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Raksha Bandhan Celebrated Across India with Traditional Rituals and Blessings

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Raksha Bandhan, the annual festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters, will be observed across India on August 9, 2025, with homes, temples, and community centers preparing for a day steeped in tradition. This year's celebration will blend age-old customs with modern family gatherings, as millions of sisters tie the sacred rakhi thread on their brothers' wrists, symbolizing love, protection, and lifelong commitment.

According to *The Economic Times*, the muhurat, the auspicious time for performing the ritual, has been carefully calculated for those seeking spiritual alignment in their observance. The Shubh Muhurat for tying the rakhi is expected to begin in the morning and extend through the early afternoon, offering ample time for families to conduct ceremonies before transitioning to celebratory meals and visits. Many priests have emphasized the importance of adhering to these timings for those following traditional Hindu practices, noting that the muhurat is believed to enhance the blessings of the occasion.

Rituals typically begin with sisters preparing a thali (ritual plate) containing the rakhi, roli (vermilion powder), chawal (rice grains), diya (lamp), and sweets. The ceremony involves applying a tilak on the brother's forehead, tying the rakhi on his wrist, and performing an aarti to invoke divine protection. In return, brothers offer gifts to their sisters, ranging from traditional sweets and clothing to modern tokens such as jewelry or monetary envelopes. The act symbolizes a reciprocal pledge of love and support.

Beyond the household rituals, markets across India have been bustling for days leading up to the festival. Shops in Delhi's Chandni Chowk, Mumbai's Dadar Market, Jaipur's Johari Bazaar, and other major hubs have reported high demand for handcrafted rakhis, including eco-friendly varieties made from biodegradable materials. Online platforms have also seen a surge in orders, with families separated by distance using courier and same-day delivery services to exchange rakhis and gifts.

In addition to its familial significance, Raksha Bandhan carries broader cultural and social dimensions. In several regions, the festival is celebrated as a day to strengthen community bonds. Women have been known to tie rakhis to soldiers, police officers, and first responders as a gesture of gratitude for their role in safeguarding society. In rural areas, the festival sometimes extends to neighbors and friends, reinforcing a spirit of unity.

This year, with August 9 falling on a Saturday, many families have planned extended gatherings that merge the festival with weekend celebrations. Cities such as Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Pune are organizing cultural events, including folk music performances, rangoli competitions, and storytelling sessions narrating the festival's mythological origins, such as the tales of Draupadi and Krishna or Rani Karnavati and Emperor Humayun.

Transport authorities in several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the Tricity region, have announced free bus travel for women to

facilitate family reunions for Raksha Bandhan. This measure is expected to ease travel for sisters journeying to their brothers' homes, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

As India prepares for Raksha Bandhan 2025, the enduring customs and evolving practices reflect the festival's adaptability and timeless appeal. While its central message of love and protection remains unchanged, how it is celebrated, whether in intimate home settings or through community-wide events, continues to evolve with the times. For many, the festival is not just a ritual but a reaffirmation of the familial and social ties that bind communities together.