Valaikappu Planning Checklist

My Big Fat Bollywood Baby Shower: What's a Bangle Ceremony (Valaikappu)?

Tick each box as you go. The full guide lives at mamakinder.com.

6 weeks out

- [ ] Fix the date with an elder or a priest
- [ ] Book the hall, or clear the living room
- [ ] Send the invitations (add a guest info card)
- [ ] Ask one elder to lead the ceremony

3 weeks out

- [ ] Order the glass bangles (buy sets, you need dozens)
- [ ] Order marigold garlands and the backdrop
- [ ] Order or buy the silk saree for the mom-to-be
- [ ] Book the caterer and the henna artist
- [ ] Book the photographer, or name one family photographer

2 weeks out

- [ ] Buy the seer trays and the tamboolam gifts
- [ ] Buy the brass diyas and the turmeric, kumkum, and sandalwood
- [ ] Print the guest info cards
- [ ] Plan the playlist (traditional songs + Bollywood dancing)

The week of the party

- [ ] Confirm the headcount with the caterer
- [ ] Buy the fruit, flowers, and sweets
- [ ] Pack the tamboolam bags (one per guest, plus five extra)
- [ ] Buy the instant camera film

The day before

- [ ] Drape the backdrop and hang the marigold garlands
- [ ] Lay out the trays and the bangles, sorted by color
- [ ] Try the saree on the mom-to-be
- [ ] Do the henna, so the color deepens overnight

The morning of the ceremony

- Light the lamps and set out the trays
- Put one calm person in charge of the blessing line
- Keep snacks and water beside the mom-to-be
- Take the group photo right after the ceremony