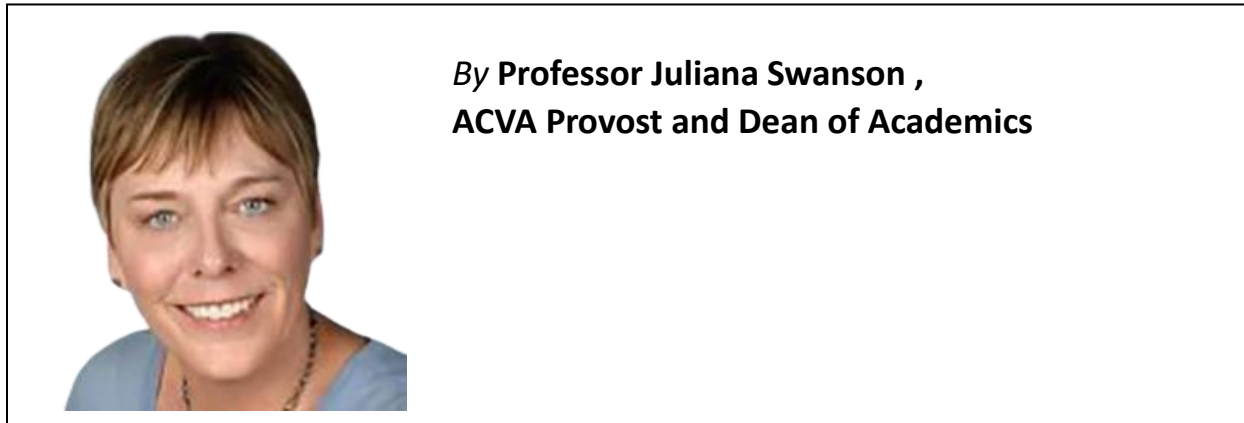


## ***Pitru Paksha: the Fortnight of the Ancestors***

**September 17 to October 2, 2024**



The Vedic tradition of Pitru (Pitri) Paksha will be celebrated from September 17 to October 2 this year. This annual festival starts at the Full Moon in the Bhadrapada month which extends from September 3 to October 3. The Divine Mother celebration of Sharad Navratri will begin on the eve of October 3 after Pitru Paksha culminates.

Also known as Mahalaya Paksha and the “Fortnight of the Ancestors”, Pitru Paksha is a 16–lunar day period when the ancestors (pitrs or pitris) are honored and invoked through special offerings and ceremonies. The ancestors include family, friends, teachers, and all members of society. Pitru Paksha is rooted in the *Rig Veda* and described in the *Puranas* of the Vedic tradition.

The Rishis of ancient Vedic culture charted the yearly calendar in observance of nature’s changing cycles. These highly evolved masters of the greatest mysteries of life and death understood that the early autumnal season of the year is a profoundly sacred period. During this time, the Earth’s electromagnetic energies in the northern hemisphere are beginning to shift and turn inward, just as our own sublime energetic systems are moving deeper within.

The Rishis recognized that revering and invoking the ancestors during Pitru Paksha is necessary to maintain harmony within our own individual nature as well as among all of humanity. This tradition remains very much alive today in modern Hindu culture.

During Pitru Paksha, offerings of food are given, and pujas and death rites (shraddha or tarpana) are performed on certain days according to specific rules. The last day of Pitru Paksha is considered to be the most important day for these rituals. This day is known as the Mahalaya Amavasya. It will span from around 5:10 PM UTC on October 1 until around 7:50 PM UTC on October 2. Check [WorldTimeBuddy](https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/) to convert these times to your own time zone if it is different.

To all our friends and followers, we at ACVA wish you all the blessings of this deeply holy season of Pitru Paksha.