

Significance of Jaya Parvati (Gauri) Vrat and Vidhi

Jaya Parvati Vrat, also known as Gauri Vrat is observed in Ashada (June-July) Month by unmarried girls and married women. The religious observance starts on the thirteenth day of the Shukla Paksha of the month of Ashadha and is observed for the five consecutive days. **In 2018 the 25th - 29th July the Jaya Parvati Vrat is observed.** Unmarried girls worship Goddess Parvati on Jaya Parvati Vrata day to get a good husband. Married women stay awake on the night on the last day of the Vrat. Staying awake is referred to as Jaya Parvati Jagran. The Vrata is known as Jaya Parvati Vrata because Parvati observed fast to win Lord Shiva as her husband.



The Ardhanarishwar form of Lord Shiva and Parvati Devi

Significance of Jaya Parvati Vrat:

The ritual of Jaya Parvati Vrata is performed for the well-being of the family, for a happy, peaceful and prosperous married life. Jaya Parvati Vrat is observed for five years by married women. On the fifth year of Vrat, the occasion is celebrated by inviting other women to their homes. It is said that Jaya Parvati Vrata brings happiness and prosperity. The Goddess blesses the girl with a good husband and a happy married life.



Mother Parvati and Lord Shiva puja

As per the kathas, a Brahmin couple was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. They were well-satisfied with their life. They would worship Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. Lord Shiva was happy with the great devotion of the couple. Once, Lord Shiva appeared in their dream and asked them to recover a Shiva-lingam which was buried in a forest. Lord Shiva asked them to worship that Lingam to fulfill their wishes.

The Brahmin went to the forest and found out the place where Shiva Lingam was buried. He worshipped Shiva Lingam with flowers and Bilva leaves. On the way back home, a snake bit the Brahmin. At home, his wife was worried as her husband did not return. She prayed with devotion for her husband's safety. Pleased with her true loyalty, Lord Shiva brought her husband back to awareness. The couple constant to pray at the Shiva Lingam and was blessed with a son.



Jowar puja

Rituals and Celebrations:

On the first day of Jaya Parvati Vrat, wheat or barley seeds are planted in a small pot and kept in the house which is known as Jwaara. Prayers are offered to the Jwara pot. The ceremony is carried out every morning and the Jwaara are watered every day. Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati are worshipped with flowers, abeer and gulal (coloured powders used in the Holi festival), kumkum powder, incense sticks, diya (ghee lamp), water, and Prasad. Women must not eat salt, wheat or wheat products, and vegetables. Women can have fruits, paneer, fruit juices, milk and sweet items. On the last day of Jaya Parvati Vrat, the women who have observed the fast have to stay awake whole night. During night vigil, women should pray Mother Parvati and Lord Shiva. Next day after bathing girls and women immerse the pot of Jwara in the water. They also visit the temple to pray to Shiva- Parvati and break the fast by eating a full meal.

On how to worship the Jwaara with:-
Offer 3 drop of water on the Jwaara.

Then sprinkle a little of the abeer, gulal and kumkum powders on the Jwaara.

Then light three incense sticks and then turn the incense 7 times (in a clockwise direction) around the Jwaara.

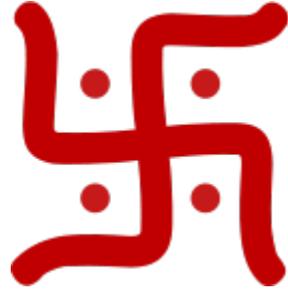
Then light a diya (ghee lamp) and then turn the lamp 7 times (in a clockwise direction) around the Jwaara.

Then take one whole flower (marigold is fine) and then turn the flower 7 times (in a clockwise direction) around the Jwaara and keep by the Jwaara.

Then finally keep a bowl of sweet rice or mittai (sweet meats) in front of the Jwaara.

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