

Diwali Lakshmi Puja: Puja Vidhi

Sunday 8 November 2026 · evening (pradosha kala)

On the new-moon night of Diwali, families welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity and wellbeing, into a clean and brightly lit home. Ganesha is worshipped first, as at the start of every puja. This guide gives the full home puja step by step. Instructions are in English; every mantra is printed in Devanagari script with a Roman transliteration below it.

What you need

- Picture or idol of Lakshmi and Ganesha
- A kalasha (pot) with water, mango leaves and a coconut
- Red or yellow cloth for the altar
- Rice for akshata, turmeric and kumkum
- Flowers, especially lotus or marigold
- Oil lamps or diyas, ghee or oil, cotton wicks
- Incense (agarbatti) and camphor for arati
- Fruits, sweets, and puffed rice with sugar candy (batashe)
- A few coins or jewellery, and your account book

Before the puja

- Clean the house well; open the doors and windows in the evening.
- Draw a rangoli at the entrance and light diyas along the doorway.
- Set up the altar facing east or north, with Ganesha on the left of Lakshmi.
- Have a bath and wear fresh or new clothes.

Food to offer

Laddoo, kheer or payasa, coconut burfi, puffed rice with sugar candy, and seasonal fruits.

Opening

- Sit facing east or north. Light the lamp and say the lamp prayer.

शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

śubham karoti kalyāṇam ārogyam dhanasampadaḥ | śatrubuddhivināśāya dīpajyotirnamo'stu te ||
I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

- Achamana: sip a few drops of water from the right palm three times, once with each name.

ॐ केशवाय स्वाहा । ॐ नारायणाय स्वाहा । ॐ माधवाय स्वाहा ॥

om keśavāya svāhā | om nārāyaṇāya svāhā | om mādhavāya svāhā ||

- Pray to Ganesha first, to remove obstacles.

वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभ । निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

vakratuṇḍa mahākāya sūryakoṭi samaprabha | nirvighnam kuru me deva sarvakāryeṣu sarvadā ||
O Lord with the curved trunk and mighty body, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

4. Sankalpa: hold a little water and akshate, say the resolve for worshipping Lakshmi, then let them fall on a plate.

मम सकुटुम्बस्य क्षेमस्थैर्य आयुरारोग्य ऐश्वर्याभिवृद्धयर्थं श्री महालक्ष्म्यै प्रीत्यर्थं यथाशक्ति ध्यानावाहनादि षोडशोपचारपूजां करिष्ये ॥

mama sakuṭumbasya kṣemasthairya āyurārogya aiśvaryaābhivṛddhyartham śrī mahālakṣmyai prītyartham yathāśakti dhyānāvāhanādi ṣoḍaśopacārapūjām kariṣye | |

For the safety, long life, health and prosperity of my family, and to please the deity, I perform this worship with the sixteen offerings, as well as I can.

5. The sixteen offerings (shodashopachara). Before each one say "Om Shri mahālakṣmyai namah", then the line below, and make the offering.

The sixteen offerings

1. Dhyana: close your eyes and picture the deity.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । ध्यायामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhyāyāmi | |

2. Avahana: invite the deity into the image or kalasha.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आवाहयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āvāhayāmi | |

3. Asana: offer a seat; place a few grains of akshate.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आसनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āsanam samarpayāmi | |

4. Padya: offer water for the feet with a spoon.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । पाद्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pādyaṁ samarpayāmi | |

5. Arghya: offer water for the hands.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । अर्घ्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | arghyaṁ samarpayāmi | |

6. Achamana: offer water to sip.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ācamanīyaṁ samarpayāmi | |

7. Snana: bathe a metal image, or sprinkle water on a picture.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । स्नानं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | snānam samarpayāmi | |

8. Vastra: offer a cloth or a cotton thread.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । वस्त्रं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | vastram samarpayāmi | |

9. Abharana: offer ornaments, bangles or a turmeric thread.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आभरणानि समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ābharaṇāni samarpayāmi ||

10. Gandha: offer sandalwood paste, turmeric and kumkum.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । गन्धं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | gandhaṁ samarpayāmi ||

11. Pushpa: offer flowers.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । पुष्पाणि समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | puṣpāṇi samarpayāmi ||

12. Dhupa: wave the incense.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । धूपम् आघ्रापयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhūpam āghrāpayāmi ||

13. Dipa: show the lamp.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dīpaṁ darśayāmi ||

14. Naivedya: offer the food, sprinkling water around it.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । नैवेद्यं निवेदयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | naivedyaṁ nivedayāmi ||

15. Tambula: offer betel leaves, nut and fruit.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । ताम्बूलं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | tāmbūlaṁ samarpayāmi ||

16. Nirajana: do arati with camphor or ghee lamp.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । नीराजनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | nīrājanaṁ samarpayāmi ||

17. Mantrapushpa: offer flowers with folded hands.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । मन्त्रपुष्पं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | mantrapuṣpaṁ samarpayāmi ||

18. Pradakshina: turn around once clockwise and bow down.

ॐ श्री महालक्ष्म्यै नमः । प्रदक्षिणनमस्कारान् समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pradakṣiṇanamaskārān samarpayāmi ||

Mantras for Diwali Lakshmi Puja

ॐ श्रीं महालक्ष्म्यै नमः ॥

om śrīṃ mahālakṣmyai namaḥ ||

Salutations to the great goddess Lakshmi. Chant it 11 or 108 times.

नमस्तेऽस्तु महामाये श्रीपीठे सुरपूजिते । शङ्खचक्रगदाहस्ते महालक्ष्मि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

namaste'stu mahāmāye śrīpīṭhe surapūjite | śaṅkhacakraḡadāhaste mahālakṣmi namo'stu te ||

Salutations to Mahalakshmi, the great power worshipped by the gods, holding the conch, discus and mace.

Closing

- Ask forgiveness for anything missed, then share the prasada with everyone.

मन्त्रहीनं क्रियाहीनं भक्तिहीनं जनार्दन । यत्पूजितं मया देव परिपूर्णं तदस्तु मे ॥

mantrahīnaṃ kriyāhīnaṃ bhaktihīnaṃ janārdana | yatpūjitaṃ mayā deva paripūrṇaṃ tadastu me ||

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

A home puja guide from VedaVidesh. Mantras are given in their common short forms; families and regions vary, so follow your own tradition where it differs, and ask a priest or elder to check pronunciation if you are learning. Dates are for India.