Vishu and Puthandu at Home

Wednesday 14 April 2027

Short puja: about 15 minutes



When the sun enters Mesha (Aries), Kerala celebrates Vishu and Tamil Nadu celebrates Puthandu, the Tamil New Year. In Kerala the first sight of the year is the Vishukkani, a tray of golden fruit, rice, gold, a mirror and the yellow konna flowers, and elders give children Vishu kaineetam, a gift of coins.

What you need

- Konna (laburnum) or any yellow flowers
- Raw rice, cucumber, mango, banana, jackfruit if you find it
- A small mirror and coins
- Ripe mangoes and yoghurt for pulissery
- Raw mango, neem flowers and jaggery for pachadi
- New clothes (Vishu kodi)

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. **Arrange the Vishukkani.** The night before, arrange the Vishukkani before the deity: rice, cucumber, fruit, gold, mirror, konna flowers, a holy book and a lamp.
3. **Kani kanal at dawn.** The mother lights the lamp before dawn, then leads each person with eyes covered to see the kani as their first sight.
4. **Vishu kaineetam.** Elders give coins or notes to the children and to helpers.
5. **Puthandu kolam and puja.** In Tamil homes, draw a kolam, worship with flowers and offer mango pachadi.
6. **Feast.** Lunch is a festive meal with pulissery or pachadi, payasam and the six tastes.
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.

ॐ नमो नारायणाय ॥

Salutations to Narayana.

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

- Arrange your own Vishukkani: Fill the bowl half with rice.
- Tell the story of Vishu 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.