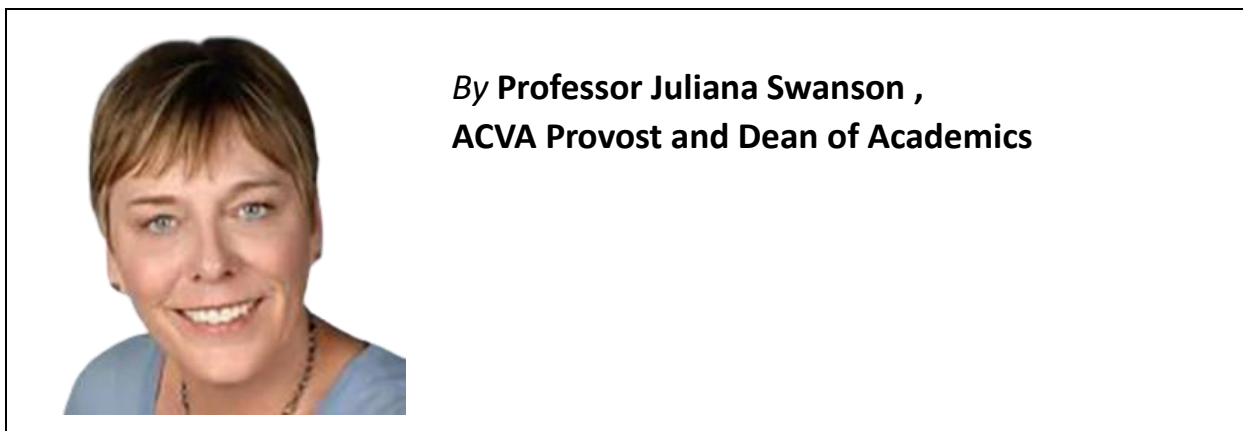


Vasant Panchami



Vasant (Basant) Panchami, also known as *Shree Panchami*, will occur on Sunday, 2 February 2025, around the world this year. On this very special day in the Vedic lunar calendar (*panchanga*), at sunrise the transiting Moon will be in the *panchami tithi*, the fifth lunar day after the New Moon. This special day occurring in the lunar month of *Magha* (or *Magh*) has cultural and spiritual significance in the Vedic tradition. This day is also considered to be an *Abhuj Muhurta*, when anything important that we perform or initiate will have fortunate results.

Vasant Panchami is observed in a variety of different traditions depending on the various sects and regions of Hindu society. In some areas, kites are flown to celebrate the beginning of the spring season, as “*vasant*” means spring. In other places, students are initiated into learning on this day. It is also an important occasion for worshiping one’s ancestors (*pitri-tarpana*). Some Hindus worship Lord Vishnu and Ma Ganga during *Vasant Panchami*.

In Bengali culture, this festival is celebrated as the “*Saraswati Puja*,” a time for veneration of *Devi Saraswati*. Her *murti* (statue/image) is carried in procession and immersed in the holy Ganges (the *Ganga-ji*) River. Many consider this day to be Saraswati’s birthday.



Sri Aurobindo translated the name Saraswati as “She of the stream, the flowing movement.” As the Vedic goddess of knowledge, science, music, and art, Saraswati ultimately represents the creative and inspirational aspect of *Shakti*, the creative flow of energy within each of us. Thus, this day can be an important one for spiritual ceremonies and practices that help align us with this supreme creative power within.

May the blessings of Devi Saraswati bring good fortune, peace, knowledge, creativity, and wisdom to all beings everywhere on this very special occasion of *Vasant Panchami*!

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