Vasant Panchami at Home

Thursday 11 February 2027

Short puja: about 20 minutes



Vasant Panchami welcomes spring and honours Saraswati, the goddess of learning, music and the arts. Families dress in yellow, place books and instruments before the goddess, and many small children write their first letters on this day.

What you need

- Yellow or white flowers
- A Saraswati picture
- Books, pens and instruments to be blessed
- Saffron, rice, sugar and ghee for sweet rice
- Yellow clothes
- Slate and chalk or rice tray for first letters

Before the puja

- Clean the puja place and take a bath; wear fresh clothes.
- Set out a lamp, incense, flowers, turmeric, kumkum, rice and water.
- Read the story to the family before you begin.

Short puja, step by step

1. **Light the lamp** and say the lamp prayer, then pray to Ganesha.
2. **Dress in yellow.** Wear yellow and place yellow flowers at the altar.
3. **Set up for Saraswati.** Place a picture of Saraswati on a white or yellow cloth. Put books, pens, a slate and instruments in front.
4. **Worship Saraswati.** Offer white and yellow flowers, sandal paste and rice.
5. **Akshara abhyasa.** A child sits on an elder's lap and writes "Om" or the first letter of their alphabet in a plate of rice, guided by the elder's hand.
6. **Offer sweet rice.** Offer yellow kesari bhaat or a yellow sweet, then let the children study or play a little music.
7. **Arati.** Wave the lamp, ask forgiveness for anything missed and share the prasada.

Prayers to chant

> शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥
>
> I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

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

O Lord with the curved trunk, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

सरस्वति नमस्तुभ्यं वरदे कामरूपिणि । विद्यारम्भं करिष्यामि सिद्धिर्भवतु मे सदा ॥

Salutations to Saraswati, giver of boons. I begin my learning; may it always succeed.

ॐ ऐं सरस्वत्यै नमः ॥

Salutations to Saraswati, goddess of learning.

ॐ प्राणाय स्वाहा । ॐ अपानाय स्वाहा । ॐ व्यानाय स्वाहा । ॐ उदानाय स्वाहा । ॐ समानाय स्वाहा ॥

Offering the food to the five breaths of life.

यानि कानि च पापानि जन्मान्तरकृतानि च । तानि तानि विनश्यन्ति प्रदक्षिण पदे पदे ॥

With every step around the altar, may all past wrongs fall away.

With children

- Decorate a book-blessing bookmark: Cut a long strip of yellow card.
- Tell the story of Vasant Panchami before the puja.

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 time in your city. Dates are for India; abroad they can differ by a day. Members also get the full puja with every mantra.