

Need to use a proper script for Samskritam

Even though Bhagavan understands all languages, the power of our Bharatiya languages cannot be matched in expressing our cultural values especially when rising to the plane of conversing with Bhagavan. Of them, the Samskrita bhasha is special in that it is pan-Bharatiya. Hence our scriptures, anushtana paddhati-s and a lot of bhakti sahitya texts are in Samskrita only.

We know that in Samskritam, especially for anushtanam, sound/pronunciation is important. Therefore one should write and read sankalpa shloka-s etc for anushtanam in an appropriate script which is capable of distinguishing all the sounds of Samskritam.

Now the Latin (English) script was evolved for other languages, and we all know the difficulty of correlating spelling and pronunciation even in English. Further, more letters are required to write Samskritam than English as there are more sounds in it. However, since Latin script is widely known, scholars felt it useful to create a Latin-based transliteration system for Samskritam.

In such a system, Latin letters which may be casually applied to different sounds need to be differentiated. For instance in Rama the first or second “a” may denote a long sound. This is differentiated as Rāma or Ramā. Similarly, other marks called diacritics are used to differentiate sounds as in āā īī ūū ṛṛ ṝ ṝ̄ ṁṁ ḥḥ ṇṇ ṇ̄ ṭṭ ḍḍ ṣṣ. Aspirated (mahāprāna) sounds are denoted with an additional h as in k/kh, g/gh, c/ch, j/jh, ṭ/ṭh, ḍ/ḍh, t/th, d/dh, p/ph, b/bh.

However, a system is useful only if followed correctly. If diacritics or added h-s are ignored and we do not read with the intended pronunciation, then the transliteration is no longer useful for its intended purpose. It is very easy to ignore diacritics as they are not in daily use. It would then have altogether been better to use a script which actually has different symbols for the sounds.

Therefore it is strongly recommended to learn a Bharatiya script like Devanagari, Grantha, Telugu, Kannada etc which has clearly different letters to denote the various sounds. Our documents are published in many such scripts.

However, with a view to help people who are not able to immediately learn such scripts, we are now publishing documents in Latin transliteration as well as per the system called International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST). For the above reasons, people should use these as a temporary measure till they learn a Bharatiya script.

The Samskrita varnamala in IAST is given below with Devanagari equivalents:

a अ, ā आ, i इ, ī ई, u उ, ū ऊ, ṛ ॠ, ṝ ॡ, ḷ ॴ, ḻ ॵ

e ए, ai ऐ, o ओ, au औ, am अं, aḥ अः

ka क, kha ख, ga ग, gha घ, ṇa ङ

ca च, cha छ, ja ज, jha झ, ña ञ

ṭa ट, ṭha ठ, ḍa ड, ḍha ढ, ṇa ण

ta त, tha थ, da द, dha ध, na न

pa प, pha फ, ba ब, bha भ, ma म

ya य, ra र, la ल, va व, śa श, ṣa ष, sa स, ha ह

hara hara śaṅkara

om

jaya jaya śaṅkara



śrī-vedavyāsāya namaḥ

śrīmad-ādyā-śaṅkara-bhagavatpāda-
paramparāgata-mūlāmnāya-sarvajña-pīṭham
śrī-kāñcī-kāmakoti-pīṭham
jagadguru-śrī-śaṅkarācārya-svāmi-śrīmaṭha-
samsthānam

||dīpāvalī||

(20.10.2025)

On the occasion of Deepavali, many important observances are there starting from Trayodashi. These include:

- Yama Deepa Danam – 18.10.2025 lighting deepa for Yamadharma
- Naraka Deepa Danam – 19.10.2025 – lightning deepa
- Deepa Danam on Deepavali – 20.10.2025 lighting deepams
- Ulka Danam – 19.10.2025, 20.10.2025 lighting sparklers
- Yama Tarpanam – 20.10.2025, performing tarpanam to Yamadharmaraja, which must be performed even by those with parents.
- Abhyanga Snanam – 20.10.2025 – The widely well-observed oil bath
- Lakshmi Kubera Puja – 21.10.2025 – worship of Lakshmi Devi/Kubera

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||yama-dīpa-mantraḥ||

(18.10.2025)

In the evening, during Pradosha time, light a deepam, and chant the following sloka. Afterwards, the deepam should be placed at the entrance/doorway of the house.

mṛtyunā pāśadaṇḍābhyāṃ kālēna śyāmayā saha|
trayodaśyāṃ dīpadānāt sūryaja: prīyatāṃ mama||

||naraka-dīpa-mantraḥ||

(19.10.2025)

Light a four-faced 'deepam' and chant the following shloka. Then, keep this deepam outside the terrace or in some other high location.

datto dīpaścaturdaśyāṃ narakaprītaye mayā|
caturvartisaṃyuktāḥ sarvapāpāpanuttaye||

||dīpa-dāna-mantraḥ||

(20.10.2025)

On Deepavali evening, during Pradosha time, one should light the Deepams, chant the shloka mentioned below, offer prayers, and place the Deepams outside the house.

