Raksha Bandhan at Home

Tuesday 17 August 2027

Short puja: about 10 minutes



On the full moon of Shravana, sisters tie a rakhi on their brothers' wrists and pray for them, and brothers promise to protect their sisters. The same day is Avani Avittam in the South, when the sacred thread is changed, and Narali Purnima on the western coast, when coconuts are offered to the sea.

What you need

- Rakhis or thread and beads
- Kumkum, rice and a small lamp for aarti
- Desiccated coconut, condensed milk or sugar for barfi
- Sweets and gifts
- A new sacred thread for Avani Avittam
- A coconut for Narali Purnima

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. **Prepare the thali.** On a plate, place the rakhi, kumkum, rice, a small lamp and sweets.
3. **Pray first.** Offer the rakhi to the family deity first.
4. **Tie the rakhi.** The sister puts a tilak of kumkum and rice on the brother's forehead and ties the rakhi on his right wrist.
5. **Aarti and sweets.** She waves the lamp in a circle, feeds him a sweet, and the brother gives a gift and a promise.
6. **Avani Avittam.** In the South, those who wear the sacred thread change it today with the upakarma ritual, guided by a priest.
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.

येन बद्धो बली राजा दानवेन्द्रो महाबलः । तेन त्वामनुबध्नामि रक्षे मा चल मा चल ॥

With the thread that bound the mighty King Bali, I tie this on you. O protection, stay firm.

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 your own rakhi: Plait three strands of thread about 25 cm long.
- Tell the story of Raksha Bandhan 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.