

D.I.Y. Vahana Puja (Car Prayers)



What is a car puja? Simply put, it's a ceremony to consecrate or bless a new car in the Lord's name and keep it safe from any mishaps/unfortunate occurrences. Or as I like to say it's a gratitude prayer to the Lord for allowing you to have this car. And when performing these prayers it's saying to the Lord You are the REAL proprietor of this car and I am using it in Your service.

Us amazing Hindus :) bless all items and implements that are used in daily life – homes, cars, motorized vehicles of all types, home appliances, such as mixers, grinders, stoves, TVs, stereos, etc. Especially when one moves into a new/a previously used house, one performs a Griha Pravesha Samskara i.o.w's the House Entering Puja to ask the Supreme Lord to bless the new house.

One must realize the everything belongs to the Supreme Lord and we show our gratitude to Him for giving/allowing us to have certain things. The question begs but the Vahana Puja (Car Puja) isn't in our shastras right?. Well it's not. Because when our shastras was compiled especially by Srila Vyasadeva over 5000 years ago cars of these days of course didn't exist then. The first "modern" car was in the late 1800's. 5000 years ago Chariots pulled mainly by horses were used.

Here, we will try to explain this puja. However, puja details may vary from 'priest' to 'priest' as in India - in every village/town, the puja is slightly different to the next. This article is aims to make this puja so simple that anyone can perform it... We don't mean to take the priest away from these prayers it's just Indians are moving to far, distant places and hence its quite difficult to acquire a priest's services when needed at times.

The Puja Proper

The devotee should have a bath and put on clean clothes before proceeding to the car for the puja. Have all the requirements for the Puja arranged beforehand on a tray.

Just before the prayers begin, make sure beforehand the car is washed and wiped from any water residues. Then sprinkle a little hurdee (turmeric) water in the inside and then outside of the car. (Just a little pinch of Hurdi in a small lota of water will do)

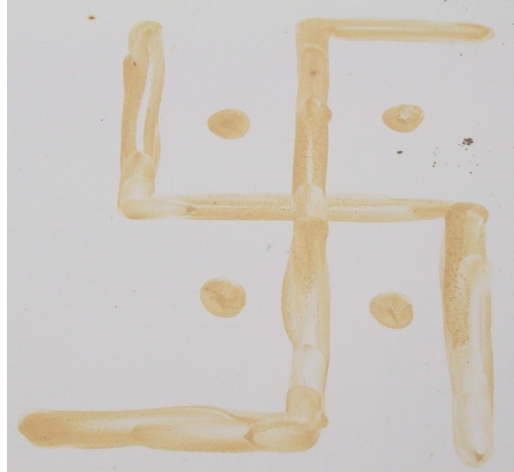
Pour a little water into your hand from your small lota (separate to the one with hurdi water) and sip it three times chanting "Om Vishnu" (Wash your hands after each Om Vishnu chant). Now wipe your hands.

Stand in front of the car and chant "Om Shree Ganeshaya Namah" X3. Pray to Lord Ganesh to remove any obstacles in the path to your car puja.

Still remaining standing in front of the car and on a tray (which should have incense, a clay lamp with a wick and oil in it and one flower - like in the picture below). In a clockwise direction turn the tray (which has the incense, lamp and flower) 7 times around the car and pray to the Lord that this car be protected by Him at all times and to bless the car.



Then with chandan (some use kum-kum or hardi, I prefer chandan) which is already in a saucer (beforehand the Chandan which is mixed with water is made into a moist/wettish paste). Now with your ring finger starting from the front in a clockwise direction draw a Swastika sign/or an OM sign on all the windows and tyres praying to the Lord all the while. After each swastika is drawn, take a little uncooked rice and say "Om Swasti" x3. Every time you say "Om Swasti" sprinkle some white grains on that Swastika. This is to bless the swastika and give it more power.



Good Luck Emblem in Hinduism.

*** "The Swastika" is one of the oldest emblems known to man. Second in importance only to the Om. The term 'Svastika' is a fusion of the two Sanskrit words 'Su' (good) and 'Asati' (to exist), which when combined means 'May Good Prevail', also the word svastika is a statement of affirmation, "It is!" "Life is good!" "There is value" "There is meaning!". It forms a combination of four "L's" standing for Luck, Light, Love and Life.

