

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Raksha Bandhan: The Bond History Can’t Quite Confirm

Free · Share

Raksha Bandhan: The Bond History Can’t Quite Confirm

A single thread costs almost nothing. Yet once a year, it carries a promise that families treat as sacred.

That thread is the **rakhi**. The festival built around it is **Raksha Bandhan**, one of the most widely celebrated days in India.



A sampling of rakhis, the decorative threads sisters tie on their brothers’ wrists. Photo: Samir, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons.

What is Raksha Bandhan, and how is it observed?

What does the name mean?

Raksha Bandhan comes from Sanskrit. It means the **knot of protection**, or bond of protection.

The festival is also called **Rakhi**. It honours the love between brothers and sisters.

It is a Hindu festival. Yet it reaches across caste and creed.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; nj.gov

When is it held?

Raksha Bandhan falls on **Shravan Purnima**. That is the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravan.

The month follows the lunar calendar. So the date on the common calendar changes every year.

It usually falls between mid-July and late August.

Sources: nj.gov; incredibleindia.gov.in

> **Quick check 1.** Raksha Bandhan is held on Shravan Purnima, a full moon day. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What happens on the day?

The morning begins with prayers. Sisters perform an **aarti** and apply a **tilak** on their brothers' foreheads.

Then the sister ties the rakhi around her brother's wrist. She prays for his prosperity, health and well-being.

In return, the brother gives a gift. He also promises to protect her.

The plate for the ritual holds the rakhi, vermilion, unbroken rice grains, sweets, a diya and incense sticks.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; newsonair.gov.in

Quick check 2. Brothers pledge to protect their sisters and give them gifts. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Step 1 Aarti and tilak
Step 2 Sister ties the rakhi
Step 3 Prayers for the brother
Step 4 Gift and promise of protection

Which legends are linked to the thread?

Which two stories does Incredible India retell?

The first comes from the **Mahabharata**. Krishna cut his finger. Draupadi tore a piece of her saree and tied it on the wound.

That cloth became a sacred thread. It stands for the meaning of Raksha Bandhan.

The second story is about **King Bali**. His devotion to Vishnu led the god to guard his kingdom and leave his own home.

Goddess **Lakshmi** missed her husband. She came as a Brahmin refugee and tied a rakhi on Bali's wrist on Shravan Purnima.

Bali then asked Vishnu to go back with her to Vaikuntha. Since then, many families invite their sister on Shravan Purnima for the rakhi.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in

Quick check 3. In the Draupadi story, she tied a piece of her saree on Krishna's finger. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Who else joins the celebration?

Is it only for brothers and sisters?

No. The festival also welcomes distant relatives, cousins and friends.

Incredible India says it **transcends the boundaries of caste and creed**.

The Prime Minister said in 2002 that the festival pervades all communities and religions. He called it a thread of unity across the country.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; archive.pib.gov.in

What do official greetings say?

In 2003, the Vice President said the rakhi strengthens love and a sense of belonging. He added that the festival asks brothers to protect sisters.

In 2023, the President said it gives a message of protecting sisters and daughters. She also spoke of respect for women.

Sources: newsonair.gov.in; archive.pib.gov.in

Quick check 4. The Prime Minister's 2002 message said the festival is limited to one community. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What should you remember for the exam?

Which facts are most testable?

Raksha Bandhan means the knot of protection. It falls on Shravan Purnima.

Sisters tie the rakhi on the brother's wrist. Brothers give gifts and promise protection.

Incredible India retells the Draupadi and Krishna story and the Bali and Lakshmi story.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; nj.gov; archive.pib.gov.in

Can you sum it up in short lines?

One thread, one promise. The date follows the full moon of Shravan.

The ritual has aarti, tilak, the rakhi and a gift. The idea of protection runs through every legend.

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in; newsonair.gov.in; archive.pib.gov.in

Practice MCQs

1. Raksha Bandhan is observed on which day of the Hindu calendar?

A. Ashwin Amavasya

B. Shravan Purnima

C. Kartik Purnima

D. Chaitra Purnima

See answer ↓

2. What does the name Raksha Bandhan mean when translated from Sanskrit?

A. The night of lamps

B. The harvest of grain

C. The knot of protection

D. The festival of colours

See answer ↓

3. At Raksha Bandhan, what do brothers do in return when sisters tie the rakhi?

A. Pledge to protect their sisters and give gifts

B. Tie a rakhi on the sister's ankle

C. Take a holy dip in a river

D. Fast until the next full moon

See answer ↓

4. Incredible India says Raksha Bandhan transcends the boundaries of which of these?

A. Seasons and crops

B. Languages and scripts

C. Caste and creed

D. Rivers and mountains

See answer ↓

5. When sisters tie the rakhi, what do they pray for their brothers?

A. Victory in elections

B. Success in trade only

C. Prosperity, health and well-being

D. A long journey abroad

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **B.**
   Raksha Bandhan falls on Shravan Purnima, the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravan.
   ↑ Q1
2. **C.**
   Raksha Bandhan means the knot of protection, or bond of protection. The festival is also called Rakhi.
   ↑ Q2
3. **A.**
   Brothers pledge to protect and support their sisters. They also present them gifts.
   ↑ Q3
4. **C.**
   Incredible India calls it a Hindu festival that transcends the boundaries of caste and creed. The Prime Minister said in 2002 that it pervades all communities and religions.
   ↑ Q4
5. **C.**
   Sisters tie a colourful rakhi around the brother's wrist. They pray for his prosperity, health and well-being.
   ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** Incredible India links the rakhi to Shravan Purnima. The New Jersey Treasury page says the festival falls on the full moon of the lunar month Shravana. ↑ 1
2. **True.** All India Radio says brothers pledge to protect and support their sisters and present them gifts. ↑ 2
3. **True.** Incredible India retells the Mahabharata story in which Draupadi tied a piece of her saree on Krishna's cut finger. ↑ 3
4. **False.** The 2002 PIB release said the festival pervades all communities and religions. ↑ 4

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com



Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/indreligion0015-raksha-bandhan-the-bond-history-cant-quite-confirm/