

## Panch Devta in Hinduism

Panch Devta refers to the worship of five principal Devtas in Hinduism: Shri Vishnu, Shri Shiva, Shri Ganesha, Aadishakti, and Shri Surya Narayan. Devotees who follow this practice are known as **Panchopasak**, and they worship these gods daily in their homes.

### *Tradition and Practices:*

- **Smarta Tradition:** For fasting and related rituals, Panchopasak adheres to the Smarta Tradition.
- **Panch Dev Puja:** Developed by Adi Shankara, this puja aims to attain happiness, progress, and peace. It fosters good thoughts, manifests divine energy in the body, and brings a sense of freedom to the mind, aligning it with Brahman.

### *Philosophical Concept:*

- **Manifestations of Brahman:** The Panch Devtas are considered manifestations of Brahman, the unthinkable, unmanifested, unlimited, and formless supreme reality. Brahman can only be truly known by those who are free from worldly ties and expectations.
- **Worship of Sakaar Brahman:** Given the difficulty in visualizing the formless Brahman, worshipping the Sakaar Brahman (the deity with a name and form) helps devotees experience the divine (Nirakar Brahman) within the depths of their mind.

By engaging in Panch Dev Puja, devotees cultivate a deeper connection with the divine, enhancing their spiritual journey and understanding of the ultimate reality.

[PANCHADEV PUJA VIDHI](#) Published by Hindu Heritage Society, Sydney.

# The Concept of Panchdev Upasana

Panchdev Upasana is a holistic worship practice that ensures devotees honor different aspects of the divine through the five principal Devtas:

- **Lord Ganesha:** The remover of obstacles (Vighneshwara).
- **Lord Vishnu:** The preserver and sustainer of the universe.
- **Lord Shiva:** The destroyer and transformer, symbolizing the cycle of creation and destruction.
- **Goddess Adishakti:** The primordial energy and divine mother, representing power and creativity.
- **Lord Surya:** The Sun God, embodying light, energy, and the life-giving force.

Together, these Devtas provide a comprehensive framework for daily worship, addressing various aspects of life and the cosmos. By including Lord Ganesha in this practice, devotees start their day with his blessings, ensuring a smooth and successful journey through life's challenges.

## 1. Lord Ganesha: One of the Five Sanatan Gods in Panchdev Upasana

- Remover of Obstacles (Vighneshwara):** Lord Ganesha is revered as the remover of obstacles and the lord of beginnings. His blessings are sought before commencing any important task or undertaking new ventures to ensure success and remove any hindrances.
- Symbol of Wisdom and Intellect:** Ganesha is also known as the god of wisdom, intellect, and learning. Devotees worship him to gain clarity, insight, and knowledge. His association with learning and the arts makes him a patron deity for students and artists.
- Embodiment of Prosperity and Good Fortune:** Known as Mangalmurti, the embodiment of auspiciousness, Lord Ganesha is believed to bring prosperity, good fortune, and happiness to his devotees' lives. Worshipping him daily ensures a harmonious and prosperous household.
- Cultural and Religious Importance:** As part of Panchdev Upasana, the daily worship of Lord Ganesha alongside Vishnu, Shiva, Adishakti, and Surya reinforces the interconnectedness and completeness of the Hindu pantheon. This practice highlights the belief that all these Devtas are manifestations of the same ultimate reality, Brahman.
- Spiritual Practices:** Daily rituals often involve offering flowers, incense, and food (modaks and other sweets) to Lord Ganesha while chanting mantras and

prayers dedicated to him. These rituals help devotees cultivate a disciplined spiritual routine, fostering a deeper connection with the divine.

#### *Other Names and Roles:*

- **Gajanana:** Meaning elephant-faced.
- **Vighneshwar:** The remover of all obstacles.
- **Mangalmurti:** An embodiment of auspiciousness.
- **Pranav or AUM:** He is identified with the sacred syllable AUM, symbolizing the universe and the ultimate reality.

#### Symbolism

- **Riddhi and Siddhi:** Ganesha is married to Riddhi and Siddhi, symbolizing prosperity, growth, accomplishments, and success.
- **Shubh and Labh:** The sons of Lord Ganesha, Shubh and Labh, represent auspiciousness and profit, respectively. Shubh signifies goodness and positive outcomes, while Labh denotes gain and benefit. Together, they embody the blessings of prosperity and well-being that come from worshipping Lord Ganesha.

By invoking Lord Ganesha, devotees seek his blessings for wisdom, prosperity, and the removal of obstacles, ensuring a smooth and successful start to their endeavors.

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## 2. Lord Shankar or Shiv

In Hinduism, Lord Shiva, also known as Shankar, is revered as a representation of the Supreme Being. He is the third element in the Hindu Trinity (Trimurti), with Lord Brahma as the creator and Lord Vishnu as the protector. Shiva's primary role is to maintain the cycle of destruction and recreation, ensuring the continuity of life.

#### *Attributes and Symbolism:*

- **Supreme Being:** Shiva is regarded as the manifestation of the ultimate reality, embodying both creation and destruction.
- **Mahakaal and Shankara:** As Mahakaal, Shiva dissolves everything into nothingness, and as Shankara, he regenerates what has been destroyed. His symbol, the Lingam, represents his reproductive power and the cyclical nature of existence.

- **Ling Upaasana:** The ancient tradition of worshipping the Lingam is mentioned in the Shrutis, Smritis, and Puranas. The Lingam signifies the formless supreme Brahman, while Shiva's image represents his saakar form (form with a name and shape).

