

Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District, Inc.
invites you to participate with your family & friends

Mahashivaratri Celebrations

February 24 - 25, 2017



Significance of Shivaratri is the first physical appearance of Lord Shiva in front of Brahma and Vishnu in the form of immeasurable brilliant pillar of light. On this auspicious day devotees of Lord Shiva all over the world worship the 'linga' the symbol of Shiva with bilva leaves and offer 'abishekam' along with reciting Sri Rudram. Sri Rudram embodies the 5-lettered panchAkShari - "Om Nama Shivaya" at the heart of it. The verses in Sri Rudram address Lord Shiva as appearing in various forms -emphasizing the truth that everything in this world is His representation. Sri Rudram is also called Namakam because many of the mantras in it carry the word "namaH" or "namo namaH". namaH represents sarvasva sharanagathi -complete surrender of the Lord with the wish that He fulfill all our dharmic aspirations.

Sahasra Lingarchana is a unique vedic ritual to worship lord Siva in the name of "Uma Pardhiveswara Swamy". It is performed by making 1,116 mruthika siva lingas also called as Pardhiva lingas made out of well prepared and sanctified clay. All these siva lingas are arranged in the form of Kailasa prastharam which is a depiction of Siva Kailasam with 16 avaranas and 1,116 Rudra swaroopas. Siva Shakti is invoked into each Siva lingam thru vedic mantras during Shodasa Aavarana puja and worshiped with great devotion and bhakti to seek the blessings of Sri Uma Pardhiveswara Swamy for health, wealth, prosperity, bliss and ultimate mukthi.

Friday, February 24:

- 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Kalasa Stapana, Ganapathi Pooja, Rudra Homam and Rudrabhishekam**
- 04:30 PM - 08:30 PM: Mahanyasa Paarayanam, 1st Yama Rudra Paarayanam(11 times) & Rudrabhishekam**
- 08:30 PM - 09:00 PM: Bhajan**
- 09:15 PM: Aarathi**
- 10:00 PM: 2nd Yama Rudra Paarayanam & Rudrabhishekam**

Saturday, February 25:

- 01:00 AM: 3rd Yama Rudra Paarayanam & Rudrabhishekam**
- 04:00 AM: 4th Yama Rudra Paarayanam**
- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Lakshminarayana Abhishekam & Rudra Paarayanam**
- 04:00 PM - 07:00 PM: Sahasra Lingarchana & Trishati Archana**
- 07:00 PM - 07:40 PM: Cultural Program, Shiva Tandavam Dance**
- 08:00 PM: Archana, Aarathi & Prasadam**

Grand Sponsorship: \$1001, Shivaratri Sponsor: \$501, Rudra Homam or Rudra Paaryana & Abhishekam Sponsor: \$101, Abhishekam: \$51, \$25; Archana: \$25, \$11; Flower Sponsorship: \$501

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