Varamahalakshmi Vratha at Home

Friday 13 August 2027

On the Friday before the full moon of Shravana, women in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu worship Lakshmi as the giver of boons (vara), praying for the health and prosperity of the whole family.

What you need

- A kalasha with rice or water, a coconut with turmeric applied, and mango leaves
- A face of the goddess or a picture, and a small silk cloth or saree to drape
- Jewellery, bangles, black beads and flowers to decorate
- Yellow thread (dora) with nine knots for each woman
- Turmeric, kumkum, akshate, betel leaves and nuts
- Lamps, incense and camphor
- Fruits and nine kinds of sweets or dishes if you can

Before the puja

- Clean the altar and draw a rangoli in front of it on Thursday evening.
- Decorate the kalasha as the goddess, with the coconut as her head.
- Prepare the yellow threads and the naivedya.

Food to offer

Holige, payasa, kosambari, chitranna, sweet pongal, kadubu, fruits and milk.

Simple puja, step by step

1. Light the lamps and say the lamp prayer.
2. Pray to Ganesha first.
3. Sankalpa: state your name, family and the wish for the wellbeing of the home.
4. Invite the goddess into the decorated kalasha.
5. Offer turmeric, kumkum, akshate and flowers while chanting her names.
6. Worship the yellow threads and tie them on the right wrist.
7. Offer incense, the lamp, then the naivedya.
8. Do arati, bow down and ask forgiveness for any mistakes.
9. In the evening, invite women friends for arishina kumkuma and give them fruit, betel leaves and a small gift (bagina).

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.

> *Om Shreem Mahalakshmyai Namah.*
> Salutations to the great goddess Lakshmi.

> *Namastestu mahamaye shripithe surapujite, shankha-chakra-gada-haste mahalakshmi namostute.*
> Salutations to Mahalakshmi, worshipped by the gods, holding the conch, discus and mace.

> *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 girls help decorate the kalasha with flowers and bangles.
- Let children hand out the fruit and betel leaves to guests.
- Tell the story of Charumati, the devoted woman to whom Lakshmi appeared in a dream.

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.