### *Characteristics:*

- **Great Ascetic:** Shiva is known for his ascetic lifestyle, free of worldly inhibitions.
- **Protector of the Downtrodden:** He is easy to please and known for his mercy and kindness, offering grace, knowledge, and peace to his followers.
- **Alterer of Destiny:** Shiva has the power to change the laws of destiny, providing protection and blessings to those who worship him.

Lord Shiva's dual role as both destroyer and regenerator underscores his importance in maintaining the balance of the universe, making him a central figure in Hindu spirituality and devotion.

“Let me meditate on the supreme god who wears the crescent moon as a crown, whose dazzling form is adorned by the five elements of the universe, who holds in his four hands the weapon of the axe and the deer, who is fulfillment and forgiveness, as his worshipper desires, who sits on the world lotus in perpetual repose, who is of wisdom, desire, and action, who is the source and the goal of life and who will embrace all creatures at the end, removing their fear of death.”

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### 3. Lord Vishnu or Maha Vishnu

Lord Vishnu is one of the foremost Devtas mentioned in the Shrutis, embodying the essence of sacrifices (Yagya Swaroop). He is deeply revered, and his various forms are extensively described in these ancient scriptures. Lord Vishnu is a devout worshipper of Lord Shiva (Shankar), and vice versa, illustrating their unity.

They are collectively known as HARI HAR in the scriptures, emphasizing their interconnectedness and mutual worship.

### *Unity of Vishnu and Shiva:*

- **HARI HAR:** Both Devtas are regarded as one entity in different forms, highlighting their importance in Hindu worship.
- **Mutual Devotion:** Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva worship each other, showcasing their inseparable bond and reinforcing the idea of divine unity.

### *Cultural Significance:*

- **Yagya Swaroop:** Lord Vishnu represents sacrifices, which are fundamental to Hindu rituals and culture.
- **Tap Swaroop:** Lord Shiva represents penance, symbolizing the importance of austerity and meditation.
- **Foundation of Culture:** Yagna (sacrifice) and Tap (penance) are the cornerstones of Hindu culture, with Vishnu and Shiva personifying these essential practices.

Lord Vishnu's role as Yagya Swaroop and his profound connection with Lord Shiva underscore the integral aspects of sacrifice and penance in Hindu tradition, reflecting the deep spiritual and cultural values upheld in worship.

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## 4. Lord Surya Narayan

Lord Surya (the Sun) is a prominent Vedic deity in Hinduism, revered as the lord of the entire solar system and the king of all planets. Surya signifies the "atma" (soul) and is given the highest importance due to his vital role in sustaining life.

### *Significance and Benefits:*

- **Supreme Importance:** Surya is essential for overall wellbeing and progress in all areas of life.
- **Astrological Significance:** From an astrological perspective, the Sun is the most crucial planet, holding special importance in an individual's life.

### *Role and Attributes:*

- **Controller of the Universe:** Surya controls heat, light, seasonal changes, and other cosmic affairs, symbolizing his expansive influence.
- **Expansion of Narayana:** The sun-god is considered an expansion of Lord Narayana, embodying the divine attributes of the Supreme Being.
- **Trayimaya:** Representing the three Vedas—Rg, Yajur, and Sama—Surya is known as Trayimaya, the form of Lord Narayana.

Worshipping Lord Surya Narayan brings immense benefits, ensuring physical health, mental clarity, and spiritual growth. His vital presence and control over cosmic phenomena make him a central figure in Hindu worship and astrology.

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## **5. Mahashakti or Paraa Shakti.**

The Shrutis praise Shakti and Shaktiman, describing them as one and the same. The Supreme Lord manifests Himself as **Param Purush** (the Supreme Person) and **Paraa Shakti** (the Supreme Energy).

### *Forms of the Supreme:*

- **Param Purush:** Manifested as Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Mahesh (Shiva, the destroyer).
- **Paraa Shakti:** Known as Lakshmi (goddess of wealth), Gauri (another form of Parvati, goddess of power and fertility), and Saraswati (goddess of wisdom and learning).

Just as the different forms of the Supreme Lord are essentially one, the various forms of the goddesses – Durga, Rama, Sita, Radha – are also one and the same. Devi is worshipped in multiple forms:

- **Nav Durgas:** The nine forms of Durga.
- **Shakambari:** The goddess who nourishes through vegetation.
- **Brahmari:** The goddess of bees.

- **Kul Kundalini:** The primal energy coiled at the base of the spine.
- **Yog Maya:** The divine illusionary power.

### *The Sapta Shati:*

**Sapta Shati**, also known as **Durga Saptashati** or **Devi Mahatmyam**, is a revered text from the Markandeya Purana, celebrating the tales of Paraa Shakti. Reciting this text brings **Abhudaya** (prosperity) and **Nishreyas** (ultimate good).

Worshipping the Supreme Mother pardons our sins, emphasizing the eternal benevolence of the divine feminine.

In this Kalyug (current age), the Shastras (scriptures) sing the glory of **Gauri** and **Ganesh** as the bestowers of all blessings and success.

For more information on the divine feminine and her various forms, refer to the detailed scriptures and texts dedicated to Mahashakti.

[More about Aadi Parashakti](#)

[Introduction of ten Maha vidhyas-](#)

[Story of the Origin of the Das Mahavidyas](#)

[10 Forms of Shakti that are worshipped during Navratri](#)