

***Manabasa Gurubar*** is a great festival for all Oriyas. It is the worship of Goddess *Lakshmi* the month of *Margasira* as per traditional Oriya *Panjika* (Calendar). *Manabasa Gurubar* 2009 dates are November 5, November 12, November 19 and November 26. In Orissa, it is believed that Goddess *Laxmi*, the Hindu goddess of wealth and prosperity, visit homes in *Margasira* month.



Margashira (Margaseersha) Month is believed to be the most auspicious month for worshipping Lord Vishnu and his consort Mahalakshmi.

Maasaanam Margasheersham - There is no other auspicious month as Margasheersham. According to Gita (Bhagavad Gita), Lord Krishna says "Among the months, he is the Margashira Month".

Offering prayers to Lord Vishnu with Tulasi leaves (Holy basil), chanting Vishnu Sahasranamam, followed by Lakshmi stotras during the month showers meritorious benefits upon the worshippers.

Women folk observe a vrath called "Margashira Lakshmi Vara Vratham. This vrath is also called as "MANABASA GURUBAR VRATH".

All Thursday's of this month are dedicated to worship Shree MahaLakshmi. Women folk wake up early in the morning, clean their houses and decorate the entrance with RANGOLI (Hindu tradition of decorating the entrance of a home with beautiful designs drawn with rice flour and various colors). They also draw the footprints of Goddess Lakshmi as a symbolic representation of Lakshmi visiting their homes.

Milk, Rice pudding and sweets made of milk are the special offerings prepared on this day. In some parts of India, there is a tradition of cooking food without oil on all thursdays of this month.

