Ganesh Chaturthi at Home

Saturday 4 September 2027 · Gowri Habba on Friday 3 September

Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, is welcomed home as a guest in a clay idol and worshipped for one, three, five or more days. In Karnataka, his mother Gowri is worshipped the day before.

What you need

- An eco-friendly clay Ganesha idol
- A small mandapa or plank with a cloth, and a decoration of banana leaves or flowers
- 21 blades of durva grass, red flowers (hibiscus) and other flowers
- Turmeric, kumkum, akshate, sandalwood paste and the sacred thread
- Lamps, incense and camphor
- Modak or kadubu, laddoo, fruits and coconut
- A bucket or tub of water for visarjane at home

Before the puja

- Clean the altar and set up the mandapa.
- Bring the idol home with its face covered, and uncover it at the altar.
- Have a bath and wear fresh clothes.

Food to offer

Modak or kadubu, panchakajjaya, laddoo, chakli, coconut and bananas.

Simple puja, step by step

1. Light the lamp and say the lamp prayer.
2. Sankalpa: state your name, family and that you are welcoming Ganesha for the festival.
3. Invite Ganesha into the idol (prana pratishtha) with the mantra Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.
4. Offer water to his feet, hands and mouth, and sprinkle water for a bath.
5. Offer the sacred thread, sandalwood, kumkum and akshate.
6. Offer the 21 durva blades, one at a time, and the flowers.
7. Offer incense and the lamp.
8. Offer modak, kadubu, fruits and coconut as naivedya.
9. Do arati together and sing a Ganesha song.
10. Bow down, ask forgiveness and share the prasada.
11. On the last day, do a short puja, say goodbye, and gently immerse the idol in the tub. Pour the water and clay into your garden or a plant.

Prayers to chant

> *Vakratunda mahakaya suryakoti samaprabha, nirvighnam kuru me deva sarva-karyeshu sarvada.*
>
> O Lord with the curved trunk and mighty body, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

> *Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.*
>
> Salutations to Ganapati. Chant it 21 or 108 times.

> *Shubham karoti kalyanam arogyam dhana sampadah, shatru buddhi vinashaya deepa jyotir namostute.*
>
> I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

> *Mantra-hinam kriya-hinam bhakti-hinam janardana, yat pujitam maya deva paripurnam tad astu me.*
>
> Whatever I have offered, without the right words, actions or devotion, please accept it as complete.

With children

- Let children make a small Ganesha from clay or play dough.
- Count the 21 durva blades together.
- Tell the story of how Ganesha got his elephant head, and why he loves modak.

A simple home guide from VedaVidesh. Every family and region has its own customs, so follow yours where they differ, and check a local panchanga for the exact muhurta in your city. Dates are for India; abroad they can differ by a day.