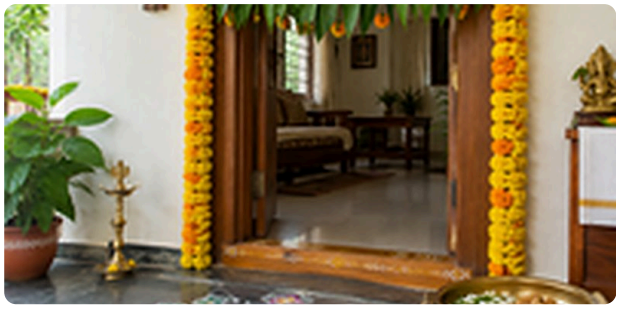
Ugadi at Home

Wednesday 7 April 2027

Short puja: about 20 minutes



Ugadi, the first day of the lunar year, is New Year for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra). The day is about beginnings: a clean home, new clothes, and accepting both the bitter and the sweet.

What you need

- Fresh mango leaves for the toran, and marigolds
- Neem flowers or tender neem leaves and jaggery for bevu bella
- Oil for the oil bath
- Turmeric, kumkum, flowers, lamp and incense
- Ingredients for obbattu or holige, and a seasonal dish
- The new year panchanga (almanac), printed or online

Before the puja

- Clean the house and wash the doorway.
- Tie the mango-leaf toran over the main door and draw a rangoli.
- Have an oil bath at dawn and wear new clothes.

Food to offer

Bevu bella, obbattu or holige, mango chitranna, kosambari and payasa.

Short puja, step by step

1. Light the lamp and say the lamp prayer.
2. Pray to Ganesha.
3. Offer turmeric, kumkum and flowers to the family deity and to the new panchanga.
4. Offer bevu bella and the festival food as naivedya.
5. Do arati.
6. Before breakfast, everyone eats a little bevu bella while saying the neem shloka.
7. In the evening, gather for panchanga shravana: listen to the year's forecast read by an elder or online.

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.

शतायुर्वज्रदेहाय सर्वसम्पत्कराय च । सर्वारिष्टविनाशाय निम्बकं दलभक्षणम् ॥

Eating neem leaves brings long life, a strong body and wellbeing, and removes all harm.

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

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

With children

- Let children tie the mango leaves and help with the rangoli.
- Let them taste the bevu bella and talk about the bitter and sweet moments of the past year.
- Ask each child for one wish or resolution for the new year.

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.