Afterwards, Deepams should be lit in places like temples etc.

agnirjyotī ravirjyotiścandro jyotistathaiva ca|
jyotiṣāmuttamaṃ jyotiḥ dīpo'yaṃ pratigrhyatām||



||ulkā-dāna-mantraḥ||

(19.10.2025, 20.10.2025)

tulāsaṁsthe sahasrāṁśau pradoṣe bhūtadarśayoh|
ulkāhastā narāḥ kuryuḥ pitṛṇāṁ mārgadarśanam||

Holding sparklers in the hand, and thinking of our ancestors attaining Moksha, the following shloka must be chanted.

agnidagdhāśca ye jīvā ye'pyadagdhāḥ kule mama|
ujjvalajyotiṣā dagdhāste yāntu paramāṁ gatim||

yamalokaṁ parityajya āgatā ye mahālaye|
ujjvalajyotiṣā vartma prapaśyanto vrajantu te||

||abhyaṅga-snānam||

(20.10.2025)

apāmārgamatho tumbiṁ prapunnāṭamathāparam|
bhrāmayetsnānamadhye tu narakasya kṣayāya vai||

Apamarga known as Nayuruvi (Tamil) (Prickly Chaff/Achyranthes), Tumbi (bottle gourd), Prapunnata/Chakramarda (Cassia the leaf of which resembles that of Senna flower) - In the middle of snana, these three leaves must be waved in circular motion thrice around the head reciting the following mantra and discarded.

sītaloṣṭa-samāyukta sakaṇṭakadalānvita|
hara pāpamapāmārga bhrāmyamāṇaḥ punaḥ punaḥ||

apāmārgasya patrāṇi bhrāmayecchirasopari|
tataśca tarpaṇaṁ kāryaṁ dharmarājasya nāmabhiḥ||

Thus whirling the apamarga leaf thrice around the head, doing a snanam, wearing new vastram, and applying pundram as per one's family tradition, and after completing the nityakarmas such as sandhyavandanam, samidadhanam / aupasana, yamatarpanam must be done.



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||yama-tarpaṇam||

(20.10.2025)

dīpotsavacaturdaśyāṃ kāryaṃ tu yamatarpaṇam|
kṛṣṇāṅgāracaturdaśyāṃ api kāryaṃ sadaiva vā||

kṛṣṇapakṣe caturdaśyāṃ aṅgārakadinam yadā|
tadā snātvā śubhe toye kurvīta yamatarpaṇam||

As per Vaidyanatha Dikshitiya (Ahnika Kanda, Uttarardha Vakyas), Yamatarpanam must be done on Naraka Chaturdashi (Deepavali) and Krishna Angaraka Chaturdashi (when Krishna Paksha Chaturdashi falls on a Tuesday).

jīvatpitā'pi kurvīta tarpaṇam yamabhīṣmayoḥ

Hence, Yamatarpanam and Bhishmatarpaṇam must be done by those who are jivatpitṛkas (ie those whose father is alive)

ekaikena tilairmiśrān dadyāt trīṃstrīn jalāñjalīn|
saṃvatsarakṛtaṃ pāpaṃ tatksaṇādeva naśyati||

kṛṣṇapakṣe caturdaśyāṃ yāṃ kāñcit saritaṃ prati|
yamunāyāṃ viśeṣeṇa niyatastarpayed yamam||

yatra kvacana nadyāṃ hi snātvā kṛṣṇacaturdaśīm|
santarpya dharmarājaṃ tu mucyate sarvakilbiṣaiḥ||

dakṣiṇābhīmukho bhūtvā tilaiḥ savyaṃ samāhitaḥ|
devatīrthena devatvāt tilaiḥ pretādhipo yataḥ||

On this Krishna Chaturdashi, doing snanam in Yamuna or other rivers, if tarpanam is offered to Yama Dharmaraj, all our papams, will disappear instantaneously. Thus, the merit accrued in offering Yamatarpanam has been praised.

