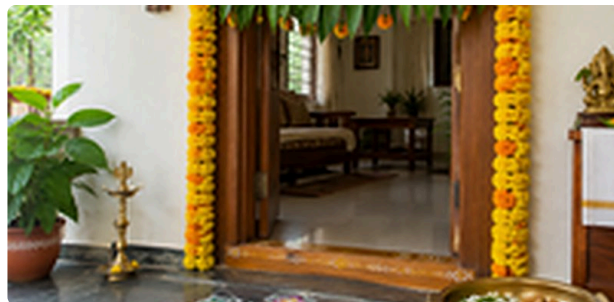


Ugadi at Home

Wednesday 7 April 2027

Ugadi, the first day of the lunar year, is New Year for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra). The day is about beginnings: a clean home, new clothes, and accepting both the bitter and the sweet.



What you need

- Fresh mango leaves for the toran, and marigolds
- Neem flowers or tender neem leaves and jaggery for bevu bella
- Oil for the oil bath
- Turmeric, kumkum, flowers, lamp and incense
- Ingredients for obbattu or holige, and a seasonal dish
- The new year panchanga (almanac), printed or online

Before the puja

- Clean the house and wash the doorway.
- Tie the mango-leaf toran over the main door and draw a rangoli.
- Have an oil bath at dawn and wear new clothes.

Food to offer

Bevu bella, obbattu or holige, mango chitranna, kosambari and payasa.

Simple puja, step by step

1. Light the lamp and say the lamp prayer.
2. Pray to Ganesha.
3. Offer turmeric, kumkum and flowers to the family deity and to the new panchanga.
4. Offer bevu bella and the festival food as naivedya.
5. Do arati.
6. Before breakfast, everyone eats a little bevu bella while saying the neem shloka.
7. In the evening, gather for panchanga shravana: listen to the year's forecast read by an elder or online.

Prayers to chant

Shubham karoti kalyanam arogyam dhana sampadah, shatru buddhi vinashaya deepa jyotir namostute.

I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

Vakratunda mahakaya suryakoti samaprabha, nirvighnam kuru me deva sarva-karyeshu sarvada.

O Lord with the curved trunk and mighty body, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

Shatayur vajra-dehaya sarva-sampatkaraya cha, sarvarishta-vinashaya nimbakam dala-bhakshanam.

We eat the neem leaf for a long life, a strong body, prosperity, and the removal of all troubles.

Mantra-hinam kriya-hinam bhakti-hinam janardana, yat pujitam maya deva paripurnam tad astu me.

Whatever I have offered, without the right words, actions or devotion, please accept it as complete.

With children

- Let children tie the mango leaves and help with the rangoli.
 - Let them taste the bevu bella and talk about the bitter and sweet moments of the past year.
 - Ask each child for one wish or resolution for the new year.
-

A simple home guide from VedaVidesh. Every family and region has its own customs, so follow yours where they differ, and check a local panchanga for the exact muhurta in your city. Dates are for India; abroad they can differ by a day.