

Varamahalakshmi Vrata: Puja Vidhi

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. This guide gives the full home puja step by step. Instructions are in English; every mantra is printed in Kannada script with a Roman transliteration below it.

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.

Opening

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

ಶುಭಂ ಕರೋತಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಮ್ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಂ ಧನಸಮೃದ್ಧಃ | ಶತ್ರುಬುದ್ಧಿವಿನಾಶಾಯ
ದೀಪಜ್ಯೋತಿರ್ನಮೋಽಸ್ತು ತೇ ||

śubhaṃ karoti kalyāṇam ārogyaṃ 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.

ಓಂ ಕೇಶವಾಯ ಸ್ವಾಹಾ | ಓಂ ನಾರಾಯಣಾಯ ಸ್ವಾಹಾ | ಓಂ ಮಾಧವಾಯ ಸ್ವಾಹಾ ||
oṃ keśavāya svāhā | oṃ nārāyaṇāya svāhā | oṃ mādhavāya svāhā ||

- Pray to Ganesha first, to remove obstacles.

ವಕ್ರತುಣ್ಡ ಮಹಾಕಾಯ ಸೂರ್ಯಕೋಟಿ ಸಮಪ್ರಭ | ನಿರ್ವಿಘ್ನಂ ಕುರು ಮೇ ದೇವ ಸರ್ವಕಾರ್ಯೇಷು
ಸರ್ವದಾ ||

vakratuṇḍa mahākāya sūryakoṭi samaprabha | nirvighnaṃ 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 Varamahalakshmi, then let them fall on a plate.

ಮಮ ಸಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಯ ಕ್ಷೇಮಸ್ಥೈರ್ಯ ಆಯುರಾರೋಗ್ಯ ಐಶ್ವರ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧ್ಯರ್ಥಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ
ಪ್ರೀತ್ಯರ್ಥಂ ಯಥಾಶಕ್ತಿ ಧ್ಯಾನಾವಾಹನಾದಿ ಷೋಡಶೋಪಚಾರಪೂಜಾಂ ಕರಿಷ್ಯೇ ||

mama sakuṭumbasya kṣemasthairya āyurārogya aiśvaryābhivṛddhyartham śrī varamahālakṣmyai
prītyartham yathāśakti dhyānāvāhanādi ṣoḍaśopacārapūjāṃ 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 varamahālakṣmyai namah", then the line below, and make the offering.

The sixteen offerings

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಧ್ಯಾಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhyāyāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಆವಾಹಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āvāhayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಆಸನಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āsanam samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಪಾದ್ಯಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pādyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

5. Arghya: offer water for the hands.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಅರ್ಘ್ಯಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | arghyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

6. Achamana: offer water to sip.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಆಚಮನೀಯಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ācamanīyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮಃ | ಸ್ನಾನಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | snānam samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ವಸ್ತ್ರಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | vastraṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಆಭರಣಾನಿ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ābharanāni samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಗಂಧಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | gandhaṁ samarpayāmi ||

11. Pushpa: offer flowers.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಪುಷ್ಪಾಣಿ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | puṣpāṇi samarpayāmi ||

12. Dhupa: wave the incense.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಧೂಪಮ್ ಆಘ್ರಾಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhūpam āghrāpayāmi ||

13. Dīpa: show the lamp.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ದೀಪಂ ದರ್ಶಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dīpaṁ darśayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ನೈವೇದ್ಯಂ ನಿವೇದಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | naivedyaṁ nivedayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ತಾಮ್ಬೂಲಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | tāmbūlaṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ನೀರಾಜನಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | nīrājanaṁ samarpayāmi ||

17. Mantrapushpa: offer flowers with folded hands.

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಮನ್ತ್ರಪುಷ್ಪಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | mantrapuṣpaṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ವರಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ | ಪ್ರದಕ್ಷಿಣನಮಸ್ಕಾರಾನ್ ಸಮರ್ಪಯಾಮಿ ||

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pradakṣiṇanamaskārān samarpayāmi ||

Mantras for Varamahalakshmi Vrata

ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀಂ ಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಮಃ ||

om śrīṃ mahālakṣmyai namaḥ | |
Salutations to the great goddess Lakshmi.

ನಮಸ್ತೇಽಸ್ತು ಮಹಾಮಾಯೇ ಶ್ರೀಪೀಠೇ ಸುರಪೂಜಿತೇ | ಶಙ್ಖಚಕ್ರಗದಾಹಸ್ತೇ ಮಹಾಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ನಮೋಽಸ್ತು ತೇ ||

namaste'stu mahāmāye śrīpīṭhe surapūjite | śaṅkhacakragadāhaste mahālakṣmi namo'stu te | |
Salutations to Mahalakshmi, worshipped by the gods, holding the conch, discus and mace.

Closing

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

ಮನ್ತ್ರಹೀನಂ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಹೀನಂ ಭಕ್ತಿಹೀನಂ ಜನಾರ್ದನ | ಯತ್ಪೂಜಿತಂ ಮಯಾ ದೇವ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣಂ
ತದಸ್ತು ಮೇ ||

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.