



**Neeranjnam** is one of the most auspicious offering to lord Sani. Sachets of thil (Sesame Seeds / Ellu) and raw rice (other than paraboiled) are dipped in ghee kept inside a coconut. Coconut pieces are kept in a plate of raw rice. These sachets are then lit in front of Lord Ayyappa the Lord of Sani preferably on Saturdays.

Here are the step by step instructions,

- 1) Take a tray with raw rice
- 2) Cut a coconut into two pieces and keep in the plate
- 3) Take two small pieces of cloth. Place small amounts raw rice and sesame in them
- 4) Make a sachet from the above. Corners of the cloth pieces can be twisted by hand or tied by a thread.
- 5) Depending on how long to burn the wicks, either dip the sachets in ghee or add ghee into the coconut
- 6) Light up the sachets using a match stick.



Steps 3 and 4 above can be replaced by using cotton instead of clothes if that is more convenient. Flatten a regular cotton ball in hand, keep raw rice and sesame in the center and twist the cotton to make the sachet , which will appear as in step 4 above.

Keep the offering in a sacred and safe place – Away from children, other inflammable materials etc. Fire must always be monitored for safety. Mantras are chanted in front of Neeranjnam.