

Varamahalakshmi Vratha: 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 Devanagari 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.

शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

śubhaṁ karoti kalyāṇam ārogyaṁ 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.

ॐ केशवाय स्वाहा । ॐ नारायणाय स्वाहा । ॐ माधवाय स्वाहा ॥

oṃ keśavāya svāhā | oṃ nārāyaṇāya svāhā | oṃ mādhavāya svāhā ||

- Pray to Ganesha first, to remove obstacles.

वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभ । निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

vakratuṇḍa mahākāya sūryakoṭi samaprabha | nirvighnaṁ 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.

मम सकुटुम्बस्य क्षेमस्थैर्य आयुरारोग्य ऐश्वर्याभिवृद्धयर्थ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै प्रीत्यर्थ यथाशक्ति
ध्यानावाहनादि षोडशोपचारपूजां करिष्ये ॥

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 namaḥ", then the line below, and make the offering.

The sixteen offerings

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । ध्यायामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhyāyāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आवाहयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āvāhayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आसनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | āsanaṃ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । पाद्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pādyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

5. Arghya: offer water for the hands.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । अर्घ्यं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | arghyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

6. Achamana: offer water to sip.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ācamanīyaṃ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । स्नानं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | snānaṃ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । वस्त्रं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | vastraṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । आभरणानि समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | ābharaṇāni samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । गन्धं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | gandhaṁ samarpayāmi ||

11. Pushpa: offer flowers.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । पुष्पाणि समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | puṣpāṇi samarpayāmi ||

12. Dhupa: wave the incense.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । धूपम् आघ्रापयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dhūpam āghrāpayāmi ||

13. Dipa: show the lamp.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | dīpaṁ darśayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । नैवेद्यं निवेदयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | naivedyaṁ nivedayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । ताम्बूलं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | tāmbūlaṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । नीराजनं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | nīrājanaṁ samarpayāmi ||

17. Mantrapushpa: offer flowers with folded hands.

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । मन्त्रपुष्पं समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | mantrapuṣpaṁ samarpayāmi ||

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

ॐ श्री वरमहालक्ष्म्यै नमः । प्रदक्षिणनमस्कारान् समर्पयामि ॥

om śrī varamahālakṣmyai namaḥ | pradakṣiṇanamaskārān samarpayāmi ||

Mantras for Varamahalakshmi Vrata

ॐ श्रीं महालक्ष्म्यै नमः ॥

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

नमस्तेऽस्तु महामाये श्रीपीठे सुरपूजिते । शङ्खचक्रगदाहस्ते महालक्ष्मि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

namaste'stu mahāmāye śrīpīṭhe surapūjite | śaṅkhacakraḡadāhaste 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.

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

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 VedVidesh. 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.