*** OM (Aum) is a mystical or sacred syllable in the Indian religions, i.e. Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Om is the most important mantra in Sanathan Dharma (Hinduism). It is placed at the beginning of most Hindu texts as a sacred incantation to be intoned at the beginning and end of a reading of the Vedas or prior to any prayer or mantra.

Place one lime and a small piece of camphor in front of each of the 4 tyres. (Please take caution - keep the small piece of camphor a bit away from the tyre.) While the owner of the car now sits in the driver's seat two family members/friends must now light the four pieces of camphor's very quickly (the two must be on either side of the car). The person who will mainly be driving the vehicle then drives the car forward over the lime and camphor and then backwards over the lime and camphor. This is done for a total of 3 times.

*** The Lime symbolizes the removal of bad influences from the vehicle.



Take a whole pumpkin/or coconut and place a small piece of camphor on it. Light the camphor and standing in front of the car, turn it 3 times clockwise, and then up and down 3 times. Then discard the camphor and then break the pumpkin/coconut a metre in front of the car (take caution not to hit your car with the pumpkin/coconut when breaking it). This procedure is always done to start a ceremony or initiate an auspicious occasion to bring in good fortune and drive away the evil. At the start of every Ratha Yatra Festival (The Chariot Festival) coconuts are broken before the start of the chariots journey. This also can be likened to a custom where a champagne bottle is broken against a ship's hull before its maiden voyage to bless the voyage with good fortune.

*** Some Hindus perform the following... After offering the coconut as above, the owner of the car will break the coconut near the right front tyre and sprinkle the coconut water on the tyres starting from the front right tyre going in a clockwise direction - take note, this is optional.

Place a small garland (which has been placed by your lamp for blessings prior to this prayer) at the front of the car generally by the grill or the windscreen wiper.

If you so desire you can stick/attach a picture/small murti of Lord Krishna/Mother Durga/Shree Hanumanji/Lord Shiva/Lord Ganesh/***Vahan Yantra (or which ever form you may like) etc in some place suitable in the car (But this is optional).

*** The 'Vaahan' is vehicle and 'Durghatna' is accident. As the name denotes, this Yantra ensures protection from accidents, injury, or other mis-haps, especially those related to vehicles. It acts as a shield to protect and save the worshiper from any such mis-fortunes, and ensures his own, his family's and his belonging's safety during journeys.



Vahan Durghatna Nashak Yantra

You can purchase this from the Internet but it can be expensive, so I would suggest for you to print the above yantra and then laminate it and then perform a very simple puja to install life into the Yantra.

How you do this? Place the laminated Yantra at your lamp place. Sprinkle a little water on the yantra and then dot the Yantra with chandan. Light an incense and turn the incense around the yantra 7 times. Keep the incense aside then lay a fresh flower on the yantra. Close your eyes and concentrate on the Supreme Lord to bless you with wishes. Now with all sincerity, ask the Supreme Lord to grant you the desire of your life that you wanted to be fulfilled in your own language.

Now chant the Beeja Mantra of the above Yantra nine times.

"Om Aum Hraam Hreem Shree Vayu Putreya Namah"

After this you can place the yantra in your car at a viewable place.

Collect the remnants of the pumpkin/coconut, lime, etc and dispose of in the river. Some people eat the pumpkin (which of course is cooked first), and the coconut is kept as prashadam (holy food offering given to God during pujas and eaten later).

The information below is extremely important and priceless with regards to what colour car you should purchase and which day of the month is auspicious for you as well...

If you are born on the: 1st, 10th, 19th, 28th

Your favorable dates of the month: 1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 17, 19, 22, 26, 28, 31.

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday and Monday

Your main Deities you should always worship: Hanumanji and Suryadeva

Your favorable colours: Red, Brown and Grey.

Your inauspicious colours: Blue and Yellow.

If you are born on the: 2nd, 11th, 20th, 29th.

Your favorable dates of the month: 2, 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 20, 25, 27, 29.

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Your main Deities you should always worship: Ma Parvati-Lord Shiva and Ma Sarasvati.

Your favorable colours: White, Cream, Grape and Green.

