Varamahalakshmi Vratha at Home

Friday 13 August 2027

Short puja: about 30 minutes



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.

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.

Short puja, step by step

1. Light the lamps and say the lamp prayer.
2. Pray to Ganesha first.
3. Sankalpa: state your name, family and the wish for the wellbeing of the home.
4. Invite the goddess into the decorated kalasha.
5. Offer turmeric, kumkum, akshate and flowers while chanting her names.
6. Worship the yellow threads and tie them on the right wrist.
7. Offer incense, the lamp, then the naivedya.
8. Do arati, bow down and ask forgiveness for any mistakes.
9. In the evening, invite women friends for arishina kumkuma and give them fruit, betel leaves and a small gift (bagina).

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.

ॐ श्रीं महालक्ष्म्यै नमः ॥

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

नमस्तेऽस्तु महामाये श्रीपीठे सुरपूजिते । शङ्खचक्रगदाहस्ते महालक्ष्मि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

Salutations to Mahalakshmi, the great power worshipped by the gods.

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 girls help decorate the kalasha with flowers and bangles.
- Let children hand out the fruit and betel leaves to guests.
- Tell the story of Charumati, the devoted woman to whom Lakshmi appeared in a dream.

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.