Method: Seated facing South, using devatirtham with gingelly and (as done during Sandhyavandana/Brahmayajna while offering devatarpana), for each nama, offer tarpana thrice reciting the following mantra.

yajñopavītinā kāryaṃ prācīnāvītinā'thavā
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Based on the above verse, this tarpanam can be done with the yajnopavita worn either in upaviti or praachinaaviti manner. Therefore, it is ideal that those whose father is alive, wear in the upaviti manner, and those whose father is not alive, wear in the praachinaaviti manner.

saṅkalpaḥ

ācamanam| śuklāambaradharam + śāntaye| prāṇāyāmaḥ|
mamopāttasamastaduritaakṣayaadvārā śrīparameśvaraprītyartham śubhe
śobhane muhūrte adya brahmaṇaḥ dvitīyaparārdhe śvetavarāhakaalpe
vaivasvatamanvantare aṣṭāviṃśatitame kaliyuge prathame pāde jambūd-
vīpe bhāratavarṣe bharatakhāṇḍe meroḥ dakṣiṇe pārśve asmin vartamāne
vyāvahārikāṇām prabhavādīnām ṣaṣṭyāḥ saṁvatsarāṇām madhye
viśvāvasu-nāma-saṁvatsare dakṣiṇāyane śarad-ṛtau tulā-āśvayuja-māse
kṛṣṇa-pakṣe caturdaśyām śubhatithau induvāsarayuktāyām hasta-
nakṣatrayuktāyām vaidhṛti-yogayuktāyām śakuni-karaṇayuktāyām
evam-guṇa-viśeṣaṇa-viśiṣṭāyām asyām caturdaśyām śubhatithau yamad-
harmarājaprītyartham āśvayuja-kṛṣṇa-caturdaśī puṇyakāle yamatarpaṇam
kariṣye|

tarpaṇa-mantrāḥ

1. yamaṁ tarpayāmi| yamaṁ tarpayāmi| yamaṁ tarpayāmi||
2. dharmarājaṁ tarpayāmi| dharmarājaṁ tarpayāmi| dharmarājaṁ tarpayāmi||
3. mṛtyuṁ tarpayāmi| mṛtyuṁ tarpayāmi| mṛtyuṁ tarpayāmi||
4. antakaṁ tarpayāmi| antakaṁ tarpayāmi| antakaṁ tarpayāmi||
5. vaivasvataṁ tarpayāmi| vaivasvataṁ tarpayāmi| vaivasvataṁ tarpayāmi||
6. kālāṁ tarpayāmi| kālāṁ tarpayāmi| kālāṁ tarpayāmi||
7. sarvabhūtakṣayaṁ tarpayāmi| sarvabhūtakṣayaṁ tarpayāmi| sarvabhū-
takṣayaṁ tarpayāmi||
8. audumbaraṁ tarpayāmi| audumbaraṁ tarpayāmi| audumbaraṁ tar-
payāmi||

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9. dadhnaṃ tarpayāmi| dadhnaṃ tarpayāmi| dadhnaṃ tarpayāmi||

10. nīlaṃ tarpayāmi| nīlaṃ tarpayāmi| nīlaṃ tarpayāmi||

11. parameṣṭhinaṃ tarpayāmi| parameṣṭhinaṃ tarpayāmi| parameṣṭhinaṃ tarpayāmi||

12. vṛkodaraṃ tarpayāmi| vṛkodaraṃ tarpayāmi| vṛkodaraṃ tarpayāmi||

13. citraṃ tarpayāmi| citraṃ tarpayāmi| citraṃ tarpayāmi||

14. citraguptaṃ tarpayāmi| citraguptaṃ tarpayāmi| citraguptaṃ tarpayāmi||



After this, japam of the following namas ten times must be done.
japaḥ—

yamo nihantā piṭṛdharmarājo vaivasvato daṇḍadharaśca kālāḥ|
pretādhipo dattakṛtānusārī kṛtāntaḥ (etad daśakṛjjapanti)||

After that, offer namaskara—
namaskāraḥ—

nīlaparvatasāṅkāśo rudrakopasamudbhavaḥ|
kālo daṇḍadharo devo vaivasvata namo'stu te||



After this, madhyahnikasnanam, madhyahnikam, and other anushthanams should be done.