Your inauspicious colours: Black, Sky-blue and Deep Red.

If you are born on the:- 3rd, 12th, 21st, 30th

Your favorable dates of the month:- 3, 12, 21, 30.

Your favorable days of the week:- Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Your main Deity you should always worship:- Lord Vishnu

Your favorable colours:- Yellow and light colours

Your inauspicious colours:- Orange

If you are born on the: 4th, 13th, 22nd, 31th

Your favorable dates of the month: 1, 4, 8, 12, 14, 21, 23, 30, 31.

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday, Monday and Saturday

Your main Deity you should always worship: Lord Ganesh.

Your favorable colours: 'Half shades', 'Half-tones' or 'Electric colours'. Electric blues and greys.

Your inauspicious colours: White and Light colours.

If you are born on the: 5th, 14th, 23rd

Your favorable dates of the month: 3, 5, 9, 12, 14, 18, 21, 23, 27, 30

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Your main Deity you should always worship: Shree Lakshmi-Narayana.

Your favorable colours: White, Green, Bright colours.

Your inauspicious colours: Dark colours esp. Red and Black.

If you are born on the: 6th, 15th, 24th

Your favorable dates of the month: 3, 6, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30.

Your favorable days of the week: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Your main Deities you should always worship: Ma Lakshmi and Ma Durga.

Your favorable colours: White, Light colours, Sky Blue.

Your inauspicious colours: Black, Dark Red and Dark Yellow.

If you are born on the: 7th, 16th, 25th

Your favorable dates of the month: 2, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 29.

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Your main Deities you should always worship: Lord Narasimha and Lord Shiva.

Your favorable colours: White, Light shades

Your inauspicious colours: Black or Red.

If you are born on the: 8th, 17th, 26th

Your favorable dates of the month: 1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 17, 19, 22, 26, 28, 31

Your favorable days of the week: Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

Your main Deities you should always worship: Lord Shani and Ma Kali.

Your favorable colours: Black, Blue and Brown.

Your inauspicious colours: Yellow or Light colours.

If you are born on the: 9th, 18th, 27th

Your favorable dates of the month: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 29, 30

Your favorable days of the week: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Your main Deities you should always worship: Hanumanji and Lord Shiva.

Your favorable colours: Light colours, Red, Orange.

Your inauspicious colours: Black, Indigo and Deep Green.

The following dates are the suggested-ly recommended dates to purchase a car, sign the papers and perform the Car prayers for 2022. For times for the days below you need to consult with your priest as three times are consulted for viz. The Rahu Kalam, Yama Gadam and Chowgadia times.

Below are the Shukla Paksha (bright/waxing phase of the moon) Vedic days to purchase a new/used in 2022. While many websites gives a few dates we should be practical in this day in age about when one can purchase a new/used in 2022. As far as possible try not to purchase a new/used when it's the Dark phase of the moon which are the dates NOT given below. But of course if this is not possible then scriptures state doing things according to deshaa-kaala-artha-tattva-jnah "according to time, place and circumstances" {Srimad Bhagavatam 10.11.22} and this is what I'm trying to relay in this article.

January: 3rd - 17th

February: 2nd - 15th

March: 3rd - 18th

April: 2nd - 16th

May: 1st - 15th , 31st

June: 1st - 14th , 29th - 30th

July: 1st - 13th , 29th - 31st

August: 1st - 11th , 28th - 31st

September: 1st - 9th , 26th - 30th

*** Pitar Paksha is from 10th to 25th September. It is NOT auspicious to purchase a car within this period.

October: 1st - 9th , 26th - 31st

November: 1st - 8th , 24th - 30th

December: 1st - 8th , 24th - 31st

Ingredients for the puja:

1 x rectangle tray.

2 x small lotas/Chumbu's or if you don't have a lota then use a glass/tumbler.

1 lota with water with a teaspoon.

1 lota with water and a pinch of Hurdi in it.

Few flowers

3 incense sticks

1 x small block of Chandan which is mixed with water and made into a wettish paste.

1 x clay lamp (in it either have castor or til oil and a wick)

1 x box matches

1 x block camphor

4 x small limes

1 x pumpkin or coconut (depending on what you prefer)

1 x flower garland about an arms length.

1 x 100g of uncooked white rice.

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