चात्र स्थिरो भव । यावत् पूजां करिष्येऽहं तावत् त्वं सन्निधौ भव ॥

After chanting, turn the palm downward toward the ground (Shani Dhava Mudra).

ॐ गं गणपतये नमः ॥

6. Diga Bandhana (Sealing the Directions)

Take yellow mustard seed, or two spoons of water, in the right palm and chant:

उग्रं वीरं महाविष्णुं ज्वलन्तं सर्वतोमुखम् । नृसिंहं भीषणं भद्रं मृत्युर्मृत्युं नमाम्यहम् ॥

Sprinkle to a distance in all four corners.

7. Puja (Main Worship)

Right hand in Mrigi Mudra with water in Achamani; left palm resting on the right elbow.

ॐ स्नानार्थं जलं समर्पयामि ॥

Offer the water to the Ganesh idol.



Take Pushpa Arpana Mudra — hold a flower with the little fingers:

ॐ पुष्पं समर्पयामि ॥ ॐ महागणाधिपतये नमः ॥

Take sandal paste with the ring finger:



ॐ अष्टगन्ध चन्दन समर्पयामि ॥ ॐ महागणाधिपतये नमः ॥

Apply the sandal paste on the idol, then a little on your own forehead.

Using Mrigi Mudra, hold the incense (dhupa) and show it to the idol:

ॐ गन्धं समर्पयामि ॥ ॐ महागणाधिपतये नमः ॥

Circle it 4 times near the feet while chanting "Om Gang Ganapataye Namaha," 2 times near the navel, and 1 time near the face. Place the incense stand on your right side.

Hold the lamp (deepa) with the Mrigi Mudra in the right hand and chant:

ॐ प्रज्वलितं दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

Circle it the same way — 4 times near the feet, 2 near the navel, 1 near the face — while chanting "Om Gang Ganapataye Namaha." Place the lamp on your left side.

Offer prasad, which should include a few flowers:



Use only the last three fingers — not the thumb or index finger. Chant:

ॐ गं गणपतये नमः । नैवेद्यं निवेदयामि ॥

Place the plate in front of the idol.

8. Mala Mantra (Rosary Chant)

Hold the mala between both palms as shown.



ॐ माले माले महामाले सर्वशक्ति स्वरूपिणि । चतुर्वर्गस्त्वयि न्यस्तः तस्मान्मे सिद्धिदा भव ॥

Perform japa (repetition) with the mala.

9. Narayana Smarana

In Mrigi Mudra, take water on the right palm and chant:

कायेन वाचा मनसेन्द्रियैर्वा बुद्ध्यात्मना वा प्रकृतेः स्वभावात् । करोमि यदात् सकलं परस्मै नारायणायेति समर्पयामि ॥

Continue with "Mantra tantra kriya charam bhaba byakta..." and then pour the water onto the ground.

10. Kshama Prarthana (Prayer for Forgiveness)

Keep water on the right palm using Mrigi Mudra and chant:

मन्त्रतन्त्रक्रियाहीनं भक्तिहीनं सुरेश्वर । यत्पूजितं मया देव परिपूर्णं तदस्तु मे ॥

आवाहनं न जानामि न जानामि विसर्जनम् । पूजां चैव न जानामि क्षमस्व परमेश्वर । मन्त्रहीनं क्रियाहीनं भक्तिहीनं जनार्दन । यत्पूजितं मया देव परिपूर्णं तदस्तु मे ॥

Pour the water onto the ground, then chant "Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya Namah."

11. Shri Ganesh Gayatri Mantra

ॐ एकदन्ताय विद्महे, वक्रतुण्डाय धीमहि, तन्नो दन्ती प्रचोदयात् ॥

Recite 3 times.

12. Karpura Arati (Waving the Camphor Lamp)

Do not use the index finger. Hold the bell in the left hand and ring it while circling the lamp 7 times.

ॐ जय गणेश जय गणेश जय गणेश देवा । माता जाकी पार्वती पिता महादेवा ॥

एकदन्त दयावन्त चार भुजाधारी । माथे सिंदूर सोहे मूसे की सवारी ॥

अन्धन को आँख देत कोढ़िन को काया । बाँझन को पुत्र देत निर्धन को माया ॥

हार चढ़े फूल चढ़े और चढ़े मेवा । लड्डुअन का भोग लगे सन्त करें सेवा ॥

दीनन की लाज रखो शम्भु सुतवारी । कामना को पूर्ण करो जग बलिहारी ॥

जय गणेश जय गणेश जय गणेश देवा । माता जाकी पार्वती पिता महादेवा ॥

(Or use your family's regular arati mantra.) Place the arati lamp in front of the idol, then take the arati yourself.

13. Final Kshama Prarthana

Continue with "Mantra tantra kriya charam..." Then take water in the right palm and chant:

ॐ गुह्याति-गुह्य-गोप्ता त्वं गृहाणास्मत्कृतं जपम् । सिद्धिर्भवतु मे देव त्वत्प्रसादान्महेश्वर ॥

Pour the water so that it touches both the seat (asana) and the ground. Then, with the ring finger, take a little of that water from the ground and touch it to your forehead, chanting "Om Indraya Namaha."

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