

Ganesh Chaturthi: Puja Vidhi

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. This guide gives the full home puja step by step. Instructions are in English; every mantra is printed in Devanagari script with a Roman transliteration below it.

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.

Opening

1. Sit facing east or north. Light the lamp and say the lamp prayer.

शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

śubhaṃ karoti kalyāṇam ārogyaṃ dhanasampadaḥ | śatrubuddhivināśāya dīpajyotirnamo'stu te ||
I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

2. Achamana: sip a few drops of water from the right palm three times, once with each name.

ॐ केशवाय स्वाहा । ॐ नारायणाय स्वाहा । ॐ माधवाय स्वाहा ॥

oṃ keśavāya svāhā | oṃ nārāyaṇāya svāhā | oṃ mādhavāya svāhā ||

3. Pray to Ganesha first, to remove obstacles.

वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभ । निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

vakratuṇḍa mahākāya sūryakoṭi samaprabha | nirvighnaṃ kuru me deva sarvakāryeṣu sarvadā ||
O Lord with the curved trunk and mighty body, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

4. Sankalpa: hold a little water and akshate, say the resolve for worshipping Ganesha, then let them fall on a plate.

मम सकुटुम्बस्य क्षेमस्थैर्य आयुरारोग्य ऐश्वर्याभिवृद्धयर्थं श्री महागणपतये प्रीत्यर्थं यथाशक्ति
ध्यानावाहनादि षोडशोपचारपूजां करिष्ये ॥

mama sakuṭumbasya kṣemasthairya āyurārogya aiśvaryābhivṛddhyartham śrī mahāgaṇapataye prītyartham
yathāśakti dhyānāvāhanādi ṣoḍaśopacārapūjāṃ kariṣye ||

For the safety, long life, health and prosperity of my family, and to please the deity, I perform this worship with the
sixteen offerings, as well as I can.

5. The sixteen offerings (shodashopachara). Before each one say "Om Shri mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ", then the line below, and make the offering.

The sixteen offerings

1. Dhyana: close your eyes and picture the deity.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । ध्यायामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | dhyāyāmi ||

2. Avahana: invite the deity into the image or kalasha.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । आवाहयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | āvāhayāmi ||

3. Asana: offer a seat; place a few grains of akshate.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । आसनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | āsanaṃ samarpayāmi ||

4. Padya: offer water for the feet with a spoon.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । पाद्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | pādyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

5. Arghya: offer water for the hands.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । अर्घ्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | arghyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

6. Achamana: offer water to sip.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | ācamanīyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

7. Snana: bathe a metal image, or sprinkle water on a picture.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । स्नानं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | snānaṃ samarpayāmi ||

8. Vastra: offer a cloth or a cotton thread.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । वस्त्रं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | vastraṁ samarpayāmi ||

9. Yajnopavita: offer the sacred thread.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । यज्ञोपवीतं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | yajñopavītaṁ samarpayāmi ||

10. Gandha: offer sandalwood paste, turmeric and kumkum.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । गन्धं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | gandhaṁ samarpayāmi ||

11. Pushpa: offer flowers.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । पुष्पाणि समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | puṣpāṇi samarpayāmi ||

12. Dhupa: wave the incense.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । धूपम् आघ्रापयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | dhūpam āghrāpayāmi ||

13. Dipa: show the lamp.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | dīpaṁ darśayāmi ||

14. Naivedya: offer the food, sprinkling water around it.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । नैवेद्यं निवेदयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | naivedyaṁ nivedayāmi ||

15. Tambula: offer betel leaves, nut and fruit.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । ताम्बूलं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | tāmbūlaṁ samarpayāmi ||

16. Nirajana: do arati with camphor or ghee lamp.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । नीराजनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | nīrājanaṁ samarpayāmi ||

17. Mantrapushpa: offer flowers with folded hands.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । मन्त्रपुष्पं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | mantrapuṣpaṁ samarpayāmi ||

18. Pradakshina: turn around once clockwise and bow down.

ॐ श्री महागणपतये नमः । प्रदक्षिणनमस्कारान् समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahāgaṇapataye namaḥ | pradakṣiṇanamaskārān samarpayāmi ||

Mantras for Ganesh Chaturthi

ॐ गं गणपतये नमः ॥

om gam gaṇapataye namaḥ ||

Salutations to Ganapati. Chant it 21 or 108 times.

Closing

- Ask forgiveness for anything missed, then share the prasada with everyone.

मन्त्रहीनं क्रियाहीनं भक्तिहीनं जनार्दन । यत्पूजितं मया देव परिपूर्णं तदस्तु मे ॥

mantrahīnaṁ kriyāhīnaṁ bhaktihīnaṁ janārdana | yatpūjitaṁ mayā deva paripūrṇaṁ tadastu me ||

Whatever I have offered, without the right words, actions or devotion, please accept it as complete.

A home puja guide from VedaVidesh. Mantras are given in their common short forms; families and regions vary, so follow your own tradition where it differs, and ask a priest or elder to check pronunciation if you are learning. Dates are for India.