

Pitri Paksh

"Those we love never leave us,
they live on in our blessings."

Sacrifice to our Ancestors

A time to remember, express gratitude, and seek blessings
from our beloved ancestors.

This Year's Observance
September 27, 2026 – October 9, 2026

Tarpan means
"to satisfy" —
offering Tarpan
pleases the ancestors.

What is Pitri Paksh?

Pitri Paksh is a sacred time period when Hindus around the world reflect upon their beloved ancestors and pay homage to them. The performance of Shraddha or Tarpan during this time is considered compulsory according to the teachings of Sanatan Dharma. Each individual is born with inherent debts/duties that are meant to be repaid/fulfilled during the course of one's life. Pitri Paksh is the time period set aside to make sacrifices to our ancestors, thereby fulfilling this important duty.

Who Performs the Rituals?

The ritualistic aspect of Pitri Paksh is traditionally performed by the male(s) within the family, though there is no prohibition on anyone doing it if the males are not able to do so.

Like all other sacrifices and Yagyas, those performing the Shraddha must observe strict disciplines: fasting, meditation, jaapa, and so forth.

Benefits One Receives

- Spiritual elevation
- Prosperity and success in life
- Blessings for future generations
- Blessings for the departed souls

Guidelines for Tarpan / Shraddha



Offer a Jal to Surya and Lord Shiva.



Prepare the offering of water, black til (sesame seeds) and white rice.



Make the Tarpan offering with your hands, while facing south.



Offer the Tarpan onto a freshly planted khus grass, with leaves knotted at the top as shown.



On the last day chosen for the ceremony, it is customary to offer a plate of food and water in the name(s) of the departed.

Mantras (to be recited while making the offering)

Mother: Om Maataa swadhaa
Father: Om Pitaa swadhaa
Father's father: Om Pitaamaha swadhaa
Father's mother: Om Pitaamahi swadhaa
Mother's father: Om Maataamaha swadhaa
Mother's mother: Om Maataamahi swadhaa
All ancestors: Om Sarva Pitri Bhyo swadhaa

For food offering:

Om (Maataa/Pitaa, etc) idam bhojanam swadhaa namah.



How Many Days?

Tarpan can be performed for a period of five days to fifteen days during Pitri Paksh.



What is Tarpan or Shraddha?

A water offering consisting of water, black til, and white rice. The offering is made with your hands in the names of the departed souls while reciting the appropriate mantras.

May we always remember,
honor and be guided
by our ancestors.

Spiritual Guidance By
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