Holi at Home

21–22 March 2027

Short puja: about 15 minutes



Holi welcomes spring. On the full-moon evening a bonfire is lit for Holika Dahan, remembering how the child Prahlada was protected by his faith. The next morning is pure play: dry colours, water and sweets with friends and neighbours.

What you need

- Natural colour powders
- Old white clothes
- Water guns (pichkari)
- Ingredients for thandai and gujiya
- Coconut oil for skin and hair before playing

Before the puja

- Clean the puja place and take a bath; wear fresh clothes.
- Set out a lamp, incense, flowers, turmeric, kumkum, rice and water.
- Read the story to the family before you begin.

Short puja, step by step

1. **Light the lamp** and say the lamp prayer, then pray to Ganesha.
2. **Holika Dahan setup.** On the full-moon evening, with neighbours or at a temple, a small bonfire of wood and dried cow-dung cakes is built. At home you can use a small fire bowl or a lamp outdoors.
3. **Worship the fire.** Offer water, kumkum, turmeric, rice, flowers, a cotton thread wound around three or seven times, coconut and new grain.
4. **Walk around the fire.** Walk around the fire three or seven times and pray that all bad habits burn away, as Holika did.
5. **Play with colours.** The next morning, start by putting a little colour on the deity and on the elders' feet, then play with natural colours.
6. **Visit elders.** In the evening, after a bath, visit elders and friends with gujiya and thandai.
7. **Arati.** Wave the lamp, ask forgiveness for anything missed and share the prasada.

Prayers to chant

> शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥
>
> I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

> वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभ । निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥
>
> O Lord with the curved trunk, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

> असृक्पाभयसंत्रस्तैः कृता त्वं होलि बालिशैः । अतस्त्वां पूजयिष्यामि भूते भूतिप्रदा भव ॥
>
> O Holi fire, we worship you; bring us wellbeing.

> ॐ प्राणाय स्वाहा । ॐ अपानाय स्वाहा । ॐ व्यानाय स्वाहा । ॐ उदानाय स्वाहा । ॐ समानाय स्वाहा ॥
>
> Offering the food to the five breaths of life.

> यानि कानि च पापानि जन्मान्तरकृतानि च । तानि तानि विनश्यन्ति प्रदक्षिण पदे पदे ॥
>
> With every step around the altar, may all past wrongs fall away.

With children

- Make natural colours: Mix 1 part turmeric with 2 parts gram flour for yellow.
- Tell the story of Holi before the puja.

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 time in your city. Dates are for India; abroad they can differ by a day. Members also get the full puja with every mantra.