



Poshak Vagha

Poshak Vagha are decorative cloths, usually sewn with embroidery, sequins and lace, which are used to dress statues of Hindu gods (deities) during *Puja* (ceremonial worship) in the Hindu faith.

The most common form of *Puja* starts with calling upon a God or Goddess through chanting, mantras or prayer. Statues or pictures of the deity are used in this form of worship and are treated with the utmost respect as it is believed they are the embodiment of the deity themselves.

Water is offered to the deity after His journey and, as a mark of utmost reverence. His feet are then washed with ceremonial water. He is then bathed with water and sprinkled with perfumes and scented pastes and offered clothes. Clothes are symbolised by a length of cotton material in simple ceremonies or *poshak vagha* (ceremonial robes made for the purpose) such as this one. In more elaborate ceremonies real clothes are offered.

